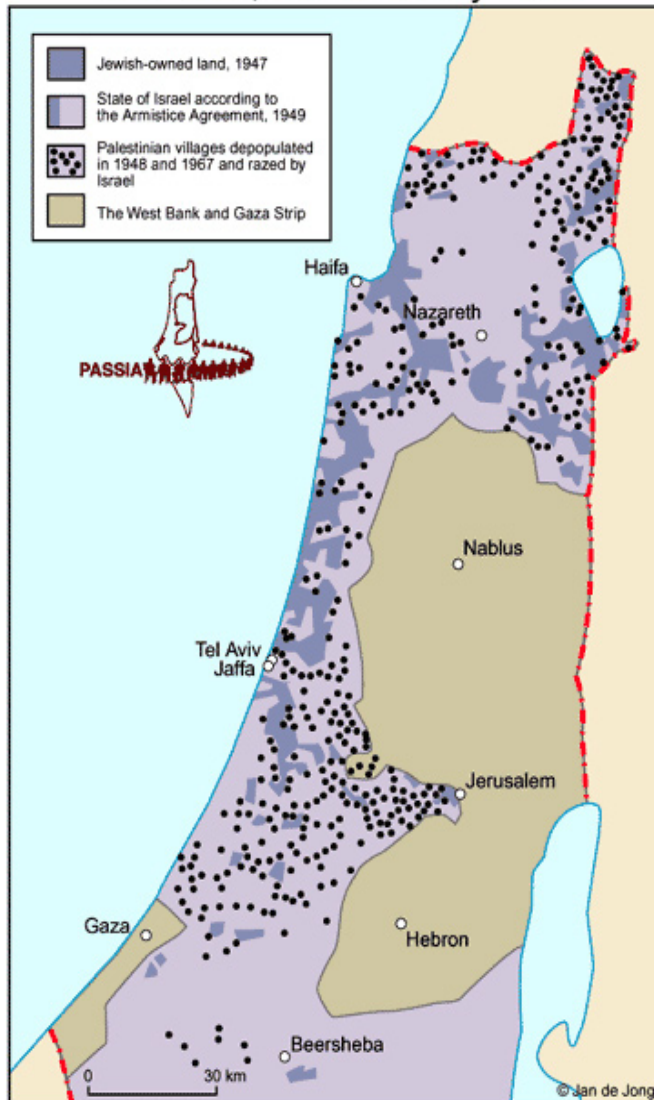


Palestinian Refugees

FACTSHEET

updated: 05/06/2007

Palestinian Villages Depopulated in 1948 and 1967, and Razed by Israel



map: PASSIA

“The UN General Assembly reaffirms the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;”

-United Nations Resolution 61/113

quick facts on refugees...

- On 29 November 1947, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed Resolution 181, endorsing a partition plan to divide the land of historic Palestine between the Jews and Arabs. War ensued and resulted in the state of Israel being created on 77% of the total area of historic Palestine.
- Over 750,000 Palestinians were displaced and dispossessed of their homes and land, creating what has become the largest refugee population in the world.
- One-third fled to the West Bank, one-third fled to the Gaza Strip. The remaining population became scattered throughout Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon and in other countries throughout the world.
- 40,000 Palestinians were internally displaced within the new Israeli state. Many lost their homes and land and few were allowed to return despite the fact that they later became Israeli citizens.
- During 1967's "Six-Day War", Israel forcefully annexed the West Bank and Gaza Strip; 240,000 Palestinians were uprooted. In addition, approximately 180,000 refugees from 1948 who had been living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were forced to leave for the second time.
- Today there are approximately 5.5 million Palestinian refugees throughout the world. 33% live in 59 refugee camps run by the United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestinian refugees, and 67% are scattered throughout various countries. There are approximately 1.5 million non-registered refugees scattered throughout the Arab world.

refugees, international law and the right of return

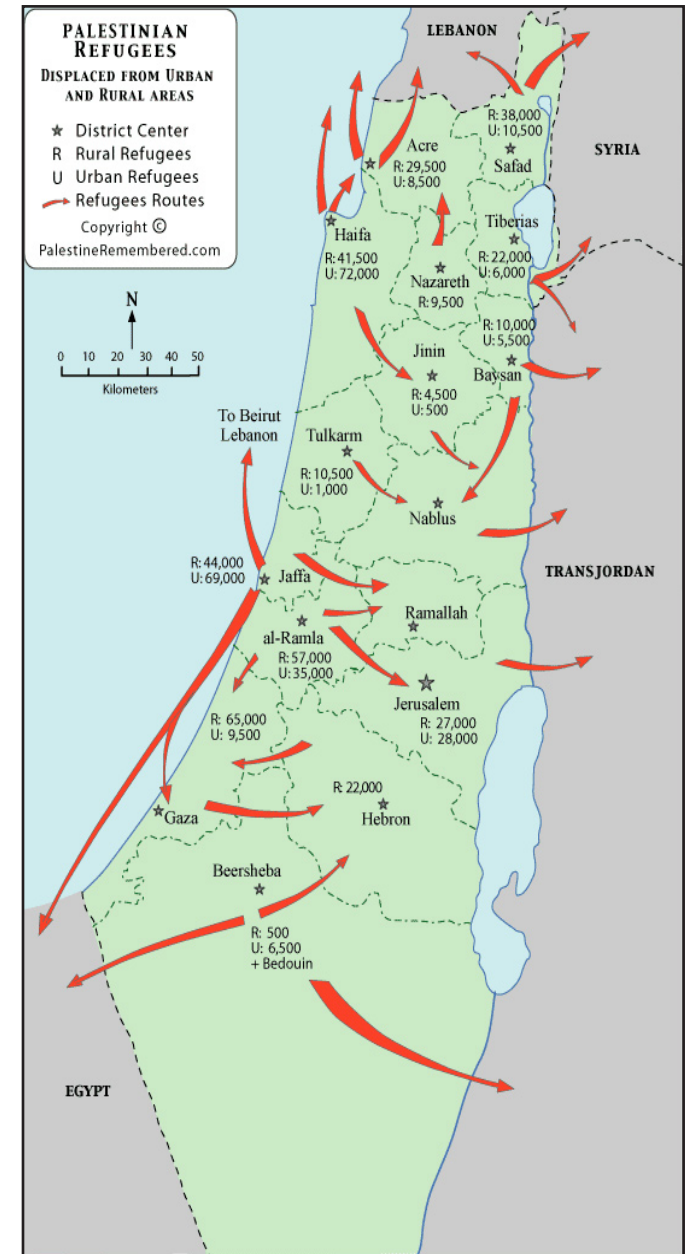
- The right of return for Palestinian refugees has been continually upheld by a number of UN resolutions and international law:
- UN General Assembly Resolution 3236 (1974), subsection 2, upholds the rights of the Palestinians to return to their homes and property.
- UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (1) states that refugees and their descendants have a right to compensation and repatriation to their original homes and land due to “loss of or damage to property, which, under principles of international law or in equity should be made good by the government or authorities responsible”.
- The Fourth Geneva Convention (Article 49) prohibits “individual or mass forcible transfers... regardless of their motives” and calls for evacuated persons to be “transferred back to their homes as soon as hostilities in the area of question have ceased.
- Article 13 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reaffirms the right of every individual to leave and return to his own country.
- The Principle of Self Determination, adopted by the UN in 1947, guarantees the right to ownership and domicile in one’s own country. This principle was explicitly applied in 1969 and thereafter to the Palestinian people, including “the legality of the People’s struggle for self- determination and liberation.”
- UN General Assembly Resolution 52/62 (1997) reaffirms that Palestinians refugees are entitled to their property and the income derived from it.

below- A Palestinian refugee camp in Syria, where many inhabitants of the Golan Hights region were forced to flee after the 1967 “6 Days War”. Photo: Authenticated News International/Archive



refugees and negotiations

- The refugee issue remains one of the most important outstanding issues for a “final status” agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation/Palestinian Authority and Israel. So far, no progress has been made due to Israel’s denial of its responsibility for the refugee situation.
- The Oslo process distinguishes itself as of the only major peace accord in the world that does not include any provisions for the return of refugees. Israel opposes basing any negotiations on the principles of Resolution 194 and has said “No” to the right of return” since 1948.



map: palestinerecovered.com