

# the facts

ABOUT THE PALESTINE PROBLEM

A monthly bulletin produced by « The Arab Women's Information Committee ».

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## THE BACKGROUND

### The Machiavellian Approach

«I shall not be ashamed to confess that, if I had the power, as I have the will, I would select a score of efficient young men, intelligent, decent, devoted to our ideal and burning with the desire to help redeem Jews, and I would send them to the countries where Jews are absorbed in sinful self-satisfaction. The task of these young men would be to disguise themselves as non-Jews, and plague these Jews with anti-semitic slogans, such as «Bloody Jews, Jews go to Palestine» and similar intimacies. I can vouch that the results, in terms of a considerable immigration to Israel from these countries would be ten thousand times larger than the results brought by thousands of emissaries who have been preaching for decades to deaf ears.»

*(Sharon, a member of the Mapai Party of Israel, reported by Kemper, a Yiddish paper published in New York, 11 July 1952)*

#### Editor's note :

This is not a magazine, nor even a newsletter. No attempt will be made at long-winded analysis or description. It is literally a «factual» sheet.

**FACTS** will try to present the facts of the Palestine Problem. We think these will speak for themselves and need no comment or elaboration. It is this ignorance of the facts by the outside world that has been responsible for much of the human suffering that has taken place in Palestine. It is time that the facts were known. Only on their basis can disinterested and fair-minded people reach objective and intelligent conclusions. To help such people is our objective.

**FACTS** is produced by the Arab Women's Information Committee, a voluntary, non-professional, non-profit and private organization of Arab women living in Beirut, Lebanon, who have been appalled at the manner in which the Palestine Problem has so far been presented in the English-speaking press.

**FACTS** will be divided into two sections, the first dealing with background material, the second with current developments. It will appear on a monthly basis. We also hope to be able to publish supplements on specific issues as the occasion arises.

The background section will comprise quotations from Zionist writings to illustrate Zionist ideological and strategic thought, statistics pertaining to various aspects of the Palestine Problem, and summaries of the more important historical events and developments of the problem.

The selection of this material is necessarily arbitrary, but it is hoped that as much ground can be covered in successive issues of **FACTS** as space permits.

As to the section on current developments, it will focus attention on the developments that have taken place since 5 June 1967.

We shall endeavour throughout to give detailed references for all the material that we publish. We hope that our efforts will contribute, however modestly, to a better understanding of the Arab point of view on the Palestine Problem.

**FACTS** welcomes all comments, suggestions and inquiries by its readers.

## **The Straight Expansionist Approach**

«It was evident to the Jews that their dreams of development of the Negev could not be realized without the waters of the Litani.»

*(Middle East Affairs, January 1955)*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

### **«...Some Discrimination against the Arabs...»**

«No one will deny that essentially the Nationality Law of Israel contains some discrimination against the Arabs, because Jews become citizens automatically, while Arabs must bring proof. But this discrimination is the result of an event which has been delayed for over a thousand years. The Nationality Law is the first law of its kind in a land which was in our times taken over by sword and conquest. Let us not deceive ourselves : One is either against such historical primitivism in our times, or one accepts it... in order to re-establish the historical home of the Jewish people.»

*(The Jewish Morning Journal, New York, 15 September 1952)*

## **Two Non-Zionists on Discrimination**

1. «In the last analysis, these are the bare facts which strike our eyes : Here was a people who lived on its land for 1,300 years. We came and turned the native Arabs into tragic refugees, and still we dare to slander and malign them, to besmirch their name. Instead of being deeply ashamed of what we have done and trying to undo the evil we committed by helping these unfortunate refugees, we justify our terrible acts and even attempt to glorify them.»

*(Nathan Chofshi in The Jewish Newsletter, 9 February 1959)*

2. «Only an internal revolution can have the power to heal our people of their murderous sickness and hatred (for the Arabs). It is bound to bring eventual complete ruin upon us. Only then will the old and the young in our land realize how great was our responsibility to those miserable, wronged Arab refugees in whose towns we have settled Jews who were brought from afar, whose homes we have inherited, whose fields we now sow and harvest; the fruit of whose gardens, orchards and vineyards we gather, and in whose cities that we robbed we put up houses of education, charity and prayer while we babble and rave about our being the «People of the Book» and the «Light of Nations».

*(Letter in Ner Magazine, published by a group of Israeli scholars and intellectuals, in the January — February issue 1961)*

## **THE INGATHERING — Three points of view**

1. The Zionist.

«I agree with Ben Gurion that all Jews who live in the Diaspora are in exile and will eventually have to be redeemed in Israel... For Israeli and Diaspora Jews are one people.»

*(Nahum Goldmann, President of the World Zionist Organization)*

## 2. The Non-Zionist.

«It is difficult, in view of the Zionist philosophy, to answer an Arab argument that the Arab people cannot make peace with Israel because the Zionists proclaim their intention of bringing back all the world's Jews to Israel. The Arabs' argument is that the tiny country of Israel will overflow and Zionism — which is a policy of nationalism — will cause the Jewish State to become expansionist. We must not forget that Nazism began as a nationalist movement that became expansionist.»

*(Burton Wolfe in Issues, Winter 1963, p. 45)*

## 3. The Man of Peace.

«Palestine belongs to the Arabs in the same sense that England belongs to the English or France to the French. It is wrong and inhuman to impose the Jews on the Arabs. What is going on in Palestine today cannot be justified by any moral code of conduct. Surely it would be a crime against humanity to reduce the proud Arabs so that Palestine can be restored to the Jews partly or wholly as their National Home.»

*(Mahatma Ghandi in Harijan, 26 November 1938)*

## A Fresh Look at Zionism

1. «Jews do not constitute a nation, and neither is nationalism required for Jewish survival. It can only lead to denuding Jewish life and perverting Jewish history. Its end result must be a catastrophe.»

*(Rabbi Philip Sigal in Issues, Autumn 1961)*

2. «Zionism and anti-Semitism are expressions of an identical point of view. The assumption underlying both ideologies is that it is impossible for Jews and non-Jews to grow together into a single community and that therefore a physical separation is the only practical way out. All the far-flung ghettos of the world are to be gathered into one patch of soil in Palestine to create a single consolidated ghetto there.»

*(Arnold Toynbee at the annual meeting of the American Council for Judaism, 7 May 1961)*

## A Background Lie ! (Still in common usage)

«The Arabs who stayed in the Israeli side kept their full rights of citizenship while the small Jewish communities which remained on the Arab side, were wiped off the map.»

*(I. Harkabi in Le Conflit Israélo-Arabe, p. 476)*

## But :

«We must also mention certain specific articles from the Emergency Laws which brutally infringe the essential rights of the individual.

*Article 109* gives the military governors full power to restrict individual liberty. (Control of movement from one place to another, ordering people to account for their movements, and restrictions to do with the work of an individual or to do with his contacts with other people, especially anyone connected with any sort of journalism).

*Article 110* gives the military governors the power to order police control (police surveillance, house arrest, observation of a curfew, reporting to the police as often as they want...)...

*Article 111* gives the military governors the power to order «administrative detention» : «A military commander can order the detention of any person in a place chosen by him»....

Article 125 gives the military governors the right to impose a curfew all over the country or in one district.

After the creation of the State of Israel, the Israeli government «applied these regulations even more harshly than they had been applied before, against the Arabs of Israel and *exclusively against them.*»

(*Al-Ard Co. Ltd. in Le Conflit Israélo-Arabe, p. 806-808*)

Also see *Facts VII* :

'U Thant declared : «I have never heard from any source whatever any complaint from the Lebanese-Jewish community.»

(*L'Orient, 3 August 1968, AP*)

## The Flourishing Economy of Israel, Or How To Be Self-Sufficient.

«Had it not been for the charitable and political external aid, no foundation of Net Capital could have been realized nor could the existing productive capacity be maintained.»

(*The Economy of Israel by Alex Rubner, London 1960*)

«In May 1967, there were 70,000 unemployed in Israel. The 812 million dollars of reparation paid by the German Government during 12 years had been exhausted several months before that and exportation was not working as expected. The last trip of Ben Gurion provided 2 million dollars only. More critical still, the Aliyah (immigration) had slowed down. A counter movement (of emigration) was taking place, especially among engineers and technicians. This climate was probably more frightening to the Israelis than the declarations of the Arab leaders.»

(*La Guerre d'Israel by Julien Besançon, Editions du Seuil, 1967*)

The Israeli pound which in 1948 was equivalent to 4 dollars is now equivalent to 28 cents.

(*Israel's Finance, by George Corm, published by the Institute For Palestine Studies, p. 31-32*)

Between 1949 and 1966 Israel received 7,000 million dollars in external aid.

(*Mr. Pinhas Sapir, the Israeli Minister of Finance, in the Israeli Economist, September 1967*)

The aid received by all the underdeveloped countries in the world amounts to 3,164 million dollars a year.

(*U.N. Statistics, The International Current of Long Term Capitals and Public Donations, 1951-1959*)

Therefore an average of 2,000 million people were receiving 3,164 million dollars per year, whereas Israel with a population of 1.7 million inhabitants was receiving 400 million dollars per year.

Israel per person                      Underdeveloped countries per person  
per year : 235.3 dollars    per year : 1.6 dollars

(*Statistical Abstract of Israel 1966*)

The following figures are also to be found in the Statistical Abstract of Israel :

Total Debt of the Israeli Government :	1956	1964	1965
(in million dollars)	1,084	5,185	5,714
Net National Income			
(in million dollars)	2,026	6,922	8,209
Percentage of Debt to National Income	53,5%	74,9%	69,6%

# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

## LIES, Lies, Lies... - A Pack of Lies...

In a broadcast on « Refugees », in an « Around the World » programme the B.B.C. commentator said that Israel was the only country in the world ever to pay compensations, when it had to compensate the Arab refugees.

(10 October 1968)

But

Mr. John Reddaway, deputy-chief of UNRWA, declared that the refugees displaced in 1948 had never received a penny for the property they had lost.

(The Times, 15 June 1968)

Colonel Zalman Mart (of the Military Governor's staff in Gaza) declared :

«The tension in the Gaza Strip has eased. The inhabitants have a natural inducement to leave after nearly 20 years under the Egyptians.»

(New York Times, 5 May 1968)

But

On 27 July 1968, the Arab delegates at the U.N. sent an official letter to Secretary - General U Thant, asking him to intervene to

prevent the expulsion by Israel of 50.000 Arabs from the Gaza Strip.

(L'Orient, 28 July 1968, AFP)

On the same day, the Israeli delegation at the U.N. strongly denied that any pressure was being put on the refugees : «The Arabs simply resent the fact that the refugees in Gaza enjoy more freedom of movement than they did under Arab rule,» their spokesman said.

(L'Orient, 28 July 1968, AFP)

But

On 29 July 1968, the Jordanian Government had to close the Hussein Bridge on the river Jordan in order to prevent the influx of refugees from Gaza.

(L'Orient, 30 July 1968, All Agencies)

On 31 July 1968, 10.000 refugees from the Gaza Strip had gathered on the West Bank of the Jordan, waiting to cross the river. Due to this second influx, the Jordanian Government had to close another bridge, the Damia Bridge. On the same day, it was declared at the U.N. that U. Thant was considering sending a special envoy to enquire into Arab allegations of Israeli expulsions from Gaza.

(L'Orient, 1 August 1968, Reuter).

On 1 August 1968, Israel announced its refusal to allow a special U.N. envoy to investigate the matter.

(L'Orient, 2 August 1968, AFP, UPI).

On 3 August 1968, the Military Governor of the Gaza region at last spilled the beans; «There is no place in Gaza for 315.000 people. An industrialized economy cannot support more than 200.000.»

(L'Orient, 4 August 1968, AP)

On the same day representatives of the international press had a chance to talk with some of the 21 Mukhtars who had signed a petition accusing Israel of expelling the refugees from Jabaliya Camp in the Gaza Strip. « The Israelis give 13 dollars to every person who accepts to leave » stated one of the Mukhtars. He added that they «had been summoned in groups of four or five to the Israeli Ministry of the Interior and told to exhort people to leave ». Faced with this at his press conference, the Military Governor denied that people at the Ministry of the Interior had given such instructions, but admitted that « Israel was prepared to give financial help to those who could not afford the trip ».

(L'Orient, 4 August 1968, AP)



« We welcome the departure of any Arab who does not approve of our policy of suppressing demonstrations and strikes »  
(Moshe Dayan, 29 October 1968, AP, AFP)

# RESISTANCE

## Different outlooks

«THE POPULATION OF THE WEST BANK IS HOSTILE TO THE RESISTANCE ».

(General Moshe Dayan,  
*Le Monde*, 20 March 1968)

In an editorial on 21 February 1968, *Le Monde* discusses the relationship of the Resistance in Palestine to the Refugees. «How can they (the refugees) not feel sympathy for these men who are risking their lives to liberate them, and for those two thousand fedayeen who since the end of the war, have fallen under the bullets of Israeli patrols?»

On 2 February 1968, *The Guardian* had said:

«However successful the Israelis have been in so far containing the active resistance movement on the West Bank, they have no answer as yet to the growing movement of passive resistance which may have more important implications for the future ».

On 30 September 1968, 22 notables from the city of Hebron signed a petition accusing Jewish worshippers in the city of desecrating the Moslem Ibrahimi Mosque, by conducting their prayers inside the mosque. The petition was submitted to Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel, and to the Military Governor of the city. The Military Governor then sent for some of the signatories and warned them that force will be used if necessary to allow the Jews to pray inside the mosque.

(*Al-Nahar*, 22 October 1968,  
*MEN*).

On 2 October 1968, a similar petition was sent by the notables of Hebron to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. The petition warned the Israeli authorities against such acts of defiance as conducting

## SOME EVENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES DURING THE LAST MONTH :

Jewish prayers inside a Moslem mosque.

(*Al-Nahar*, 3 October 1968,  
*MEN*).

On 6 October 1968, a small explosion took place near a branch of an Israeli bank in Hebron (established after 5 June 1967).

(*Al-Nahar*, 7 October 1968,  
*Reuter*).

After an incident in Gaza in which a mob attacked the Military Governor's offices, the Israeli authorities closed all Arab labour exchange offices in the city.

(*Al-Nahar*, 7 October 1968,  
*MEN*).

The Arab Labour Unions in the Gaza Strip accused Israel of imposing curfews arbitrarily, blowing up houses and arresting hundreds of Arab men and women arbitrarily.

(*Al-Nahar*, 10 October 1968,  
*MEN*).

Hundreds of Arab girl students in the town of Nablus demonstrated against the Israeli occupation. Police used tear gas and shots were fired over the heads of the demonstrators.

In Gaza, police arrested 30 Arab girl students charged with distributing anti-Israeli pamphlets.

A state of siege still exists in Hebron, and all gatherings and demonstrations are prohibited.

(*Al-Nahar*, 14 October 1968,  
*Reuter*)

Israel today destroyed the Eastern Gate of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. A Jewish synagogue will be erected on that site.

Israeli soldiers prepared for this action by a show of force in the Arab town of Hebron, and by preventing access of the East Gate of the Mosque to the inhabitants. Earlier, General Moshe Dayan had

issued a warning to the Arab mayor of Hebron threatening him and all the inhabitants of the town with «expulsion beyond the Jordan ».

(*Al-Nahar*, 15 October 1968,  
*A.F.P.*)

General Moshe Dayan declared that «before any annexation takes place, Israel must create FACTS in the occupied territories ».

(*Al-Nahar*, 17 October 1968,  
*A.F.P.*)

More than 200 women students in Ramallah in occupied Jordan demonstrated against the occupation by the Israelis of the Holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

(*Al-Nahar*, 18 October 1968,  
*A.F.P.*)

A general strike was called for today in the towns of Nablus, Ramallah and Jerusalem. The strike was to take place as a protest by the Arab inhabitants against «Israeli terrorism in Gaza, Hebron and Nablus as well as the destruction of houses, the summary arrest of innocent people and their torture by the Israeli authorities ».

Six students were today arrested in Hebron and charged with inciting people to demonstrate. Tension prevailed in the town. Israeli workmen started digging near the east wall of the Ibrahimi Mosque. A well in the center of the courtyard outside the mosque was blown up by an Israeli Army demolition squad.

(*Al-Nahar*, 18 October 1968,  
*MEN*).

Israel warned 200 Arab families of the possibility of their having to evacuate their homes in the Old City of Jerusalem. The Israeli authorities plan to install Jewish families in their place.

(*Al-Nahar*, 22 October 1968,  
*MEN*).

For the third day running, demonstrations took place in the occupied towns of Jenin, Nablus and Ramallah. Women students participated in these demonstrations in which stones were thrown at the police. All schools were shut and the police dispersed the demonstrators. These demonstrations were in protest against the changes taking place in the Ibrahimi Mosque of Hebron, as well as the arrest by the Israelis of men and women students.

Reports of bloody clashes have reached the Eastern Bank of the Jordan and 15 boys and girls are alleged to have been injured in clashes with the police. 100 people have been arrested, 30 of them students.

In Nablus there were more clashes with the police.

*(Al-Nahar, 1 October 1968, Reuter, AP).*

The town of Ramallah was completely sealed off today and a curfew imposed after demonstrations continued there against Israeli occupation. Journalists were forbidden access to the town.

A curfew was also imposed on Gaza and more arrests took place.

*(Al-Nahar, 24 October 1968, Reuter, AFP).*

A fire destroyed a great part of the main building in Lydda airport in Israel. Although Israeli authorities immediately declared that the fire was due to an accident, all cars leaving the airport were subjected to a thorough search by the police.

*(Al-Nahar, 25 October 1968, Reuter, AP, UPI)*

Dayan warned the Arab leaders on the West Bank of the importance of keeping the population quiet. Israeli centurion tanks, half-tracks and jeeps roamed the streets of the main cities and fired in the air continuously. Shots were also heard in the hills surrounding Nablus.

The Arab population stayed indoors because of the curfew.

In Ramallah and Bireh, the Arab mayors were also told of the need for cooperation. The Arab Mayor

of Ramallah has told visiting journalists: «Is one not expected to be against this ugly and unwanted occupation?»

Israeli paratroopers have made their appearance in the Arab sector of Jerusalem. A.R.P. reports that this is due to rumours concerning the intention of the Arab inhabitants in Jerusalem to show their solidarity with Arab demonstrators elsewhere. Several young people have in fact been arrested for inciting shopkeepers to close their shops. Reuter says that a curfew was imposed on Nablus after demonstrations by thousands of boy and girl students in the streets of the town in support of the resistance.

*(Al-Nahar, 25 October 1968, Reuter, AP, UPI)*

Troop reinforcements poured into the towns of Jenin and Nablus today, in the occupied West Bank of the Jordan.

Curfew was lifted in Nablus but remained in force in Jenin and Gaza. Mine explosions were reported in Upper Galilee and the Golan Heights as well as in the Bissan Valley, all territories held by Israel. A report emanating from the correspondent of the London *Daily Telegraph*, a pro-Israeli newspaper, says that tanks will be used against demonstrators, whether male or female, and against anybody else who disobeys the rules of the curfew.

*(Al-Nahar, 26 October 1968, UPI, Reuter)*

Clashes took place today in the Holy City of Jerusalem, after the Arab inhabitants decided to join their brothers in the occupied West Bank of the Jordan in protesting against Israeli occupation. Demonstrators were met at the «Damascus Gate» by paratroopers who attacked them with their cudgels. Several people were injured, including a pregnant woman. Many arrests were made. Demonstrators were also sprayed with coloured water to make later identification easier.

A general strike came into effect today in the Arab sector of Jerusalem where all shops were closed. Ramallah and Bireh went on strike

again and all schools on the West Bank were closed.

A student demonstration was dispersed by the police.

*(Al-Nahar, 27 October 1968, All Agencies)*

Curfew was again imposed on the towns of Nablus, Ramallah and Tulkarm in the occupied West Bank of the Jordan.

A student demonstration in Ramallah was met by firing from the police. General Moshe Dayan issued a warning to the Mayors of these cities in which he said that he held them responsible for student unrest. Curfew was also imposed on the northern section of the Gaza Strip.

*(Al-Nahar, 28 October 1968, Reuter, AP).*

A student demonstration in the town of Jericho in the occupied West Bank of the Jordan was met by the police by firing in the air, and a curfew was immediately imposed.

A report from UP says that around 200 students took part in a demonstration shouting «Palestine is Arab». Several girls were arrested. Hundreds of students demonstrated in Gaza too but there were no arrests or casualties.

General Dayan declared: «We welcome the departure of any Arab who does not approve of our policy of suppressing demonstrations and strikes».

*(Al-Nahar, 29 October 1968, Reuter, AP, AFP).*

Four families were today evicted from their homes in the Arab sector of Jerusalem. The 15 members of these 4 families were given a few hours in which to pack their belongings and go.

A group of students in Gaza today tried to stage a demonstration. Their efforts failed.

Extreme tension prevails still in the town of Hebron.

In Jericho people were allowed out for two hours only.

In Tulkarm people remained in their homes for the second day running. People in Ramallah and Nablus were allowed out for three hours.

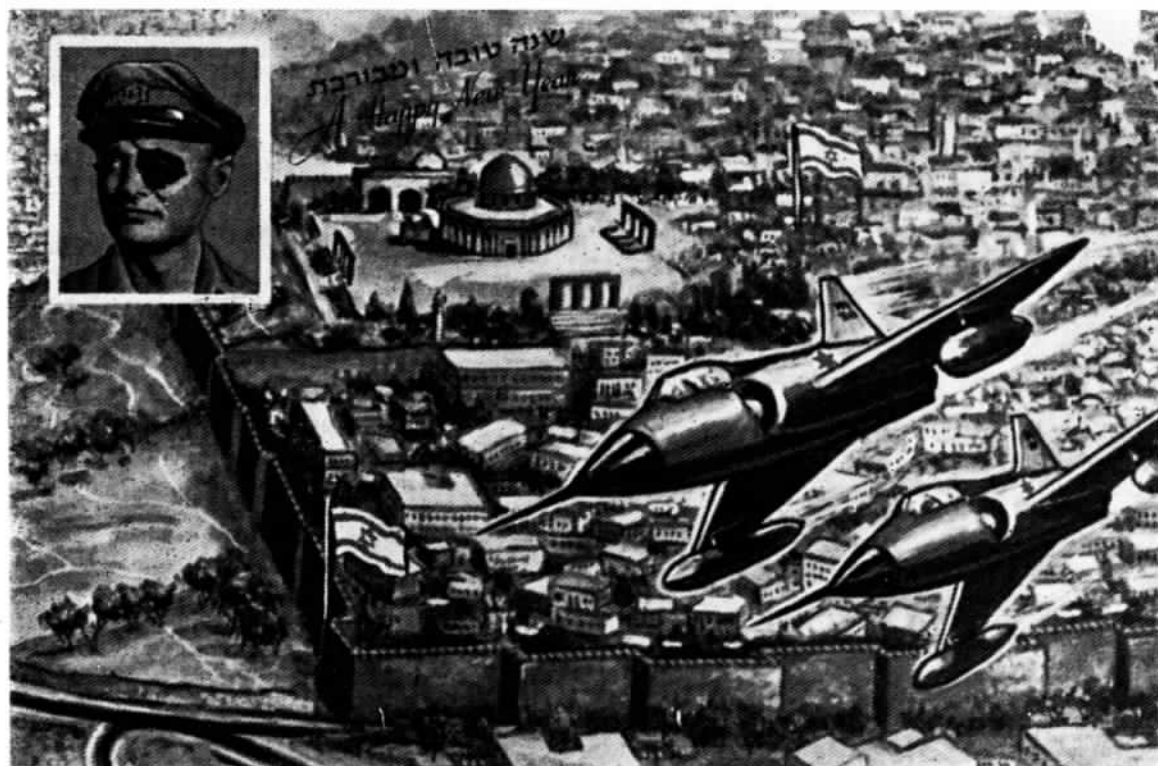
*(Al-Nahar, 30 October 1968, Reuter, AP, AFP, UP)*

AND SO IT GOES ON...

« IF I FORGET THEE O JERUSALEM ... »



**OUR NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS**



**... AND THEIRS**