NAKBA 72

It is estimated over 750,000 Palestinians were forced to flee or were expelled from their homes in 1948.

This period is referred to as 'al Nakba' or 'the catastrophe' and is marked on the 15th of May.

Massacres and threats of violence were used to force Palestinians to leave their homes by Zionist militia and paramilitary groups. This includes the infamous Deir Yassin Massacre on April 9th 1948 during which approximately civilians were murdered by the Irgun and Stern Gang.

The Nakba caused the ongoing Palestinian refugee crisis. There are now over 5 million Palestinian refugees across the world (as registered with UNRWA).

Some Palestinians did not leave, and are now citizens of the state of Israel. They are referred to as 'Arab-Israelis' and face a number of discriminatory cultural and legal issues as non-Jewish citizens.

It is estimated that during the Nakba, Palestinians faced between $100-$200 billion in monetary losses.

After the Nakba, Palestinians were prevented from returning to their land. This is still the case today, despite being in direct contravention of international law which has repeatedly reaffirmed the right of Palestinians to return home.

An estimated 500 villages and towns were depopulated and demolished by the Israeli forces to prevent the return of the refugees. Many people locked up their homes, taking their keys with them, hopeful they would return soon. They lost their belongings, their farms, their businesses. Their whole lives were gone.

The Nakba is not an historical event but an ongoing event. 72 years later, the displacement and dispossession continues.

Palestinian refugees are served by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which is special agency set up initially to provide humanitarian aid to refugees in 1948.

The West Bank is home to 754,000 Palestinian refugees.

There are over 2 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan and their situation is marked by poverty, dispossession and limited opportunities.

Over 450,000 Palestinian refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon and are denied basic civil, social, political and economic rights.

The Palestinian refugee crisis is the longest running refugee crisis in the world today.

75% of Gaza's 2 million residents are refugees.

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