

LITTLE-KNOWN HISTORY about the conflict:

• **1870** - 7,000 Jews in Palestine (2% of population). Zionist immigration begins in early 20th century.

• **1918-40s** - British control Palestine. Jews fleeing Nazis seek haven there & underground Zionist gangs introduce terrorism in their struggle against British Occupation. By 1947, Jews own **6-8% of the land**.

• **1947-1949** - UN Partition Plan proposes **54%** of the land for a Jewish state, but the majority of the people in the area aren't Jewish! Zionist forces expel **750,000+ Palestinians** in a premeditated effort to achieve Jewish majority necessary for a Jewish state.

Zionist forces expand to 78% of historic Palestine, **destroying 500+ Palestinian villages & committing 50+ massacres** [Consensus of Israeli new historians since military archives were made public in 1980s].

In May 1948, 6 months after the expulsions began, Israel declares independence surrounding Arab countries enter the areas designated to be an Arab state that had been breached by Zionist forces.

Israel triumphs & **bans all non-Jewish refugees from Palestine**, in violation of international law. Palestinian refugees total 7+ million today, many of whom still carry the keys & official titles of their homes & land. **Their land is now reserved for Jews worldwide, who are invited to live there instead.**

• **1967** - Israel occupies all remaining Palestinian lands. Occupation has continued for 40+ years.

• **1993-96** - Oslo Accords normalize occupation. Settlement expansion doubles.

• **1994** - First Palestinian suicide attack, directly following settler massacre in Hebron killing 29 Palestinians. Palestinian resistance, mostly **nonviolent**, sometimes **violent**, continues today.

• **2002** - The Arab League (22 countries) offers peace & normal relations in exchange for an end to the occupation & a just solution to refugee problem. Israel ignores offer & begins Wall construction.

• **2005** - **8,000 settlers** are removed from Gaza & **immediately replaced by 13,000 new settlers** in West Bank. Israel still occupies Gaza through control of airspace, shorelines, borders, & the movement in/out of people, goods, & medicine [B'tselem].

• **Present** - Occupations & unconditional US support for Israel continue.

SOURCES of Facts and More Information:

Adalah, Legal Center defending Palestinian citizens' rights in Israel: www.adalah.org

Amnesty International: www.amnesty.org

B'tselem, Israeli Information Center for Human Rights: www.btselem.org

Badil, Refugee Resource Center: www.badil.org

Breaking the Silence, Testimonies of former Israeli soldiers: www.breakingthesilence.org.il

Challenging Christian Zionism, Christians for Biblical Justice: www.christianzionism.org

Electronic Intifada: www.electronicintifada.net

Haaretz, Israeli Newspaper: www.haaretz.com

ICAHN, Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions: www.icahd.org

If Americans Knew: www.ifamericansknew.org

Mandela Institute: www.mandela-palestine.org

MIFTAH Palestinian Initiative: www.miftah.org

Palestine Remembered, Remembering *al-Nakba*: www.palestineremembered.com

Passia, Palestinian Academics: www.passia.org

Stop the Wall: www.stophewall.org

UN OCHA, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: www.reliefweb.int/hic-opt

Zochrot, Israelis raising awareness of 1948 massacres/expulsions: www.nakbainhebrew.org

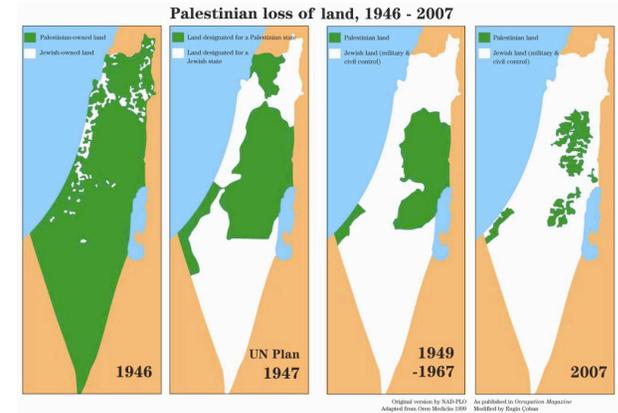
To contact Anna Baltzer, sign up for updates, or for info about her book, *Witness in Palestine: A Jewish American Woman in the Occupied Territories* and the DVD of her presentation, please visit:

www.AnnainTheMiddleEast.com

Life in Occupied Palestine:

Eyewitness Stories & Photos

Facts, Sources, & Ways You Can Help!



MEN, WOMEN, & CHILDREN KILLED this year: **13 Israelis, 1339 Palestinians** (most were civilians) 2000-2009: **1078 Israelis, 6548 Palestinians** [Oct 2009: www.mepc.org/resources/mrates.asp]

SEGREGATION: In the West Bank, there are segregated roads, schools, houses, water access & legal systems. The army often disables Palestinian roads with roadblocks so most Muslims & Christians are unable to drive because of their ethnicity/religion.

CHECKPOINTS: Israeli army barriers limiting or preventing Palestinian movement.

- Most checkpoints are **between Palestinian towns & villages**, separating Palestinians from their jobs, schools, land, holy sites, & families.
- Many checkpoints are closed overnight, blocking sick or pregnant villagers reaching the hospital.

Israel is the HIGHEST RECIPIENT OF US FOREIGN AID: ~\$15 million/day including gifts & loans (IfAmericansKnew.org).

- Israel is the only recipient of US aid that is not held accountable for how that aid is spent, even though it has violated more UN Resolutions than Iraq, Iran, or any other country in the UN.
- **As Americans, it is our right & responsibility to speak out against abuses carried out with our own tax dollars!** (See ideas on taking action.)

“SETTLEMENTS”: **JEWISH-ONLY TOWNS**

- Israel pays Jewish citizens & businesses to move onto Palestinian land, offering **tax breaks & financial packages**, some from US tax dollars.
- **International law prohibits** an occupying power from colonizing the occupied territory [Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 49], but there are ~**500,000 Israeli settlers** in the West Bank today.
- **Ideological settlers** often carry US weapons, terrorizing or killing Palestinian families & poisoning fields & animals without punishment.
- **Most Israelis & Palestinians oppose settlements** as one of the greatest obstacles to peace, but US citizens continue to pay for them unknowingly.

THE WALL: A 25-foot concrete and/or razor wire barrier built illegally by Israel with US tax dollars on internationally-recognized Palestinian land.

- Most of the Wall **doesn't separate the West Bank from Israel; it weaves through Palestinian communities** separating families from their livelihoods, their schools, their water, their food, their holy sites, & each other. [UN OCHA].
- **More than a million** fruit trees have been uprooted for the Wall & other expansion [MIFTAH].

IMPRISONMENT: ~**10,000 Palestinian political prisoners** are being held in Israeli prisons today.

- ~**10%** of them are held **without charge or trial**.
- About **40%** of all adult male Palestinians in the West Bank & Gaza have been detained by Israel.
- **Torture & humiliation** in Israeli prisons is “widespread” & “systematic” [Amnesty].

SILENCE IS COMPLICITY.

What can YOU do to help bring peace & justice to Israel/Palestine?

Challenge yourself to do at least 2 of the below:

1. **Do Your Own Research** – See sources on this handout or even consider going to Palestine to see for yourself with groups like these:

- Interfaith Peace-Builders - www.interfaithpeacebuilders.org
- Birthright Unplugged – www.birthrightunplugged.org
- Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions – www.icahd.org

(If none of those suit you, write Anna for more!)

2. Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS), a nonviolent way to organize the kind of international pressure on Israel that helped end Apartheid in South Africa. Universities, unions, & churches are perfect communities to start a campaign! Find resources & more info at www.bdsmovement.net

US & Israeli companies profiting off the Occupation are listed at InterfaithPeaceInitiative.com/profitfromoccupation.htm

3. Join the FIVE FOR PALESTINE campaign to unify pressure on Washington:

- Take 5 minutes to learn about the campaign at www.FiveForPalestine.org
- Contact your representative 5 times per year (the website makes it easy).
- Give \$5 per month to keep the campaign going & get 5 people you know to join!

4. Get involved locally!

- Air Anna Baltzer's DVD & others on your local **Public Access TV** channel.
- Join a local group & encourage them to join the **US Campaign to End the Occupation** (many groups are listed at www.endtheoccupation.org)
- Encourage your representatives to visit Palestine with the Congressional Accompaniment Project: <http://middleeastawareness.org/home/>
- Write a letter to **local press** to protest US-funded atrocities &/or biased reporting. Local media are listed at <http://>

salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/gx/pickMedia.jsp?letter

5. Volunteer in Palestine - Document abuses & support Palestinian-led nonviolent resistance with:

- **International Women's Peace Service (IWPS)** – www.iwps.info
- **International Solidarity Movement (ISM)** – www.palsolidarity.org
- **Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT)** – www.cpt.org/hebron/hebron.php
- **Michigan Peace Team (open to all)** www.michiganpeaceteam.org

6. Talk to your friends and families – You have the power to affect others in your community, so use it! If you feel frustrated or ill-prepared when confronted with opposition or difficult questions, or if you just don't know who will listen, consider joining one of Anna's **Speaker Trainings**. Write for details.

*****Highly recommended*****

Global Exchange's Activist Toolkits give excellent step-by-step instructions & tips for all the above actions & many others (town hall meetings, demonstrations, teach-ins, etc). Call (800) 497-1994 ext. 251 to order one (\$5) or download a free copy at

<http://GlobalExchange.org/countries/mideast/palestine/toolkits.html>