

Facts & Figures Series – No. 1

DO YOU KNOW?

*Twenty Basic Facts About the
Palestine Problem*

Research Center * Palestine Liberation Organization

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DO YOU KNOW:

1. THAT, when the Palestine Problem was created by Britain in 1917, more than 90% of the population of Palestine were Arabs?... And that there were at that time no more than 56,000 Jews in Palestine?
2. THAT more than half of the Jews living in Palestine at that time were **recent immigrants**, who had come to Palestine in the preceding decades in order to escape persecution in Europe?... And that less than 5% of the population of Palestine were **native Palestinian Jews**?
3. THAT the Arabs of Palestine at that time owned 97½% of the land, while Jews (native Palestinians and recent immigrants together) owned only 2½% of the land?
4. THAT, during thirty years of British occupation and rule, the Zionists were able to purchase only 3½% of the land of Palestine, in spite of the encouragement of the British Government?... And that much of this land was transferred to Zionist bodies by the British Government directly, and was not sold by Arab owners?
5. THAT, therefore, when Britain passed the Palestine Problem to the United Nations in 1947, Zionists owned no more than 6% of the total land area of Palestine?
6. THAT, notwithstanding these facts, the General Assembly of the United Nations recommended that a «Jewish State» be established in Palestine?... And

that the Assembly granted that proposed «State» about 54% of the total area of the country?

7. THAT Israel immediately occupied (and still occupies) 80.48% of the total land area of Palestine?
8. THAT this territorial expansion took place, for the most part, **before** 15 May 1948: i.e., **before** the formal end of the British mandate and the withdrawal of British forces from Palestine, **before** the entry of Arab armies to protect Palestinian Arabs, and **before** the Arab-Israeli war?

— II —

DO YOU KNOW:

9. THAT the 1947 recommendation of the General Assembly in favour of the creation of a «Jewish State» was outside the competence of the Assembly under the Charter of the United Nations?
10. THAT all attempts by the Arab States and other Asian countries to have the Assembly submit the question of «constitutionality» of its recommendation to the International Court of Justice for an «advisory opinion» by the Court were rejected or ignored by the Assembly?
11. THAT, when the Assembly began to experience «second thoughts» over the matter and convened for its second special session in 1948, it failed to reaffirm the 1947 recommendation for the partition of Palestine — thus destroying whatever dubious legality that recommendation for the establishment of a «Jewish State» had had?

12. THAT that original 1947 recommendation to create a «Jewish State» in Palestine was approved, at the first vote, only by European, American and Australasian States... for every Asian State, and every African State (with the exception of the Union of South Africa) voted against it?... And that, when the vote was cast in plenary session on 29 November 1947, urgent American pressures (which a member of the Truman cabinet described as «bordering onto scandal») had succeeded in prevailing only upon one Asian country (the Philippines) and one African country (Liberia), both of which had special vulnerability to American pressures, to abandon their declared opposition?... And that, in other words, **the «Jewish State» was planted at the point-of-intersection of Asia and Africa without the free approval of any Middle Eastern, Asian or African country except the Union of South Africa, itself ruled by an alien minority?**

13. THAT Israel remained, ever since its inception, a **total stranger** in the emerging world of Afro-Asia; and that Israel has been refused admission to **any** inter-state conference of Asian, African, Afro-Asian, or Non-Aligned States ever held?

— III —

DO YOU KNOW:

14. THAT, since the General Armistice Agreements were signed in 1949, Israel has maintained an aggressive policy of waging military attacks across the Armistice Demarcation Lines, repeatedly invading the territories of the neighbouring Arab States... And that Israel

has been duly **rebuked, censured, or condemned** for these military attacks by the Security Council or the General Assembly of the United Nations on eleven occasions — five times by the Security Council and six times by the General Assembly?

15. THAT no other country in the world, whether member of the United Nations or non-member, has been so frequently condemned by the United Nations?
16. THAT no Arab State has ever been condemned by any organ of the United Nations for military attacks upon Israel (or any other State)?
17. THAT, besides expelling the bulk of the Arab inhabitants of Palestine, and besides constantly attacking the neighbouring Arab States, Israel has also consistently harrassed the United Nations observers and other personnel stationed along the Armistice Demarcation Lines: It has **assassinated** the first United Nations Mediator and his military aide; it has **detained** some truce observers; it has **militarily occupied** and **illegally searched** the Headquarters of United Nations personnel; and it has **boycotted** meetings of the Mixed Armistice Commissions?...
18. THAT Israel has additionally imposed a system of **apartheid** upon the Arabs who stayed in their homeland?... More than 90% of these Arabs live in «security zones»; they alone live under martial law, restricting their freedom to travel from village to village or from town to town; their children are denied equal opportunities for education; and they are denied decent opportunities for work, and the right to receive «equal pay for equal work»?

19. THAT, notwithstanding the foregoing facts, Israel has always been, and still is, widely portrayed in the Western press as the «bastion of democracy» and the «champion of peace» in the Middle East?
20. THAT the Western Powers have persisted in declaring their determination to ensure a so-called «arms balance» in the area, as between Israel, on the one hand, and the one-hundred million inhabitants of the thirteen Arab States, on the other hand?... And this unilateral Western doctrine of so-called «arms balance» is no more reasonable than the suggestion that, in the Cuba-U.S.A. conflict, there should be «arms balance» as between Cuba and the United States... or that the whole Continent of Africa should not be allowed to acquire more arms than South Africa... or that Mainland China should not be permitted to have more arms than Taiwan... or that the military allowed to acquire more arms than South Africa... and that only thus can peace be safeguarded in the Western Hemisphere, in Africa, in Asia, or in Europe?...