

74 years of the Ongoing Nakba, 74 years of Ongoing Resistance

The Nakba is a continuous international crime that, for more than 74 years, has resulted in the protracted and ongoing forced displacement of the Palestinian people. **The continuation of the Nakba reflects the extent of international complicity with the Israeli-Zionist colonial and apartheid regime in Palestine.** Undoubtedly, ending the ongoing Nakba, establishing peace, and achieving justice and fairness for the Palestinian people, especially refugees and displaced persons, can only be accomplished through the implementation of UN Resolution 194 of 1948, which affirms the Palestinian refugees' right to return to their original homes, restoration of their properties, and compensation for any damage they have suffered.

After 74 years of the Nakba, the Israeli colonial-apartheid regime continues to [prevent the return](#) of millions of Palestinian refugees and increase the number of those displaced. At the end of 2021 there are 9.1 million Palestinian refugees worldwide and 812,000 internally displaced persons on both sides of the Green Line. We continue witnessing the Nakba in myriad Israeli policies of forced displacement and colonialism, such as looting of natural resources, [annexation](#), repression, [denial of residency](#), [segregation, fragmentation and isolation](#), home demolitions, and the imposition of [discriminatory planning](#) and [permit systems](#). **These policies, among others, are implemented as part of the Zionist-Israeli strategy aimed at seizing the largest area of land with the fewest number of Palestinians.** The forced displacement in the Naqab, Sheikh Jarrah, the Jordan Valley and the South Hebron hills, in particular in Masafer Yatta, are glaring examples of the ongoing Nakba, international complicity, and the futility of the [Oslo approach](#) as well as every other discourse that calls for reconciliation with the colonial system or involvement in it.

After 74 years of ongoing Nakba, the international community continues to neglect its [legal and moral responsibilities](#) towards the Palestinian people, and to provide support and immunity to the Israeli regime. Today, despite our people's absolute support for the need to stop the suffering of the Ukrainian people caused by the war, especially refugees, the double standard of the colonial states of the West is revealed more than ever before. Their alleged commitment to human rights and international legitimacy falls apart when these countries activate a myriad of sanctions and numerous international mechanisms against Russia without doing so for other regimes committing human rights violations and severe crimes. **At the same time, for 74 years, those same Western states have been obstructing the enforcement of international law and accountability mechanisms vis-à-vis the Palestinian people.** Rather, they have been providing an umbrella of political, economic and military impunity for the Israeli colonial-apartheid regime. It is these countries that have thwarted the efforts of the Conciliation Commission on Palestine, which was mandated by the United Nations

to facilitate the return of refugees after the Nakba. They are the same countries that have done nothing for more than 15 years in the face of Israel's blockade of more than 2 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. And it is those same states that believe it is enough to express mere statements of concern in the face of Israeli crimes. Those same states also [practice discrimination against Palestinian refugees](#) fleeing armed conflicts in a number of Arab countries such as Syria, Iraq and Libya. This behavior not only constitutes double standards, but also exemplifies the complicity of Western states with the Israeli colonial-apartheid regime.

After more than 74 years of ongoing Nakba, the United Nations, originally responsible for the illegal partition of Palestine, continues to ignore the necessity of a human-rights-based approach to the issue of Palestinian displacement, and instead continues to deal with it as a humanitarian aid situation. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Refugees (UNRWA), which is the sole agency responsible for assisting Palestinian refugees, is still regarded as a temporary agency whose budget depends on the voluntary contributions of states, which decreases annually despite the increase in the number of refugees and their growing needs. What is more concerning is that Western states are imposing [political conditions](#) via their donations to UNRWA in order to serve the objectives of the Zionist-Israeli project in Palestine. **The recent call by the Commissioner-General of UNRWA for the involvement of other UN institutions to provide services to Palestinian refugees cannot be separated from the requirements of the European Union and the United States, which limit the scope and mandate of UNRWA and turn it into a security agency that serves the interests of those countries, not the needs of the refugees.** The politically conditional funding of UNRWA is prejudicial to the UNRWA mandate and the rights of refugees. UNRWA, by virtue of conditional funding, is now obligated to amend the [Palestinian curriculum](#) by removing historical facts from it and not referring to Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people. The conditional funding clauses stipulate that UNRWA must deprive a displaced Palestinian of receiving UNRWA services and/or dismiss a Palestinian employee from his/her job at UNRWA simply for expressing solidarity with his/her people – even if it is done through social media.

After more than 74 years of the Palestinian Nakba, Arab countries continue to normalize relations with the Israeli regime at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people, and deny the human rights of refugees, including those stipulated in the Arab League Protocol on the Treatment of Palestinian Refugees (Casablanca Protocol, 1965). While in Syria the demographic weight of [Palestinian refugees](#) has been targeted and weakened during the war, Lebanon continues to enact numerous policies aimed at depriving Palestinian refugees of their civil, economic and social rights under the pretext of preserving the right of return and Palestinian identity. At a time when the normalization of relations legitimizes the

colonial system, the policy of depriving the refugees of their human rights constitutes a violation of return, as both enable the continuation of Israeli policies, and the repeated displacement of Palestinians via “death boats” to more distant locations. **Supporting the Palestinian people and the right of return does not happen through normalization or by depriving refugees of their human rights in the countries of refuge.**

For its part, the Palestinian Authority, since its establishment under the disastrous Oslo Accords, continues to delude itself and our people of the possibility of exercising our inalienable rights by relying on begging. It is high time for those involved in the Oslo “peace process” to realize that their approach, defined by seeking the consent of the colonial-minded states that are complicit with the Israeli colonial-apartheid regime, has proven fruitless and that **the enforcement of international law and relevant UN resolutions requires changing the balance of power through resistance, not by seeking pity.**

Return is the right and will of the people.

One people, one destiny, and our return is certain.

Return is a national, legal and human right that is not subject to derogations or limitations.

Ensuring a stable and adequate budget for UNRWA without political conditions is an obligatory international responsibility.

Granting refugees their human rights in host countries supports their right to return to their original homes.

Endorsing Organizations and Networks: