



## **Palestine**

**100 Years of Struggle:**

**The Most Important Events**

**Yasser Arafat Foundation**

## **Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

- The total population of Palestine is estimated at 600,000, including approximately 36,000 of the Jewish faith, most of whom immigrated to Palestine for purely religious reasons, the remainder Muslims and Christians, all living and praying side by side.

### **1901**

- The Zionist Organization (later called the World Zionist Organization [WZO]) founded during the First Zionist Congress held in Basel Switzerland in 1897, establishes the “Jewish National Fund” for the purpose of purchasing land in Palestine.

### **1902**

- Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II agrees to receive Theodor Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement and, despite Herzl’s offer to pay off the debt of the Empire, decisively rejects the idea of Zionist settlement in Palestine.
- A majority of the delegates at The Fifth Zionist Congress view with favor the British offer to allocate part of the lands of Uganda for the settlement of Jews. However, the offer was rejected the following year.

## **1904**

- A wave of Jewish immigrants, mainly from Russia and Poland, begins to arrive in Palestine, settling in agricultural areas.

## **1909**

Jewish immigrants establish the city of “Tel Aviv” on the outskirts of Jaffa.

## **1914**

- The First World War begins.
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- The Jewish population in Palestine grows to 59,000, of a total population of 657,000.

## **1915- 1916**

- In correspondence between Sir Henry McMahon, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, and Sharif Hussein of Mecca, wherein Hussein demands the “independence of the Arab States”, specifying the boundaries of the territories within the Ottoman rule at the time, which clearly includes Palestine. McMahon confirms, “Great Britain is willing to recognize and support the independence of Arabs in all the regions within the limits demanded by the Sharif of Mecca.”

**November — May 1916**

After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, secret negotiations between British diplomat Sir Mark Sykes and French diplomat François Georges-Picot, with the endorsement of Imperial Russia, result in the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Unveiled at the onset of Communist rule in Russia in 1917, Russia acquires Armenian provinces and some Kurdish territory. The so-called 'Arab' territories of The Fertile Crescent are divided into 'spheres of power' between France and Great Britain.

France receives Greater Syria and Lebanon, as well as Al-Mosel in Mesopotamia, among other areas. Britain's control extends from the southern part of the Levant towards the east, including Baghdad and Al-Basra in Mesopotamia, as well as the entire region between the Arabian Gulf and Syria.

Palestine is to be placed under international administration in consultation with the Sharif of Mecca, in consideration of its significance to the three Abrahamic religions.

## 1917

- **November 2:** British Foreign Secretary Sir Arthur James Balfour issues a declaration in the form of a letter to Baron Walter Rothschild, stating *“His Majesty’s government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.”*
- Zionist leader Dr. Chaim Weizmann greatly influenced the drafting of the Balfour Declaration and succeeded in

building Zionist support using the slogan “*A land without a people for a people without a land*”, a phrase coined by Scots Presbyterian the Reverend Dr. Alexander Keith after his 1839 fact-finding mission to Palestine commissioned by the Church of England.

- **December 9:** Ottoman forces in Jerusalem surrender to the Allies, under the leadership of General Edmund Allenby. Great Britain begins to govern Palestine with a *de facto* administration in the form of a military government for the “occupied territories.”

## 1918

- **September:** The whole of Palestine comes under the occupation of the Allied powers.
- **October 30:** The First World War ends.
- The British government, in a special message to Sharif Hussein of Mecca, states that “*the Entente powers are determined that the Arab race shall be given full opportunity of once again forming a nation in the world ... so far as Palestine is concerned, we are determined that no people shall be subject to another.*”

## 1919

- **January:** At the Paris Peace Conference of the victorious Allied countries, it is agreed that the occupied Arab territories shall not return to Ottoman rule.

- **January 27 - February 10:** The First Palestinian National Conference is held in Jerusalem with delegates from Muslim-Christian associations throughout Palestine, and sends two memos to the Peace Conference in Paris rejecting the Balfour Declaration and calling for independence.
- **March 25:** At U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's suggestion, the Paris Peace Conference accepts to form an International Commission of Inquiry to ascertain the desires of the peoples of the Near East.
- **June - July:** With both France and Britain refusing to join the Commission, two American members, Henry King and Charles Crane, depart to the Near East. The commission's recommendations, the King-Crane Report, becomes irrelevant with the U.S. decision to not join the Covenant of the League of Nations, included in the June 28 Treaty of Versailles.
- Article 22 of the Covenant, which establishes the Mandate System three classes, considers the Arab lands as first class and states that "*certain communities formerly belonging to the Turkish Empire have reached a stage of development where their existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognized subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a Mandatory until such time as they are able to stand alone. The wishes of these communities must be a principal consideration in the selection of the Mandatory.*" These 'certain communities' include Palestine, Syria and Mesopotamia.

## 1920

- Britain's first report to the League of Nations about the civil administration in Palestine, puts the population at 700,000 of whom 76,000 are Jews.who had been living in Palestine during the previous 40 years.
- **March:** The General Syrian Conference declares the independence of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Transjordan, and names Hashemite Prince Faisal as King.
- **April:** The failure to achieve independence and the large-scale immigration of Jews from Europe to Palestine leads to anti-Zionist riots. As a result, Britain establishes an inquiry commission headed by Major-General Sir Philip Palin.
- **April:** As the occupying power, Great Britain dismisses the Mayor of Jerusalem, Musa Kazim Pasha Al-Husayni, for his opposition to British Zionist policy.
- **April 25:** The Allied Supreme Council convenes the San Remo Conference, at which it resolves that Palestine will become a British Mandate, rather than be placed under international administration per the Sykes-Picot agreement and irregardless of the provisions of Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations.
- **May:** Britain prevents the convening of the Second Palestinian National Conference.
- **July:** The British Civil Administration is established with the appointment of Sir Herbert Samuel, a Zionist, as its first High Commissioner.

- **August 26:** Despite Palestinian opposition, Britain issues its decision to permit the immigration of 16,500 Jewish emigres to Palestine within one year.
- **December:** The Third Palestinian National Conference convenes in Haifa and elects an executive committee that continues to lead the political movement in Palestine until 1935.

## 1921

- **March:** The Zionist paramilitary organization, Haganah, is established. Despite being cover and illegal, the British provide support and turn a blind eye to its activities.
- May 1:** The Jaffa riots begin in protest of the mass Zionist migration to Palestine
- **May 8:** Haj Amin Al-Husseini becomes the Mufti of Jerusalem, succeeding his brother Kamel Al-Husseini.
  - **May -June:** The Fourth Palestinian National Conference convenes in Jerusalem and resolves to send a delegation to London to discuss the issue of Palestine, and their rejection of the Balfour Declaration.
  - **October:** A Commission of Inquiry, headed by the Chief Justice of Palestine Sir Thomas Haycraft, attributes the Jaffa revolt to Palestinian fears of the growing mass Zionist migration to Palestine.

## 1922



- Haj Amin Al-Husseini becomes the head of the first Palestinian Council of Islamic Affairs & Endowments (*Waqf*), the supreme Islamic council in Palestine.
- **February:** In a meeting with then-Secretary of State for the Colonies Sir Winston Churchill, the second Palestinian delegation expresses its opposition to the Balfour Declaration and calls for Palestinian national independence.
- **June 3:** Churchill issues his “White Paper”, clarifying British views on the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people *in* Palestine, and excluding Transjordan from the scope of the Balfour Declaration. The paper includes an essential condition for Jewish migration to Palestine, to wit: that the number of immigrants *shall not exceed the economic capacity of the country to absorb new arrivals ... nor shall it deprive any section of the present population of their employment.* As well, the paper attempts to reassure the Palestinians that *the status of all citizens in the eyes of the law shall be Palestinian* and offers a proposal for the drafting of a Palestinian constitution and the establishment of a legislative council.
- **June 30/ July:** The United States Congress endorses the Balfour Declaration.
- **July 24:** The Council of the League of Nations approves the Mandate on Palestine. The text of the Mandate incorporates the Balfour Declaration *and recognizes the “historic connection” of the Jewish people with Palestine as the grounds for reconstituting their national home in Palestine.*
- **August:** One hundred (100) delegates representing all of Palestine convene the Fifth Palestinian National

Conference in Nablus. Musa Kazim Al-Husayni is elected President and Tawfiq Hammad, Vice-President. The Conference appoints an executive committee to follow up on the implementation of its decisions, including the rejection of the British Mandate and its constitution, boycott of the elections of the legislative council and boycott in trade with Jewish businesses.

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- **October:** The first census conducted by the British in Palestine shows a total population of 757,182, of whom 89% are Arabs and 11% are Jews.

## 1923

- **September 29:** The Treaty of Lausanne is endorsed, formalizing the renunciation of Turkish claims over non-Turkish territories of the Ottoman Empire. The British Mandate acquires jurisdiction *de jure* over Palestine.

## 1925

- **March:** Palestinians call for a general strike to protest the visit of Lord Balfour to inaugurate the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.
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- **October:** The Sixth Palestinian National Conference convenes in Jaffa.

## 1928

**June:** The Seventh Palestinian National Conference convenes in Jerusalem.

**September 24:** Jewish leaders attempt to change the status quo of the “Wailing / Western Wall” / “*al-Buraq*”.

**November:** The Islamic Conference convenes in Jerusalem and urges protection of Muslim property rights over the “Wailing / Western Wall” / “*al-Buraq*”, as a sacred site in Islam.

## 1929

- **August 4:** Mohammad Yasser Abdul Ra’ouf Arafat Al-Qudweh Al-Husseini, later known as “Yasser Arafat”, is born in Jerusalem, the sixth son of Abdul Ra’ouf Daoud Arafat Al-Qudweh Al-Husseini and Zahwa Khalil Abul Su’oud. He was born in a house near the south side of the Holy Mosque of Jerusalem.
- **August 15:** Groups from extremist Zionists organize the first political demonstration in front of Wailing / Western Wall” / “*al-Buraq* on the memorial day of the "Destruction of the Temple" according the Jewish calendar. Coinciding with the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's Muslims celebrations."Bitar" the right wing Zionist group organized the demonstration where hundreds of Jews gathered singing the anthem of the Zionist movement and shouting : "the wall is ours" .
- **August 23 – September 29:** Disturbance breakout in many cities as a reaction to the Jewish demonstrations. A march was held from Al Aqsa Mosque to *al-Buraq* where Palestinians listened to a sermon held by Sheikh Hassan

Abu Saoud that illustrates the danger imposed in the Islamic Holy sites. As a result, clashes occur that lead to the killing of 133 Jews and 116 Palestinian and the injury of 339 Jews and 232 Palestinian mostly by British soldiers.

- **October:** A conference is held in Jerusalem to determine the Palestinian position on the conflict over the “Wailing / Western Wall” / “*al-Buraq*”.

## 1930

- The League of Nations establishes a commission to determine the legal status of both Arabs and Jews with regard to the “Wailing / Western Wall” / “*al-Buraq*”.
- **March:** The British Shaw Commission of Inquiry led by Sir Walter Shaw issues its findings on the riots of 1929. The report concludes that *“The fundamental cause, without which in our opinion, disturbances either would not [have] occurred or would not have been little more than a local riot, is the Arab feeling of animosity and hostility towards the Jews consequent upon the disappointment of their political and national aspirations and fear for their economic future. ... The feeling as it exists today is based on the twofold fear of the Arabs that by Jewish immigration and land purchases they may be deprived of their livelihood and in time pass under the political domination of the Jews.”*
- **March 30:** The fourth Palestinian delegation arrives in London and in May announces Great Britain’s rejection of its demands that the Zionist mass migration to

Palestine and acquisition of its land cease and a democratic representative body be established.

- **December:** The International Commission for the Wailing/ Western Wall / *“al-Buraq”*, appointed by Britain with the sanction of the League of Nations, recommends to maintain the status quo and *“declares that the ownership of the Wall, as well as the possession of it and of those parts of its surroundings that are here in question accrues to the Moslems.”*
- **June 17:** British Mandate forces execute three (3) leaders of the Palestinian resistance, Fouad Hijazi, Mohammad Jamjoum, and Atta Al-Zeir.
- **October 30:** Great Britain issues a new statement of policy, the Passfield-White Paper. The paper asserts that *“equal weight shall at all times be given to the obligation laid down with regard to the two sections of the population and to reconcile those two obligations where, inevitably, conflicting interests are involved.”*

## 1931

- In a letter to Chaim Weizmann, British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald clarifies that Palestine would be governed in accordance with the Churchill Policy of 1922, and the restrictions on Jewish immigration and land transfers recommended by Lord Passfield would not be applied.
- **October:** Sir Arthur Wauchope succeeds Sir John Chancellor as the High Commissioner for Palestine.
- **November 18:** According to British statistics, the population of Palestine reaches 1,035,154, of which 16% are Jewish.

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- **December 16:** The General Islamic Conference convenes in Jerusalem with 145 delegates from 22 Muslim countries.

## **1932**

**August 2:** The Palestinian Independence Party (Hizb Al-Istiqlal) becomes the first Palestinian political party to be established as an organized movement.

## **1933**

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- After the death of their mother, Yasser Arafat and his younger brother Fathi return to Jerusalem from Cairo to live with their uncle, Salim Abu Saoud.
- The Nazi persecution of Jews in Europe leads to a surge in Jewish immigration to Palestine.

## **1935**

- Weapons destined for Zionist forces are discovered at the Port of Haifa.
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- Popular resistance leaders Izz Al-Deen Al-Qassam and three others are killed during the Ya'bad Battle in Jenin.

## **1936**

- Palestinian resistance to foreign rule and colonization escalates into a major rebellion that lasts virtually until the outbreak of the Second World War.
- **April 6:** The Arab Higher Committee, a new union of Palestinian political parties headed by the Mufti of Jerusalem Al Haj Amin Husseini, is formed. The Committee calls for a general strike to support Palestinian demands for the formation of a national government. The strike continues for six months, during which attacks on British troops and posts, as well as on Jewish settlements, take place.
- The Haganah steps up its attacks, as do other Zionist paramilitary organizations, such as the Irgun, Tzeva'i, Leumi, FO'SH, Jewish Settlement Police and the "special night squads" which were trained by British Major-General Orde Charles Wingate.
- At the same time, oppressive measures are escalated by the British: large parts of Jaffa are demolished, the Arab Higher Committee is proscribed and military courts are established, imposing 58 death sentences by the end of 1938.

## 1937

- A British Royal Commission of Inquiry headed by Lord William Peel is established to investigate the "disturbances" in Palestine and presents its findings in the Peel Report. The Report recognizes the justice of the demands by the Palestinian people for independence and acknowledges that, contrary to the previous official position, the "dual obligations"

undertaken by the British government were not reconcilable. In conclusion, the Commission recommends that Palestine be partitioned.

## **1939**

- **February 7:** The London Conference convenes and, of necessity, develops into parallel but separate Anglo-Arab and Anglo-Jewish conferences. The Palestinians stress their inherent right to independence while the Jewish delegates demand to achieve a Jewish state.

In the meantime, terrorist attacks continue, resulting in dozens of Palestinians killed and injured in separate bombings carried out by the Irgun and two Jews killed by a Palestinian bomb.

- **March 27:** The London Conference ends without results.
- **May: 17:** The British government issues the McDonald White Paper, disclaiming any intention to create a Jewish state and rejecting Arab demands that Palestine become an independent Arab state. Rather, it envisages the termination of the Mandate by 1949, with Palestine becoming an independent Arab state with a shared Palestinian-Jewish government. The paper also stipulates that immigration would end after another 75,000 Jewish immigrants are admitted over a period of five years, and that the British government would strictly regulate the transfer of land.



- During the 1930's, Palestine receives approximately 232,000 Jewish immigrants. By 1939, the Jewish population numbers over 445,000, of a total population of approximately 1.5 million — nearly 30% as compared to the less than 10% twenty years earlier. As well, Jewish land holdings quadruple to almost 1.5 million dunums of the total area of 26 million dunums.
- **September 1:** The Second World War begins.
- **October:** The Stern Gang (Lehi) of Zionist extremists is established under the leadership of Avraham Stern after a split with the Irgun. Referring to themselves as 'terrorists', their aim is to remove the British from Palestine by force and establish the 'Hebrew Nation' from the 'River of Egypt to the Euphrates'.

## 1940

- **February:** The Mandate Authorities issue land transfer regulations, dividing Palestine into three zones, in the largest of which the transfer of land to a person who is not a Palestinian Arab is prohibited.
- The Palestinian Rebellion, the Royal Commission's report and the 1939 White Paper's policies constitute a series of setbacks to the Zionist aim of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine. In general, the Zionist response includes increasing the illegal Jewish immigration, terrorist activities and attempts to obtain support from the United States.

## 1942

The Stern Gang commits a series of politically-motivated murders and robberies in the Tel Aviv area.

- **May:** The Jewish Agency Executive Meeting in New York unveils the 'Biltmore Program', the aim of which is the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine through unlimited immigration.

## 1944

- **August 8:** The British High Commissioner narrowly escapes death in an ambush near Jerusalem by the Stern Gang. Three months later, the Gang assassinates the British Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Moyne, in Cairo.

## 1945

- **January:** The United States Congress submits a request to the American government to facilitate an unlimited Jewish immigration to Palestine, with the aim of transforming the country into a "Jewish Commonwealth".
- **March 22:** Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Transjordan and Yemen sign the pact of the League of Arab States in Cairo and affirm the Arab nature of Palestine.
- **July:** Head of the Jewish Agency, David Ben-Gurion meets with influential American Zionists and promises to buy weapons and artillery from the United States for the Haganah.

- **August 31:** With support from members of the U.S. Congress, President Harry Truman urges the British government to allow an additional 100,000 European Jews to immigrate to Palestine.
  
- **September 2:** The Second World War ends.
  
- **October 24:** The United Nations is established, with membership open to all nations that support peace and agree with its charter and provisions.
  
- **October 31:** Railway stations in 242 different locations in Palestine are disabled by the Haganah, Irgun and Stern Gang.
  
- **November 13:** The British Foreign Minister, Ernest Bevin, affirms the continuation of Jewish immigration to Palestine after the quota provided for in the 1939 White Paper is reached, and suggests the formation of a British- American Inquiry Committee.
  
- **November 22:** The Higher Arab Commission is established to replace the Higher Arab Committee dissolved by Britain in 1937.
  
- **December 27:** The Irgun kill five (5) British policemen in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Tel Aviv.

## **1946**

- **January:** The 12-member Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry begins its investigations. The Committee

rejects the idea of early independence for Palestine, whether partitioned or unified, and proposes that Palestine become a United Nations Trusteeship, under which the Mandate would continue.

- **May:** The Anglo-American Inquiry Report recommends the admittance of 100,000 Jewish immigrants to Palestine and cancellation of the land ownership law that aims, in part, to preserve Palestinian property rights. The British government agrees only to study the recommendation.
- **July 22:** The terror campaign conducted by Zionist extremist organizations reaches a new climax with the bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. The explosion destroys a wing of the hotel housing the offices of the British government secretariat, as well as part of the military headquarters, and kills 86 people. As well, there is evidence of the involvement of the Jewish Agency in similar terrorist actions, including the engagement of the Haganah and the Palmach in carefully planned acts of sabotage and violence under the guise of the Jewish resistance movement.
- **July 24:** The British Government issues its White Paper on terrorism in Palestine linking the Jewish Agency to the Irgun, the Stern Gang and other Zionist extremist groups perpetrating violence.

**July 31:** The Anglo-American Conference convenes in London and presents the Morrison-Grady Plan, calling for a single federation under British trusteeship to resolve the Palestinian issue. Both Arab and Jewish leaders reject the proposal.

**September 1946 - February 1947:**

- During the New London Conference, the British government presents its proposal for two autonomous provinces in Palestine that would continue to be governed by the British High Commissioner. Both Arab and Jewish leaders reject this proposal, as well as British Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin's subsequent suggestion to limit British trusteeship to five (5) years.

## 1947

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- **January 12:** The Irgun continues its terrorist activities, exploding a car at the British Administration headquarters in Haifa killing two British policemen and two Palestinians and wounding more than 100 people.
- **February 28:** Zionist extremists destroy the British Officers' Club in Jerusalem killing 20 people including civilians, soldiers and police.
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- **April 12:** As Zionist armed groups, now on the offensive, step up their acts of sabotage in Palestine, the British government, under the stress of violence, requests a Special Session on Palestine, which is convened on April 28 by the UN General Assembly. The UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) is established "to make recommendations . . . concerning the future government of Palestine".
- **June 14:** The members of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) arrive in Palestine.

**July 30:** Three convicted members of the Irgun gang are executed by the British authorities, despite warnings by Irgun leader Menachem Begin that two kidnapped British officers would be killed in retaliation. This threat is carried out.

- **August 15:** The Haganah attack an Arab orchard near Tel Aviv, killing 12 people including a mother and six (6) children.
- **September:** Haganah representatives conclude a military contract with a company in Czechoslovakia.
- **September 8:** UNSCOP issues its report, with the majority recommending the partition of Palestine and a minority favoring the federalization plan.
- **September 16-19:** The Arab League rejects the Partition Plan recommended by UNSCOP and appoints a military committee to supervise the defensive needs of the Palestinian people.
- **September 29:** The Arab Higher Committee rejects the Partition Plan.
- **October 2:** The Jewish Agency accepts the Partition Plan.
- **October 3:** The Palestinian people call for a three-day general strike in protest of the Partition Plan.
- **October 7-15:** At its meeting in Aley, Lebanon, the Arab League confirms the decisions taken at the Bloudan secret conference that deliberated on Western intentions for the region and allocates one million pounds Sterling for the military committee.
- **October 11:** The United States of America accepts the UN Partition Plan.

- **October 13:** The Soviet Union accepts the Partition Plan.
- **October 29:** The British Government announces its intention to withdraw from Palestine within the next six months if an agreement is not reached between the Arabs and Jews.
- **November 29:** The UN General Assembly adopts resolution 181 (II) that sets forth a plan to partition Palestine into two states, Arab and Jewish, with Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum* under an international regime to be administered by the United Nations. Palestinians, 70% of the population, are only allocated 43% of the country. Jews, 30% of the population, are allocated 56.5% of Palestine. The plan also calls for the protection of religious and historic sites and an economic union between the proposed two (2) states.
- The Partition of Palestine is endorsed with a majority vote of 33 countries: Australia, Belgium, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Holland, Liberia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, the Soviet Union, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. Thirteen (13) countries vote against: Afghanistan, Cuba, Egypt, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, and the Mutawakelite Kingdom of Yemen. Ten (10) countries abstain: Argentina, Chile, the Chinese Republic, Columbia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. Thailand is absent.

- **December:** Great Britain announces that it will terminate the Mandate on 15 May 1948, several months before the time envisioned in the partition plan. With the increasing British disengagement, the Zionist movement moves to establish control over more territory. Bordering Arab states make it clear that they will intervene.
- The Partition Plan leads to an escalation of violence.
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## **1948**

**January 1:** The Arab League Military Committee forms the all-volunteer Arab Liberation Army led by Fawzi Al-Qawuqji to support the Palestinian resistance against partition.

- **January 3:** 65,000 pounds of explosive TNT destined for the Haganah in Palestine is found in a truck at the Port of New Jersey.
- **January 14:** The Haganah concludes a \$12,280,000 arms deal with Czechoslovakia, including 24,500 rifles, 5,000 light machine guns, 200 medium machine guns, 54 million rounds of ammunition, 25 Messerschmitt military aircraft.
- By the end of the Mandate at least 10,740 rifles, 1,200 machine guns, 26 field guns, and 11 million rounds of ammunition arrive in Palestine. The remainder arrive by end of May.
- **January:**
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- Britain sells the Jewish forces in Palestine 20 Oyster military planes.



- After 10 years of exile, Abd Al-Qader Al Husseini returns secretly to Jerusalem to organize the Palestinian resistance against partition.
- **March 19:** The United States abandons its support for partition and calls for a special session of the UN General Assembly to discuss placing Palestine under the trusteeship of the United Nations until a compromise is reached between the Arabs and Jews.

**April 8:** Abd Al-Qader Al Husseini is killed while leading a successful counterattack at Al-Qastal village near Jerusalem. After his death, the Haganah retake the village.

**April 9:** Combined units from the Itzel and Stern gangs with the support of Palmach forces occupy the village of Deir Yassin, on the western outskirts of Jerusalem, and brutally attack the residents. Two hundred fifty-four (254) Palestinians, mainly women and children, are massacred, some set on fire, buried alive or thrown into wells.

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- The psychological and military terrorism of the Zionist forces causes panic among the Palestinians, leading to a mass exodus of approximately 750,000 refugees to neighboring countries and areas of Palestine not under Zionist control.
- The Egyptian parliament resolves to send military forces to Palestine at the end of the Mandate. Jordanian army forces in Palestine, under British leadership, intensify their attack on Gush Etzion, south of Jerusalem.
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- **May 13:** In a letter to President Truman, Chaim Weizmann asks for recognition of the Jewish State when it is established.

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- **May 14:** The Haganah launch “Operation Nachshon” under Plan Dalet, to occupy strategic territory in and around Jerusalem.
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- The Jewish Agency in Tel Aviv declares the establishment of the State of Israel, based on the UN Partition Plan, embodied in resolution 181.
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- The UN General Assembly appoints Count Folke Bernadotte of Sweden to mediate the conflict and supervise a cease-fire.
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- The city of Jaffa surrenders to Haganah forces.
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- The last three colonies in Gush Etzion — Rafadim, Ein-Tsorim and Misaot Yetshak — south of Jerusalem surrender to the Jordanian army .
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- The British High Commissioner leaves Jerusalem and returns to Britain.
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- The Soviet Union and the United States recognize the State of Israel.
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- Israeli forces take control of the western part of Jerusalem, which had been designated as a *corpus separatum* to be administered under a United Nations trusteeship. Thirty-seven (37) of the 41 villages in and around the area are destroyed and more than 80,000 Palestinians are forced to flee. Israeli forces occupy additional territory and cities in Palestine beyond that specified by the partition resolution.
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- **May 15 :** The British Mandate of Palestine ends.
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- The first unit of regular Egyptian forces enter Palestine. Jordanian Army brigades cross the River Jordan into Palestine.
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- **May 16** : The Haganah continues with Operation Ben Ami and attack the city of Acre.
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- Jordanian forces reach the northern area of Jerusalem.
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- **May 17**: The Haganah proceeds with Operation Shfifon to occupy the old city in Jerusalem.
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- Acre and a number of surrounding villages are captured by the Haganah .
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- **May 18**: Syrian forces liberate the city of Samack and take control of the colonies of Sha'ar HaGolan and Masada.
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- Jordanian forces reach Al Latrun near Jerusalem, strengthening the Palestinian Holy Jihad forces' siege of the coastal road leading to Jewish neighborhoods.
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- **May 19** : Egyptian forces attack the colony of Yad Mordechai in the Negev.
- Haganah forces enter the Old City of Jerusalem. The Jordanian Army takes action to defend the city.
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- **May 22-23** : The Israeli Army's Alexandroni Brigade massacre 200 citizens of Tantura near Haifa, destroy the village and force the remaining residents to flee.
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- **September 17**: Count Bernadotte is assassinated by Zionists in Israeli army uniforms. The UN Security Council insists 'the provisional government of Israel must assume full responsibility' and requests the

Israeli government to investigate and submit its findings on the assassination to the Council (to date, no report has been received).

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- It is now clear that the support of the Arab states in Palestine is ineffective in overcoming the Israeli military forces. Within weeks, Israel occupies 78% of Palestine; excepting the areas known as the "West Bank" of the Jordan River and the "Gaza Strip".
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- "**Al-Nakba**" (the catastrophe) has occurred. The Palestinians lose Palestine as a country and a homeland and the fabric of its community. An estimated half of Palestine's population (750,000) have fled or been expelled from their land and homes. More than 400 towns and villages have been destroyed.
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- **September 22:** Israel adopts the 'Area of Jurisdiction and Powers Ordinance', which absorbs, de facto, almost half of the land allocated to the Arab state and is occupied by Israeli forces.
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- **November 29:** Israel applies for admission to the United Nations, while in occupation of territories beyond those allocated in the partition resolution. Israel is criticized in the Security Council for its non-compliance with UN resolutions.
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- **December 1:** The Jericho Conference is held, in which Palestinian Arab leaders demand the unification of the West Bank with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
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- **December 11:** The UN General Assembly passes resolution 194 (III) that establishes a Conciliation Commission headquartered in Jerusalem, to continue

the functions of the Mediator and the Truce Commission. The resolution reiterates the call for an international regime for Jerusalem and resolves that '... the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for the loss or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the Government or authorities responsible... .' Resolution 194 forms the basis of the fundamental principle of the "right of return" of Palestinian refugees.

- **December 17:** Israel's application for admission into the United Nations fails, receiving five (5) votes in favor, one (1 ) against and five (5) abstentions.
  
- **1949**
  
- **January:** The United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine is established with France, Turkey and the United States as members.
  
- **February 24:** Egypt and Israel sign an armistice agreement after which the Gaza Strip comes under Egyptian administration.
  
- **March 23:** Lebanon and Israel sign an armistice agreement.
  
- **April 4:** Jordan and Israel sign an armistice agreement. The attached map delineates the truce line in green, thus the expression 'The Green Line'.

- **April 27:** The Conciliation Commission holds a conference in Lausanne, Switzerland consisting of separate talks with the two sides.
- **May 11:** Following its third application for membership to the United Nations, the General Assembly votes on the Security Council resolution of March 4th to admit Israel as a member, with 37 votes in favor, 12 against and nine (9) abstentions. The preamble of the resolution refers specifically to Israel's commitment to implement UN General Assembly resolutions 181 (II) and 194 (III).
- **May 12:** Two separate protocols are signed by the Arab states and Israel, in which they agree to use the boundaries specified in the partition resolution as a 'basis for discussions' with the Conciliation Commission.
- Syria and Israel sign an armistice agreement.
- **December 8:** The United Nations General Assembly adopts resolution 302 (IV), establishing the Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to assist the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees living in makeshift camps in bordering countries. By providing shelter, food, health care and training to those living in the camps, UNRWA proves to be crucial in preventing the exacerbation of this human catastrophe.
- **1950**

- **January 23:** In defiance of United Nations resolutions, Israel moves its capital from Tel Aviv to the western part of Jerusalem.
- The Israeli government adopts the Absentees' Property Law, which is preceded by the Abandoned Areas Ordinance (1948) and the Emergency Regulations Concerning the Cultivation of Waste Lands (1949), a series of laws legalizing the expropriation of Arab land and creating a *de facto* situation aimed at preventing the return of Palestinian refugees.
- **April 24:** The West Bank formally becomes a part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Britain and Pakistan recognize this merger.
- **May:** UNRWA assumes responsibility for the administration and distribution of international assistance and aid for 860,000 registered Palestinian refugees. Controversy over the responsibility for willfully causing displacement and addressing its humanitarian consequences continues.
- **1951**
- **July 20:** King Abdullah of Jordan is assassinated in Jerusalem by a 19 year-old Palestinian.
- **1952**
- Yasser Arafat becomes head of the Palestinian Students' league in Cairo.

- **July 23:** The July Revolution erupts in Egypt. The Egyptian army, led by the 'Free Officers', forces King Farouk I to abdicate.
- The 'Question of Palestine' is dropped from the agenda of the UN General Assembly. By now, the entire issue of Palestine is reduced to that of a refugee problem.
- **1953**
- Yasser Arafat writes a letter, with his own blood, that becomes known as 'The Blood Document', to the first President of Egypt Major-General Muhammad Naguib. The letter contains but three words: "Do not forget Palestine".
- **October 14-15:** An Israeli army unit crosses the armistice line into the West Bank and attacks the village of Qibya, near Ramallah, massacring 53 Palestinian civilians.
- **1956**
- **June 23:** In a major development of the Egyptian revolution of 1952, a new constitution is adopted, and Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser is elected President of the Egyptian republic.
- **July 12:** Mustafa Hafez, who had been supervising a battalion of Palestinian guerrillas (Fedayeen) responding to Israeli bombing of the civilian inhabitants in the Gaza Strip and attacks on Egyptian front locations, dies in a hospital in Gaza from a parcel bomb explosion.



- **July 26:** President Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalizes the Suez Canal. Britain and France, in a trilateral offensive with Israel, wage war against Egypt.
- **October 29:** Israel invades the Sinai, occupies the Gaza Strip and, along with Britain and France, the Suez Canal. At the request of the First Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly, the British and French forces withdraw. Israel withdraws from most of the Egyptian territory it captured, but retains its occupation of Sharm al-Sheikh and the Gaza Strip.
- Meanwhile, Israeli forces impose a surprise curfew on the Arab villages of Al-Muthalath (The Triangle) and Kafr Qasim in Israel. When the unaware villagers of Kafr Qasim return home, Israeli border police indiscriminately open fire, massacring 49 Palestinians.
- **November 3:** On the eve of the end of the resistance in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli army massacres scores of Palestinian men, women and children in the towns of Rafah and Khan Yunis, and in the Khan Yunis refugee camp while the camp is under curfew.
- As called for in the First Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly, British and French troops withdraw from Port Said .
- Yasser Arafat is recruited at the rank of sergeant to serve with a unit of the Egyptian Armed Forces in 1956 and visits the Gaza Strip after the withdrawal of troops.

- **1957**
- **March 8:** Israel withdraws from Sharm al-Sheikh and the Gaza Strip and the UN Emergency Forces (UNEF) is established and deployed.
- The Conciliation Commission of the United Nations conducts a field survey of the lands owned by the Palestinian refugees, which is now known as 'the State of Israel'. The survey continues for several years with specific results that indicate private Palestinian ownership of 5.5 million dunums of land expropriated from by 210,00 Palestinians. The record of the Commission is considered legal evidence of private Palestinian ownership of such lands.
- **1958**
- Yasser Arafat meets with members of the Palestinian diaspora in Kuwait and begins to mobilize the establishment of a new underground national liberation movement,, 'Fatah'". Along with Arafat, the founders include Khalil Al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), and Salim Al-Za'nun (Abu Al Adib). The movement adopts important decisions from its 'statements', as well as from its revolutionary structure.
- **1964**
- The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is established and Ahmad Al-Shukairi is elected Chairman of the Executive Committee.

- **1965**
- **January 1:** The Al-`Asifa military wing of the Fatah movement begins an armed struggle against Israel.
- **1966**
- Israeli military units attack the village of Al-Samuh south of Al-Khalil (Hebron), causing extensive damage and large numbers of casualties.
- **1967**
- **May 22:** Egypt closes the Strait of Tiran and requests the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF).
- **May 30:** Bahjat Abu Gharbieh, Subhi Ghosheh and Ishaq al-Duzdar establish the civil resistance front in Jerusalem.
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- **June 5:** War erupts in the Middle East. Israel carries out a surprise, vast, proactive offensive, and within a few days, its forces occupy the remainder of Palestine — the West Bank, including Arab East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip — as well as the Golan Heights of Syria and the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt.
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- Approximately 200,000 Palestinians flee the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to neighboring Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. As about half are already refugees from 1948, they are designated as ‘displaced persons’, as most had left the West Bank to the East Bank of the

## Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

- **June 8:** Israeli Air Force planes sink the U.S. Navy ship USS Liberty in international waters of the Mediterranean Sea. Thirty--four (34) American officers are killed and 171 wounded.
- **June 9:** Israel prohibits Friday prayer services at Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first time the Friday prayer has been interrupted in the Mosque since the time of Saladin.
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- **June 10-11:** Israeli occupation authorities destroy al-Magharbi quarter in Jerusalem, razing 135 residences and two mosques, including the historic Al-Buraq Mosque.
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- **June 14:** Israel initiates stringent censorship of Palestinian textbooks and maps, deleting references to 'Palestine', and attempts to replace the Jordanian curriculum in East Jerusalem and the West Bank with one designed for Arab schools in Israel. The strong rejection of the Palestinian teachers' union scuttles that plan.
- Israeli occupation forces impose a curfew on the Old City of Jerusalem and open the Western Wall for Jews to pray.
- The UN Security Council adopts resolution 237 (1967) which, among other recommendations, calls upon the Government of Israel to '... facilitate the return of those inhabitants who have fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities.'

- **June 27:** Israel adopts a law enabling the government to extend its decrees, jurisdiction and administrative powers to East Jerusalem.
- **June 28:** **The** Israeli Interior Minister orders the expansion of the municipal borders of Jerusalem up to 70 kilometers, 'an area equivalent to ten times its original area', placing this territory under the law adopted the day before, and dissolves the City Council.
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- Yasser Arafat returns secretly to the West Bank where he leads organizational and military activities.
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- **July:** Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon presents a plan that does not require withdrawal to the 1949 armistice lines and that the final border should provide Israel with the 'essential minimum of security' It calls for a partition of the West Bank between Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as well as the creation of a Druze state in the occupied Golan Heights and the return of the Sinai Peninsula to Arab control. Jerusalem would remain Israel's capital but states that 'a solution for the religious interests connected with it can be found.'
- **August:** The leadership of the Israeli army issues a second decision to change the curriculum in the West Bank.
- The National Guidance Committee in Jerusalem, headed by Chairman of the Supreme Islamic Council Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al-Sayegh, is established.
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- **September:** Students and teachers in the West Bank demonstrate against the Israeli occupation. Nablus declares general strike.

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- **September 19:** A bomb explodes in the Hotel Fast in front of the Old City in Jerusalem. destroying a printing house and residential apartments and injuring some Israelis. Fatah claims responsibility, announcing the resumption of armed struggle.
- **September 23:** Israeli occupation authorities expel Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al-Sayegh, under the accusation of organizing acts of resistance and strikes, the is the first expulsion from the occupied territories.
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- **October:** The Israeli military authorities issue Order No. 158, which prevents well drilling without a license in the occupied territories.
- **November:** Order No. 92, is enforced, giving the Israeli Water Authority control over 90% of the natural water resources in West Bank,.
- **November 22:** The UN Security Council adopts resolution 242 (1967), the provisions of which are meant to serve as the framework for peace in the Middle East. The resolution emphasizes ‘the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war’ and affirms that ‘a just and lasting peace in the Middle East’ should be based on the following principles:
  - ‘(i) Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict;
  - ‘(ii) Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their

right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from any threats or acts of force.'

- The resolution also affirms the necessity of 'achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem.'
- The UN Secretary General designates Ambassador Gunnar Jarring of Sweden as Special Representative to the Middle East under Security Council resolution 242.
- **December:** Israel demolishes 800 homes and evicts the 6,000 inhabitants of Al Jiftlik Village in the Jordan Valley.
- **December 11:** Dr. George Habash, Mustafa Al-Zibri (Abu Ali Mustafa) and Wadie Haddad, among others, establish the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine,
- **December 20:** Israeli occupation authorities expel attorney Ibrahim Bakr and journalist Kamal Nasir.
- **December 24:** Ahmed Al-Shukairi resigns as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee. Yahya Hammuda becomes acting chairman.
- **1968**
- **January:** Yasser Arafat leaves the West Bank.
- Fatah releases its political platform, calling for the establishment of a democratic state in Palestine where Arabs and Jews live together without discrimination.

- **January 11:** The Israeli Finance Ministry confiscates 3,345 acres of privately-owned Palestinian land in Jerusalem to build the Ramat Eshkol settlement.
- **March:** The Israeli Ministry of Religions begins to excavate a tunnel under the Sanctuary near the Western/Wailing Wall under the pretext of searching for Solomon's Temple.
- **March 7:** Israeli occupation authorities expel the mayor of East Jerusalem, Raahi Al-Khatib, to Jordan.
- **March 21:** The Battle of Al Karameh in Jordan takes place when Israeli army vehicles cross the Jordan River under the protection of their Air Force in an attempt to eliminate Palestinian freedom fighters. A Jordanian artillery squad and local residents support the Palestinians. The conflict continues for 16 hours and includes hand to hand combat. Nevertheless, Israel loses the battle and incurs heavy casualties and losses.
- **April 4:** Masquerading as Swiss tourists, a Jewish extremist group headed by 'a founding father of the settlement movement' Rabbi Moshe Levinger, take over the Park Hotel in Hebron. Raising an Israeli flag over the hotel, they declare their intention to establish a Jewish compound on the property. In 1979, following extensive internal discussions and negotiations with Levinger, Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol temporarily moves the settlers to a military compound in Hebron. Israeli authorities expropriate 25 hectares of privately-owned Palestinian land to the east of the center of Hebron are expropriated to build the settlement of Kiryat Arba for the settlers.



- **April 14:** Israeli occupation authorities confiscate 765 acres of Palestinian land in Jerusalem to build Al-Nabi Yacoub settlement.
- **April 18:** Israeli Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir announces the decision to confiscate 116 acres of the Old City of Jerusalem and demolish hundreds of homes, under the pretext of public interest. The area is converted into a Jewish residential neighborhood encompassing more than 600 buildings.
- **July 10:** With the stipulation that it will remain autonomous and retain its national platforms, Fatah joins the PLO in the Fourth Palestinian National Council (PNC) Meeting held in Cairo. Fatah also calls for all Palestinian organizations to join the PNC and insists on its full independence from all Arab governments. The PNC also votes to replace its national charter, *al-Mithaq al-Qawmi al-Filastini* with *al-Mithaq al-Watani al-Filastini*.
- **October:** Israeli occupation authorities expel 14 prominent Palestinians, including the deputy mayor of Nablus, the heads of the Red Crescent Society and the West Bank teachers union, three educators and an education official, to Jordan.
- A group led by Ahmed Jibril secedes from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and establishes the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).
- **November:** Israel expels eight (8) Palestinians, including two women, to Jordan.

- Yasser Arafat meets with Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.
- **November 22:** A car bomb explosion in the Mahane Yahuda marketplace in Jerusalem results in 12 deaths. Israel imposes a curfew on the Old City and arrests a number of Palestinians.
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- **During 1968, Palestinian resistance operations against Israeli targets reach 167 in the Gaza Strip and 33 in the West Bank.**
- **1969**
- **February 4:** The PNC elects Yasser Arafat of Fatah as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO.
- **February 22:** Palestine, represented by the PLO, becomes a full member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
- A faction of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine establishes the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).
- **June 24:** Israeli occupation authorities confiscate an ancient school in Bab Al-Silsila in the Old City and convert it to a police station. The building continues to be used as a military base.
- **August 21:** Israeli arsonists set fire to Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, causing extensive damage to the holy site, provoking widespread anger among Muslims the world over.
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- **September 25:** King Hassan II of Morocco convenes a meeting in Rabat, Morocco, of leaders of Islamic

countries to discuss the desecration of Al Aqsa. and lays the groundwork for the establishment of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The PLO participates as an observer.

- **November 16:** Israeli occupation authorities confiscate a section of Al Aqsa Mosque, '*al-zawyah al-fakhrya*', during the second phase of the excavations under the Sanctuary.
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- **December 9:** The UN General Assembly adopts resolution 2535 (XXIV) reaffirming the 'inalienable rights of the people of Palestine'.
- U.S Secretary of State William Rogers presents a proposal, known as the Rogers Plan, to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Based on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 242, the plan is rejected by Israel and Egypt.
- **Palestinian resistance operations against Israeli targets during 1969 reach 471 in the Gaza Strip and 167 in the West Bank .**
- **1970**
- **January:** Palestinian prisoner, Abdel Qadir Abu el Fahem, dies during a hunger strike in Ashkelon prison. Seventy-one (71) prisoners die as a result of torture: 51 from medical negligence, 74 are executed, and seven (7) from excessive force.
- Immigration Minister Shimon Peres issues a call to double the Jewish population in Jerusalem by directing 80% of newcomers to the city.

- **February 8:** Ambassador Gunnar Jarring submits an informal proposal to Egypt and Israel presenting a peace agreement between the two states that includes Israel's withdrawal from Egyptian territory. Egypt accepts but Israel informs Jarring that it would not withdraw to the pre-June 5, 1967, armistice lines, marking the end of both the Rogers Plan and the Jarring Mission.
- **February 9:** At the invitation of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, Yasser Arafat travels to Moscow on his first visit to the Soviet Union and is received at the airport by high ranking Soviet officials.
- **March:** Accompanied by Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) and Walid Al-Nasir (Abu Ali Iyad), Yasser Arafat arrives Beijing on his first official visit to China, where meets Chinese Prime Minister Zhou En Lai. The visit results in strengthening Palestinian-Chinese relations. A significant number of Fatah members travel to China for political and military training and many prominent Chinese delegations visit Palestinian resistance bases.
- **May 20:** Israeli occupation authorities destroy 70 houses in the village of Marej Ne'meh in the Jordan Valley.
- **June:** U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers proposes a ceasefire plan, where 'the military status quo within zones extending 50 kilometers to the east and west of the cease-fire line' would be maintained. The United Arab Republic (Egypt), Jordan and Israel accept the plan. The PLO rejects it.

- **September 6:** The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) hijacks four airplanes to Al-Mafrak Airport in Jordan.
- The Jordanian army successfully wages a full-fledged military campaign, which becomes known as 'Black September', to root out Palestinian forces. Yasser Arafat leaves Jordan and the Palestinian forces depart Amman for the northern part of the country. The battle becomes known as 'Black September'.
- **During 1970, Palestinian resistance operations against Israeli military personnel, the railway line to Sinai and the electricity and water networks reach 455 in the Gaza Strip and 56 in the West Bank. Nearly half of the operations were carried out by the popular liberation forces led by Ziad al-Husseini.**
- **1971**
- Walid Nimer Al-Naser (Abu Ali Iyad) is killed during a battle in Jerash between the Jordanian army and Palestinian forces (Al-Fida'iyyin). The battles in Jerash and Ajloun lead to the end of the Palestinian military presence in Jordan. The organization and its factions depart Jordan for Mount Hermon and Lebanon.
- **June 15:** Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan reports to the Knesset that of the 560 Palestinians held in administrative detention in Israeli jails, 229 are from the West Bank, 303 from the Gaza Strip, 14 from Jerusalem and 14 from inside the Green Line.

- **June 20:** Israeli bulldozers destroy 46 of the 52 houses in the Al-Nabi Samuel village in Jerusalem.
  
- **1972**
  
- **March 15:** Jordan's King Hussein proposes a 'United Arab Kingdom' of the Palestinian West Bank, any other liberated territory and the Jordanian East Bank, in which he would be the head of state.
  
- **May 30:** Three (3) Japanese from the Red Army open fire at Ben Gurion Airport, killing 25 and injuring 72 Israelis.
  
- **September 5-6:** During the Olympics in Munich, the Palestinian Black September Group kills 9 Israeli athletes. Israel retaliates by bombing Lebanon and killing 400 civilians.
  
- **October 16:** Wael Zwaitar, the Palestinian representative in Italy is assassinated in Rome, allegedly by the Israeli Mossad, during a long campaign of political assassinations by Israel of PLO officials in several European capitals, including the Palestinian representative in France Mahmoud Al Hamshari and Atef Bseiso in Paris.
  
- **1973**
  
- **March 9:** Mohammed Mahmoud Musleh Al-Aswad (Guevara Gaza), a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and compatriots Kamel al-'Amsi and Abdelhadi al-Hayek, are killed in Gaza during an armed confrontation with the Israeli army.

- **April 10:** Three (3) PLO leaders, Kamal Adwan, Muhammad Yousef Al-Najjar and Kamal Nasser, are assassinated in their homes in Beirut by a special Israeli military unit.
- **October:** Bethlehem University is established.
- **October 6:** During the Yom Kippur holidays, Egypt and Syria attack Israeli military positions in occupied territory in what is considered the fourth Arab-Israeli War. The Egyptian army dramatically succeeds in crossing the Suez Canal, destroying the Israeli "Bar Lev" defence line and advances into the Sinai. The United States provides arms to Israel, and Israeli army units cross the Canal into Egyptian territory.
- **October 17:** Ministers of the oil-producing Arab states suspend oil exports to the United States, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands and reduce oil production by five percent (5%) per month in an attempt to force Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.
- **October 22:** The UN Security Council adopts resolution 338 calling for an immediate ceasefire; for the implementation of resolution 242 in all of its parts; and for negotiations under appropriate auspices between the parties concerned aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.
- **December 21:** The UN Secretary-General convenes the United Nations Peace Conference on the Middle East, attended by Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the Soviet Union and the United States.
- **1974**

- **June 12:** At its 12th session in Cairo, the PNC adopts a new political program which becomes known as the '10 Point Program', calling for the establishment of the Palestinian Authority on any liberated part of Palestine. Several factions within the PLO form the 'Rejection Front'".
- **September:** Upon the request of 55 member states, the 'Question of Palestine' is placed on the agenda of the 29th Session of the UN General Assembly,
- **October 14:** The UN General Assembly adopts resolution 3210 (XXIX) inviting the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) to participate in deliberations on the question of Palestine in plenary meetings.
- **October 21:** Israeli occupation authorities expel Dr. Hana Nasir, the President of Birzeit University and Dr. Alfred Toubasi, a member of the municipal council of Ramallah.
- **October 28:** The Arab Summit adopts a resolution recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
- **November 13:** Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, becomes the first leader of a liberation movement not a member state of the United Nations, to address a General Assembly plenary meeting.
- **November 22:** The UN General Assembly adopts resolution 3236 (XXIX), reaffirming the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including the right to self-determination, the right to national



independence and sovereignty and the right to return to their homes and property. The resolution also requests the UN Secretary General to establish contacts with the PLO on all matters concerning the question of Palestine.

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- The General Assembly also adopts resolution 3237 (XXIX), by which the PLO is invited to participate in the sessions and work of the Assembly and as an observer in all meetings convened under the auspices of the United Nations.

- **1975**

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- **April:** Israeli occupation authorities expropriate and declare as closed military areas, thousands of acres of land from the Jerusalem-area villages of Al-Azaryeh and Abu Dis to build the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim.
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- **April 3:** Civil war erupts in Lebanon. Palestinian forces engage on the side of the Lebanese Patriotic Movement.
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- **July 4:** A bomb in a refrigerator explodes at Zion Square in Jerusalem, killing 13 Israelis and injuring several others . Hundreds of Israelis storm Arab neighborhoods and attack the Palestinian residents.
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- **July 9:** Israeli occupation authorities confiscate 30,000 acres between Jericho and Jerusalem, to expand the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim.

- July 29: Violent clashes erupt between Palestinians and Israelis at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and lead to deaths to both sides.
- **November 10:** The UN General Assembly adopts resolution 3376 (XXX), establishing the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. Comprised of 20 member states, the Committee is requested to recommend a program for the implementation of the rights of the Palestinian people.
- The General Assembly also adopts resolution 3379 (XXX) defining Zionism as a form of racism. (The resolution is revoked during the 1991 session of the General Assembly.)
- **1976**
- **March 29:** Israeli occupation authorities impose a curfew and confiscate 21,000 dunums of Palestinian-owned land in the villages of Arrabeh, Sakhneen, Deir Hanna and Arab Al-Masa'eed in the Galilee as well as from the 'Triangle' area, 'Al-Muthalath'.
- **March 30:** Later known as 'Land Day', the National Committee for the Defense of Arab Lands in Israel organize a general strike to protest the expropriation of Palestinian land. The Israeli Police and the Border Police attack the protestors with extreme violence, killing six (6).
- **April 12:** Municipal and local elections are conducted in the West Bank in 24 locations, resulting

in a landslide victory for the PLO in all major cities except Bethlehem.

- **June 1:** At the request of Lebanese president Suleiman Frangieh, the Syrian army intervenes in Lebanon. Clashes take place between Palestinian and Syrian forces.
- **June 27-July 4:** A splinter group of the PFLP hijacks an Air France plane and forces it to land in Entebbe, Uganda. The hijackers free all but the apparently Israeli passengers and the crew, move the hostages to a hangar and demand the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat dispatches political aide, Hani Al Hassan, to negotiate with the hostage-takers, to no avail. An Israeli assault force is clandestinely flown to Entebbe and storms the hanger. Realizing the operation is about to fail, one of the hijackers decides to spare the lives of the hostages. All of the hijackers, dozens of Ugandan soldiers, three hostages and one Israeli commando are killed. The remainder of the hostages are rescued.
- **August 12:** The Syrian army enters the Palestinian refugee camp of Tel Al-Zaatar in Lebanon. The camp is subjected to a long siege, causing severe damage and a large number of casualties.
- **August 16:** At its 5th Annual Summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) designates the PLO, which has been an observer since 1970, as a full member.
- **September:** At the 66th session of the Arab League Council in Cairo, Palestine, represented by the PLO, becomes a full and equal member.

- **1977**
- The Council for Higher Education in the West Bank is founded by Gabi Baramki, Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Gires Khouri and Ibrahim Dakak.
- **March 22:** Dedicated to the democratic principles of freedom of expression and transparency, a group of Palestinian intellectuals establish the Arab Thought Forum in Jerusalem and form a National Steering Committee.
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- **April 27:** The Palestine Liberation Front splits from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.
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- **May:** The Israeli Labor Party loses to the Likud Party in the national elections. Under Menachem Begin, the new government intensifies settlement activity in the territories occupied by Israel in 1967.
- **October 4:** The United States and the Soviet Union issue a Joint Statement on the situation in the Middle East, calling for the achievement of 'a just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict ... incorporating all parties concerned and all questions ... including such key issues as the withdrawal of Israeli Armed Forces from territories occupied in the 1967 conflict; the resolution of the Palestinian question, including ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people ... and establishment of normal, peaceful relations on the basis of mutual recognition of the

principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence. ... .' Both sides also 'affirm their intention to facilitate in every way, the resumption of the work of the [Geneva Peace] Conference not later than December 1977.'

- **November 21:** Egyptian President Anwar Sadat addresses the Israeli Knesset in Jerusalem. This leads to the isolation of Egypt in the Arab World.
- **November 29:** The first annual United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed.
  
- **1978**
- **January:** In a statement, U.S. President Jimmy Carter recognizes the Palestinian right to a homeland.
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- **February:** With the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture's Council of Settlements, Israeli occupation authorities confiscate 500 acres from Salfet, Kifl Hares and Marda in the central West Bank and begin to establish the settlement of Ariel.
- **March:** A Fatah naval commando unit led by Dalai Al-Mughrabi raid the Israeli coast and hijack a bus. In retaliation, Israel launches 'Operation Litani', sending 30,000 soldiers into Lebanon, occupying the south of the country and causing enormous destruction and the deaths of almost 1,100, mainly Palestinian and Lebanese civilians.

- **July:** Israeli occupation authorities confiscate 7,000 acres in the areas of Al-Bireh, Yabroud and Dura al Qar' in the suburbs of Ramallah.
- **September:** U.S. President Jimmy Carter hosts a summit between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin at Camp David, The resulting 'Camp David Accords' includes the 'Framework for Peace in the Middle East' and the 'Framework for the Conclusion of a Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel.' Letters on Jerusalem, the Sinai, and the implementation of a comprehensive settlement are also exchanged.
- The 'Framework for Peace in the Middle East' calls for a Palestinian self-governing authority for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to be elected for a transitional period not exceeding 5 years (replacing the Israeli military government). Egyptian and Jordanian delegations that may include Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza, or other Palestinians as mutually agreed, will participate in negotiations based on Security Council resolution 242 (1967), and take place not later than the third year, to determine the final status of the West Bank and Gaza, The Framework states that the "solution must recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their just requirements."
- **1979**
- **The settler population in four settlements in East Jerusalem reaches 50,000.**

- **March 14:** An Israeli soldier captured by Palestinian forces during 'Operation Litani' is released in an exchange that also frees 76 Palestinian prisoners, including 12 girls.
- **March 22:** The UN Security Council adopts resolution 446, which determines that the Israeli policy of 'establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other territories occupied since 1967 have no legal validity' and constitutes a serious obstacle to peace. It calls upon Israel 'to rescind its previous measures and to desist from taking any actions that would change the legal status, geographic nature, and demographic composition of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.' The resolution also establishes a commission consisting of three Security Council members to examine the situation relating to settlements and requests its report by July 1, 1979.
- **March 26:** A peace treaty is signed between Egypt and Israel in Washington, DC.
- **1980**
- **Establishing The Palestinian professions Union with the mayors of the West Bank, the heads of Palestinian universities, and intellectuals from the Council of Higher Education in Jerusalem .They elect the first executive board, including Gabi Bramki, Mahdi Abdul-Hadi, Ibrahim Al-Daqaq, Grace Khoury, And Dawood Istanbouli.**
- With a Sharia College and a Faculty of Arts, Hebron University is founded.

- Israeli settlers place explosives in the cars of the mayor of Nablus, Bassam Al-Shaka'a and the mayor of Ramallah Kareem Khalaf. Al-Shaka'a loses his legs, Khalaf loses part of a foot. Another bomb is attached to the garage of the mayor of Al Bireh, Ibrahim Al-Taweel, who receives a warning and survives the attempted assassination.
- **March:** Israel opens Al-Nafha prison in the Negev desert.
- **May 2:** Israeli occupation authorities expel the mayor of Hebron Fahd Al-Qawasmi, the mayor of Halhul Mohammed Melhem and Al Sheikh Ragheb al-Tamimi from Hebron after the killing of six (6) settlers in the city.
- **June 13:** The European Economic Community Summit adopts the Venice Declaration, which states that 'a just solution must finally be found to the Palestinian problem, which is not simply one of refugees. The Palestinian people . . . must be placed in a position ... to exercise fully their right to self-determination.' The Declaration also calls for the involvement of the Palestinian people and the PLO in the negotiations for peace and states that 'any unilateral initiative designed to change the status of Jerusalem is unacceptable' and that 'Israeli settlements are illegal under international law.'
- **July 30:** In flagrant disregard of international opposition and international law, the Israeli Knesset adopts the Basic Law of Jerusalem, reaffirming the *de facto* annexation of pre-1967 Palestinian East Jerusalem, and declares: "Jerusalem, whole and united, is the capital of Israel."



- **August 20:** The UN Security Council adopts resolution 478, in which it 'censures in the strongest terms the enactment by Israel of the "basic law" on Jerusalem' and affirms that it 'constitutes a violation of international law and does not affect the continued application of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since June 1967, including Jerusalem.' The resolution also 'determines that all administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem ... are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith.' The resolution calls upon member states with diplomatic Missions in Jerusalem to 'withdraw such Missions from the Holy City.'
  
- **1981**
- **February 23:** The Soviet Union proposes the Brezhnev Initiative for Peace in the Middle East, which includes the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of the five (5) permanent members of the Security Council and all parties concerned, and calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state.
- **June 7:** Israeli military planes destroy the Iraqi nuclear plant.
- **July 17:** Israeli jets bomb PLO structures in Beirut, killing 300 people.
- **July 21:** An informal understanding on a cease-fire is reached between the government of Israel and the

PLO in the south of Lebanon and lasts for approximately one year.

- **October 6:** President Sadat of Egypt is assassinated during a military parade.
- **November 8:** Israel issues military order 947, requiring the establishment of a civil administration, subject to military rule, in the West Bank. Based at the settlement of Beit-El, the first official is to be appointed by a military commander with the authority to delegate or remove power.
- **1982**
- **February:** The settlements council reports that since 1967, 126 settlements have been established in the occupied territories.
- **February 10:** The Palestinian Communist Party is reestablished.
- **February 13:** Israeli occupation authorities confiscate 4,000 acres of southern Jerusalem to build a new settlement between Beit Jala and Battir.
- **March 11:** Israeli authorities decree illegal the National Steering Committee of the Palestinian .
- **March 18:** Israeli occupation authorities dismiss the mayor of Al-Bireh Ibrahim Al-Taweel and the Municipal Council, leading to clashes in the West Bank where a number of Palestinian demonstrators are killed.

- **March 20:** Israeli occupation authorities close Birzeit University, leading to the violent clashes in the occupied territories. At least seven (7) Palestinians are killed.
- **March 25:** Israeli occupation authorities dismiss the mayor of Nablus Bassam Shaka and the mayor of Ramallah Kareem Khalaf. Clashes again erupt in the West Bank.
- Ultimately, nine (9) mayors, and the mayor of Gaza, are dismissed and replaced by Israeli military officers.
- **June 5-6:** Israel conducts large-scale air attacks and launches a full-scale land, air and sea invasion of Lebanon and occupies southern Lebanon, causing enormous destruction and thousands of civilian casualties.
- **June 13:** The Israeli army seals off Beirut, placing it under siege. Israeli warships and armored units begin a summer-long bombardment of West Beirut, aiming at Palestinian residential neighborhoods and refugee camps. Entire neighborhoods are destroyed and thousands of civilians killed. Palestinians forces maintain a valiant resistance for 87 days.
- By the end of June, more than 15,000 civilians are killed, 50% of whom are children under the age of 13.
- **July 9:** Israeli occupation authorities dismiss the mayor of Gaza, Hajj Rashad Al-Shawa, for refusing to end a municipal strike and rebuffing the Israeli civil administration.

- **August 21:** PLO forces begin to leave Beirut, and Yasser Arafat, along with most of his troops, departs by ship. The PLO establishes its headquarters in Tunis, Tunisia.
- **August 25:** Multinational forces arrive in Beirut, and Israeli forces begin to withdraw. The invasion and occupation result in widespread destruction and tens of thousands of casualties.
- **September 9:** The Arab Summit in Fez adopts the Arab Peace Plan, which is, with some modification, the initiative proposed by Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia in August 1981. The Plan calls for a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem and calls on the UN Security Council to establish guarantees for peace among all the states of the region.
- **September 13:** The Israeli army declares 30,000 acres near Hebron as state lands.
- **September 14:** Lebanese president Bashir Gemayel is assassinated.
- **September 15:** Despite assurances given prior to the PLO's departure ensuring the safety of Palestinian civilians living in Lebanon, Israeli forces enter West Beirut and surround the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila.
- **September 16:** Israeli forces permit a Lebanese Phalangist militia to enter the refugee camps. Under Israeli surveillance, more than 800 Palestinian civilians, including women and children, are massacred.

- **September 18:** Al Najah University condemns the expulsion of nine (9) lecturers by the Israeli occupation authorities for refusing to sign a pledge denouncing the Palestine Liberation Organization.
- **September 22:** U.S. president Ronald Reagan, issues a statement that becomes known as the Reagan Initiative. As outlined in the Camp David Accords, the initiative proposes a five-year transition period, beginning with free elections for a self-governing Palestinian Authority and calls for a freeze in settlement activity. The Initiative neither supports the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip nor its annexation or permanent control by Israel, but calls for Palestinian self-government in association with Jordan. On the basis of UN Security Council resolution 242, it calls for an exchange of land for peace and for Jerusalem to remain undivided but that its final status be decided through negotiations. Israel fiercely rejects the initiative.
- **November 10-11:** Refusing to sign a pledge denouncing the Palestine Liberation Organization, foreign faculty staff at Birzeit University are expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities.
- **The Israeli settler population in the occupied territories reaches 25,000, twice that of 1980.**
- **1983**
- **April 10:** While representing Palestine at The Socialist International Conference in Portugal, Dr. Issam Sartawi was assassinated by a member of the Abu Nidal Group, in the lobby of a hotel in Lisbon. Shimon Perez, representing Israel at the conference, stood nearby.

- **September 20:** Yasser Arafat returns secretly to northern Lebanon to join his besieged forces. Fighting between Palestinian groups among them Fateh al-Intifada, a faction that split from Fateh, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Ahmed Jibril Group, intensifies. Syria and Libya support both factions against Fateh. After international intervention, Arafat leaves from Tripoli, Lebanon, with the Fateh commandos.
  
- **November 23:** An exchange takes place between the Government of Israel and the Fatah movement, in which Israel releases 4,700 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners from the Ansar detention camp in south Lebanon and 65 prisoners from Israeli jails, in exchange for six (6) Israeli soldiers.
  
- **December 17:** Israeli forces demolish 13 Palestinian homes in Ras al-Amud in Jerusalem. The Israeli court confers the land to the Israeli construction company, Tomer.
  
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- **1984**
  
- **April 13:** A group of fedayeen hijack a bus number 300, on the Tel Aviv – Almajdal line, to Gaza. Shin Bet Director Abraham Shalom and Minister of Defense Moshe Arens initiate a media blackout. An Israeli special forces unit, under the leadership of Israeli Army Brigadier-General Yitzhak Mordechai, storms the bus killing one (1) hostage, a female Israeli soldier, and two (2) fedayeen. Two (2) other fedayeen are taken by Shin Bet and executed.

- **April 24:** A Jewish cell from the Kiryat Arba settlement are believed to be behind a bomb explosion at the Islamic University of Hebron that kills four (4) students and wounds several others. A
- **1985**
- **January 3:** Israel discloses its 'Falasha Transfer Operation', in which it had been bringing Ethiopian Jews to Israel for the previous five (5) years.
- **May 19:** The conflict between Syria and its ally the Lebanese Amal Forces, against PLO forces led by Yasser Arafat leads to the 'War of the [Refugee] Camps' in Beirut. A few Palestinian factions backed by the Syrian and Lebanese armies and Amal Forces, push Fatah and the Murabitun Movement fighters into the refugee camps in the south of Lebanon.
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- **May 20:** An exchange takes place between Israel and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PLFP-GC). Israel releases 1,155 Palestinian prisoners, including 883 held in Israeli prisons, 118 prisoners from Ansar detention camp in the south of Lebanon kidnapped during the exchange operation with Fatah, and 154 prisoners transferred from Ansar to Atlit prison south of Haifa in exchange for three (3) Israeli soldiers.
- **October:** The Israeli Air Force bombs the PLO headquarters in Hamam al-Shat, Tunis, causing extensive destruction and numerous Palestinian and Tunisian casualties.

- **October 7:** Members from the "Palestinian liberation Front" hijack the Achille Lauro, an Italian cruise ship, off the Mediterranean coast of Egypt, and demand the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel. Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak convinces the hijackers to surrender, which they do after a Jewish American passenger is killed.
- **October 10:** A general strike in East Jerusalem is declared to protest Israel's 'iron fist' policy in the occupied territories that began in August and led to six (6) Palestinians killed, 21 expelled and more than 80 placed in administrative detention without trial.
- **1986**
- **September:** Mordecai Vanunu, a technician at the *Dimona* nuclear plant provides critical information to *The Sunday Times* of London about the military nature of the Israeli nuclear program. (Israel had earlier refused to join the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.)
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- **November 1:** The Islamic Jihad movement is established. Its most prominent leaders are Dr. Fathi Shiqaqi and Abdul Aziz Odeh. Members include defectors from the Islamic Brotherhood over an intellectual controversy regarding the role of Islamic movements in general and their position on armed struggle in particular. Islamic Jihad prefers to give priority to the struggle against the occupation rather than the promotion of Islamic values and, as well, offers full support to the Iranian revolution.
- **1987**



- **March 5:** The executive director of the Israeli Prison Service reports that of 4,000 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails, 82% are serving life sentences.
- **May 14:** Israeli occupation authorities expel Birzeit University Student Council President Marwan Al-Barghouti, and Al-Najah University Student Council Chairman Khaled Ashour to Jordan.
- **July 11:** Two (2) days after his release from three months of administrative detention, Faisal Al-Husseini, chairman of the Arab Studies Society and head of Orient House in Jerusalem, is placed under house arrest for six (6) months by the Israeli occupation authorities.
- **December 8:** The Palestinian Intifada (Uprising) against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza begins.
- **December 10:** The Israeli army opens fire, killing two demonstrators throwing stones during a student demonstration in Jabalya refugee camp in north Gaza .
- **December 22:** The UN Security Council adopts resolution 605 (1987), deploring Israeli practices violating the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and requesting the Secretary-General to submit recommendations to ensure the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation
- **1988**
- **January 16:** Israel declares it will meet the Intifada with its ‘Iron Fist Policy’, which includes severe beatings (called the ‘breaking of bones’), mass arrests and detentions, deportations, home demolitions, destruction

of private property and the use of live ammunition and rubber bullets.

- **February 16:** Two (2) Israelis soldiers are accused of burying alive four (4) Palestinians.
- **March 7:** A Palestinian "fedaeyeen" group hijack a bus carrying 50 artists and an Israeli atomic scientist heading to the site of the nuclear reactor in Dimona. Demanding the release of prisoners held in Israeli jails, clashes erupt between the Palestinians and the Israeli soldiers, who claimed to be negotiating with the Palestinians, leading to the deaths of the kidnappers and most of the passengers.
- **April 16:** After killing his security guards, a special forces corps of a vast contingent of Israeli commando and elite navy units ferried to shore near the port of Carthage, Tunisia, assassinate PLO leader Khalil Al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) at his home in Tunis, Tunisia. In front of his wife, Intisar Al-Wazir and son, Nidal, Abu Jihad is shot 70 times.
- **May 11:** The Unified Leadership of the Intifada issues pamphlets and slogans that prescribe the general strategy of the popular revolt including civil disobedience, boycotting all Israeli products, reforestation of lands and coordination of alternative schooling in place of the educational institutions closed by the occupation forces.
- **July 31:** King Hussein of Jordan announces the disengagement of the West Bank and Jordan, declaring that a series of measures have been initiated "with the aim of enhancing the Palestinian national orientation, and highlighting the Palestinian identity." The King further states, "Since there is a general conviction that the struggle to liberate the occupied Palestinian land

could be enhanced by dismantling the legal and administrative links between the two banks, we have to fulfill our duty, and do what is required of us.”

- The International Court of Justice issues an advisory opinion at the request of the UN General Assembly. The crux of the opinion questions the legality of U.S. attempts to close the PLO Mission to the UN. The opinion states that the United States of America is obliged to accept arbitration according to the agreement regarding the headquarters of the UN.
  
- **November 15:** The PNC convenes its 19th session and adopts the Declaration of Independence of Palestine. It also issues a political communiqué declaring its acceptance of UN General Assembly resolution 181(11) of 1947, and UN Security Council resolution 242 of 1967.
  
- A Significant number of states recognize the Palestinian state and the proclamation.
  
- **December 8:** Palestinians mark the first anniversary of the Intifada during which 318 Palestinians are killed; 20,000 wounded; 15,000 arrested; 12,000 jailed and 34 deported.
  
- **December 13:** After the U.S. declines to approve an entry visa for Yasser Arafat, the UN General Assembly moves its session to Geneva to deliberate ‘the question of Palestine.’
  
- **December 14:** At a news conference in Geneva, Yasser Arafat affirms the PLO's decision to accept UN General Assembly resolution 181 (II) (1947) and UN Security

Council 242 (1967); to recognize Israel's right to exist and renounce terrorism. The U.S. government issues a statement in which the President authorizes the State Department to enter into a substantive dialogue with PLO representatives.

- **December 15:** The UN General Assembly adopts resolution 43/177, in which it acknowledges the proclamation of the State of Palestine by the PNC and designates the use of 'Palestine' in place of 'PLO' in the UN system.

### **1989**

- **January:** The Israeli occupation authorities impose the third consecutive curfew in East Jerusalem, during which police raid houses in Silwan and arrest more than 20 Palestinians.
- **February 16:** A meeting between Israelis and Palestinians takes place at the Notre Dame Hotel in East Jerusalem. Among the Palestinian representatives are Drs. Faisal Husseini, Sari Nusseibeh, Hanan Ashrawi, Ziad Abu Zayyad, Esq.; Israelis are represented by Dr. Yossi Beilin, Dr. Efraim Sneh, and Alignment party leader Avraham Burg.
- **May 16:** The Israeli government issues a Peace Initiative, based on the 'Shamir Four Point Initiative.' While reaffirming the Camp David Accords, the initiative rejects a Palestinian state and any negotiations with the PLO as well as any change in the status of 'Judea/Samaria and Gaza' (the West Bank and Gaza Strip). The Initiative calls upon the Arab states to renounce belligerency, recognize Israel's right to exist and begin negotiations. It proposes that elections be held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (excluding East

Jerusalem) to choose representatives, who could be rejected by Israel, to engage in negotiations on a transitional period of self-rule, followed by negotiations on a permanent solution. It also calls upon the international community to rehabilitate and improve the living conditions Palestine refugees.

- Egypt rejoins the Arab League and in 1990 the headquarters of the Arab League returns back to Cairo.
- **July 6:** A member of Islamic Jihad boards a bus no. 405 near Kiryat Yearim near Jerusalem and carries out the first suicide bombing, killing 16 Israelis.
  
- **1990**
  
- **May 20:** An Israeli opens fire at Palestinian workers in the Israeli town of Herzilya, near Tel Aviv, killing eight (8).
  
- After the United States again refuses to issue an entry visa to Yasser Arafat, the UN Security Council convenes in Geneva to consider the situation.
  
- **June 21:** The United States suspends dialogue with the PLO due to its Executive Committee's reluctance to condemn a raid attempted by the Palestinian Liberation Front and expel its secretary-general, Abu Al-Abbas.
  
- **August 2:** Iraq occupies Kuwait. While 12 Arab states support the use of force against Iraq. The impasse polarizes the Arab world; Palestinian relations with some Arab countries deteriorates and support for the Palestinian cause weakens.

- **October 8:** The Israeli army kills eight 20 Palestinians and injures more than 100 at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Al-Haram Al-Sharif in the Old City of Jerusalem.
- **October 12:** The UN Security Council adopts resolution 672 (1990) condemning the Israeli actions and recommending the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to investigate the circumstances surrounding the tragic events.
- **December 20:** Despite strong resistance from the United States resulting in several postponements, the UN Security Council adopts Resolution 681 (1990) reaffirming 'the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war' (UN resolution 242 [1967]) and 'calls on the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for its obligations under the Convention ... .' Moreover, the resolution requests the Secretary-General to monitor the situation of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation ... and utilize UN personnel and resources for this purpose.
- **Decembe:** Jewish immigration to Israel from the Soviet Union reaches 187,000, its highest number in any year since the establishment of Israel.
- **1991**
- **January 15:** Palestinian leader Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), his advisor Fakhri al-Omari (Abu Mohammad) and PLO security chief Hayel Abdel Hamid (Abu al-Hol) are assassinated in Tunisia by a member of the Abu Nidal terrorist group.

- **January 17:** The Gulf War erupts in the Middle East; the coalition led by the United States ousts the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. By the end of the war, only about 30,000 of the approximately 400,000 Palestinians who had been residing in Kuwait remain.
- **January 19:** Iraqi scud missiles hit Israel, which, at the request of the United States, does not retaliate.
- **March 6:** In an address to the U.S. Congress, U.S. President George H.W. Bush states “We must do all that we can to close the gap between Israel and the Arab states, and between Israelis and Palestinians.” He further states that “...a comprehensive peace must be grounded in United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace. This principle must be elaborated to provide for Israel's security and recognition, and, at the same time, for legitimate Palestinian political rights.”
- Secretary of State James Baker undertakes continuous efforts to reach a Middle East peace deal.
- **Mid-October:** The U.S. issues ‘Letters of Assurances’ to the participating parties to the Madrid Conference on the terms of peace. The Letter to the Palestinians states that ‘... we do not recognize Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem or the extension of its municipal boundaries ...’ and the United States' long belief ‘that no party should take unilateral actions that seek to predetermine issues that can only be resolved through negotiations. In this regard, the United States has opposed and will continue to oppose settlement activity in the territories occupied in 1967, which remain an obstacle to peace.’
- The U.S. and the Soviet Union issue invitations to the Madrid Peace Conference with the aim of achieving a

just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement through direct negotiations along two tracks: between Israel and the Arab states, and between Israel and the Palestinians, based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Invited governments include Israel, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, with Palestinians invited as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Egypt and the European Union are invited to participate; the United Nations and the Gulf Cooperation Council are invited as observers. Negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians are to be conducted in phases, beginning with talks on an interim self-governing arrangement that would last for five (5) years. Negotiations on permanent status issues are to begin the third year.

- **October 30:** The Middle East Peace Conference convenes in Madrid under the chairmanship of Presidents Bush and Gorbachev. The PLO does not participate but selects the members of its delegation, headed by Dr. Haidar Abdel Shafi, to represent the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (excluding East Jerusalem). The Arab states are represented at the level of Foreign Minister. Israel's delegation is headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.
- **December 16:** The UN General Assembly adopts resolution 46/86, revoking resolution 3379 (of 1979), which determines that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination.
- By the end of 1991, the Soviet Union begins to disintegrate; Russia remains engaged as a co-sponsor of the peace process.
- **1992**



- **April 7:** While in route from Khartoum to Tunis, Yasser Arafat's plane disappears from Libyan radar and crash-lands in the desert. A state of emergency is declared; news agencies broadcast the plane's disappearance. The following morning, group of Palestinians training at Al-Sarra desert camp in southern Libya find the wreckage and relay the news that Arafat and nine (9) of the 13 passengers survived the crash.
- **December 17:** Israel deports approximately 415 Palestinian civilians from the occupied Palestinian territories, mostly Islamic militants, to the south of Lebanon. The following day, the UN Security Council adopts resolution 799 strongly condemning the deportations and demanding their safe and immediate return.
- **1993**
- **August 20:** Representatives of Israel and the PLO initial an agreement in Oslo, Norway, which is publicly announced by the two sides on the 29th of August.
- **September 9-10:** PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exchange letters of mutual recognition. In his letter to Rabin, Arafat recognizes 'the right of the state of Israel to exist in peace and security' and renounces 'the use of terrorism and other acts of violence.'
- The PLO commits itself to the peace process as well as to the peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides. The PLO further confirms that the Palestinian National Covenant which denies Israel's right to exist, is irrelevant and no longer valid and submits an official

amendment to the Palestinian National Council with all necessary changes related to the Palestinian Charter.

- Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's response includes an assurance 'that in light of the PLO commitments included in your letter , the Israeli government decided to recognize the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, and the negotiations with the PLO will begin as part of the peace process in the Middle East.'
- Based on the letters of mutual recognition, U.S. President Bill Clinton lifts the ban on U.S. contact with the PLO.
- **September 13:** In Washington DC and under the auspices of President Clinton, the PLO and Israel sign the 'Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements (DOP).' The famous handshake between Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin takes place. The DOP provides for a five-year transition period and the election of a 'Palestinian Authority.' Negotiations on the final status issues, which specifically include Jerusalem, refugees and settlements, are to begin no later than the third year, with the aim of the process the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 242 (1967).
- During the three (3) years following the signing of the Oslo Accords, several Arab countries -- Qatar, Tunis, Morocco and Oman -- establish ties with Israel on the level of commercial offices or diplomatic representation offices.
- **October 11:** In a letter to Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres confirms that the 'Palestinian institutions in East

Jerusalem are of great importance and will be preserved' and that Israel will not 'hamper their activity.'

- **October 12:** In its last session in Tunis, the Palestinian Central Council mandates the Executive Committee of the PLO to form a Palestinian National Authority Council for the transitional phase that will include several members of the Executive Committee as well as others from home and abroad. The Council also elects Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, as President of the Palestinian National Authority council.
  
- An International Donors Conference is held in Washington, DC. Donor countries, mainly the U.S., Japan, the European Union, Norway and the Gulf States, pledge \$2.3 billion in assistance over a five (5) year period 'to support the historic political breakthrough in the Middle East ... to mobilize resources to promote reconstruction and development in the West Bank and Gaza ... .'
  
- **1994**
  
- **February 25:** An Israeli settler massacres 29 Palestinians and wounds 125 at Al Haram al-Ibrahimi in Al-Khalil (Hebron), during the holy month of Ramadan. UN Security Council resolution 904 (1994), condemns the massacre and calls upon the Israeli government 'to take and implement measures including confiscation of arms ... with the aim of preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers.'
  
- **April 6:** Hamas announces responsibility for its first suicide bombing on a bus in Afoula, resulting in the deaths of eight (8) Israelis.

- **May 4:** The PLO and Israel conclude the ‘Agreement on the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area.’
- **May 25:** The UN Secretary-General announces establishing a new post 'UN Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories' and appoints Ambassador Terje Rod-Larson for the position .
- **July 1:** Yasser Arafat’s return to Palestine, where he establishes his headquarters in Gaza, he is greeted by tens of thousands of Palestinians.
- The Palestinian National Authority begins to establish ministries, general bodies, and security services as well as develop infrastructure and systems to improve Palestinians’ living conditions. Thousands of Palestinians return to their homeland, including military and political cadres of the PLO.
- **August 29:** The PLO and Israel sign the ‘Agreement on Preparatory Transfer of Powers and Responsibilities.’
- **October:** The UN convenes a Special Commemorative Meeting on the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations, at which the same protocol arrangements designed for leaders of member states are also arranged for Yasser Arafat.
- **October 26:** Israel and Jordan sign a peace treaty.
- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for their efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.
- By the year 1994,As the occupying power,Israel cancelled the identity cards of approximately 140,000

Palestinian citizens who been travelling outside of Palestine for various reasons.

- **1995**
- **September 28:** The PLO and Israel sign the 'Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip' in Washington, D.C. The agreement replaced the previous implementation agreements.
- **November 4:** Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated by the Israeli extremist Yigal Amir, during a pro peace festival in "Kings of Israel Square" in Tel Aviv .The square was renamed as" Rabin square"
- **1996**
- **January 20:** Palestinians hold their first free democratic elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip electing Yasser Arafat president by an overwhelming majority and voting in a 188-member Palestinian Legislative Council.
- **April 21:** The Palestinian National Council (PNC) holds its 21st session in Gaza City , Palestine tor the first time since 1964. The majority vote to 'abrogate the provisions of the PLO Charter that are contrary to the exchanged letters between the PLO and the Government of Israel of 9 and 10 September 1993.'
- **May 1:** As President of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat makes his first official visit to the United States

and meets with President Bill Clinton at the White House.

- **May 30:** In the Israeli elections, Benjamin Netanyahu defeats incumbent Prime Minister Shimon Peres by a slim margin, receiving 50.3% of the vote against 49.6% for Mr. Peres. A right wing government is formed.
- **September 24:** The Israeli government opens an entrance to a tunnel beneath Al -Haram Al-Sharif in the Old City of East Jerusalem. Palestinians demonstrate against the Israeli action throughout the occupied territories erupting in clashes between the Palestinian police and the Israeli occupying forces, who use tanks and armed helicopters against the police and civilians, resulting in the deaths of 69 Palestinians, 15 Israeli occupying forces and one (1) Egyptian.
- **September 28:** The UN Security Council adopts resolution 1073 (1996), concerning the clashes and the opening of the tunnel, calling for the immediate cessation and reversal of all acts that resulted in aggravating the situation. The resolution also calls for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian people and the timely implementation of the agreements reached.
- **October 24:** In Ramallah, French president Jacques Chirac becomes the first head of state to address the Palestinian Legislative Council

## **1997**

- **January 17:** The Palestinian Authority and the Government of Israel conclude the 'Protocol Concerning the Redeployment in Hebron' accompanied by a note from the U.S. Secretary of State, leading to the

withdrawal of Israeli occupying forces from 80% of the city.

- **January 19:** President Arafat visits Hebron for the first time, where he is greeted by 60,000 Palestinians.
- **March 7:** The U.S. vetoes UN Security Council draft resolution 199, expressing deep concern over Israeli actions in the occupied territories including its decision to initiate new settlement building at Jabal Abu Ghneim between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Presented by the four (4) European members of the Council, the resolution calls on Israel to immediately cease all actions and measures that alter facts on the ground.
- **March 21:** For the second time in two (2) weeks, the U.S. vetoes UN Security Council draft resolution 241, calling upon Israel to halt construction at Jabal Abu Ghneim.
- **April 24-25:** Following the two (2) vetoes by the United States, the UN General Assembly convenes an Emergency Special Session for the first time in 15 years, to consider 'Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.' Resolution ES-10/2 is overwhelming adopted, condemning Israel's construction at Jabal Abu Ghneim; demanding the cessation of all illegal Israeli actions; recommending collective measures and establishing mechanisms for follow-up.
- **May 7:** The UN Committee against Torture (Geneva) summons Israel for a hearing on charges that it violates the International Convention against Torture. The Committee criticizes Israel for being the sole state to have codified and legalized the use of torture in interrogation.

- **June 9:** In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the June 1967 War and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, the United Nations holds a solemn meeting, called by the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.
- **July 15:** The UN General Assembly reconvenes its 10th Emergency Special Session to consider the report of the Secretary-General on Israeli settlement building on Jabal Abu Ghneim and to recommend the convening of a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War on measures to enforce the convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem.
- **September 25:** In Jordan, the Israeli Mossad attempts to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Meshal by poison . Under pressure from King Hussein, Israel supplies the antidote that counteracts the poison and saved his life.
- **1998**
- **January 22:** In a statement during a visit by President Yasser Arafat to Washington, D.C., President Clinton underlines "... the principles of the peace process: mutual obligations and the concept of land for peace, so that Israelis can live in security, recognized by all their neighbors; and the Palestinians can realize their aspirations to live as a free people."
- **March 23-25:** UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan travels to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and meets with President Arafat and members of the Palestinian



Legislative Council. He also visits a refugee camp and meets with Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem.

- **July 7:** The UN General Assembly adopts resolution 52/250, 'Participation of Palestine in the Work of the United Nations,' voting overwhelmingly to upgrade Palestine's representation at the United Nations to a unique and unprecedented level, conferring additional rights and privileges of participation traditionally exclusive to Member States.
- **October 23:** During a ceremony at the White House, the Wye River Memorandum is signed by President Arafat and Prime Minister Netanyahu and witnessed by President Clinton and King Hussein. Concluded after nearly 10 days of secluded meetings at the Aspen Institute Wye River Conference Center in Maryland, the Memorandum provides steps for the long-overdue implementation of the interim agreements.
- **December 14-16:** President Clinton visits the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem, the first American president ever to visit any occupied Palestinian territory and deal directly with Palestinian leaders and institutions on their land. During his visit President Clinton addresses a gathering in Gaza attended by President Arafat, the speaker and members of the Palestine National Council, the Palestine Central Council, the Palestinian Legislative Council, and Palestinian ministers, among others.

## **1999**

- **February 7:** King Hussein of Jordan dies; his son, Prince Abdullah II, assumes the throne of the Hashemite Kingdom.

- **May 12:** Labor Party leader Ehud Barak is elected Prime Minister of Israel.
- **July 15:** A Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention is held for the first time in the history of the Geneva Conventions. Based on several resolutions of the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly and the preparatory steps carried out by Switzerland, in a short statement the Conference affirms the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem.
- **September 4:** Israel and the PLO sign the Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum known as ‘Wye II.’
- **November 10:** Israel opens one of the ‘safe passage routes’ (Tarqomia-Gaza) along existing roads that connect the West Bank and Gaza.
- **2000**
- **March 22:** On a visit to The Holy Land during the millennium celebrations, Pope John Paul II is received by President Yasser Arafat in Bethlehem and given a warm welcomed by Palestinians, During his visit, the Pope kisses Palestinian soil placed in a bowl and declares: “Peace for the Palestinian people; peace for all peoples of the region.”
- **May:** Secret negotiations take place in Stockholm between Palestinians, represented by Palestinian Central Committee member Ahmad Qurei, and Israelis, represented by Minister of Internal Security Shlomo Ben Ami.

- **July 11-25:** President Yasser Arafat, Prime Minister Ehud Barak and President Bill Clinton participate in U.S.-mediated negotiations at Camp David ('Camp David II') to reach an agreement on final status issues. The summit continues for two weeks without reaching an agreement. Among the main problems is the status of Jerusalem. Denying the text of the invitation and subsequent affirmations meant to reassure the Palestinians of U.S. intentions, the U.S. places the blame for the failure of the summit on Yasser Arafat.
- **September 28:** Israeli leader Ariel Sharon enters Al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem under heavy guard. Protests by Palestinians are brutally suppressed by the Israeli military; seven (7) Palestinian demonstrators are killed, leading to the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising, 'al-Aqsa Intifada'. In the first ten (10) days, the Israeli army kills 80 Palestinians.
- **September 30:** Global broadcasts of the killing of 12-year-old Mohammed Al-Durra by the Israeli occupation forces, provoke an international outcry.
- **October 7:** The UN Security Council adopts resolution 1322 (2000) by 14 votes, with the United States abstaining. The resolution expresses deep concern for the tragic events that occurred since September 28th; condemning the provocation at Al-Haram Al-Sharif and the ensuing violence resulting in many deaths and injuries, mainly of Palestinians at holy sites across the territories occupied in 1967; and calls on Israel, the occupying power, to scrupulously fulfil its legal obligations and responsibilities under the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

- **October 12:** Palestinian police detained two Israeli soldiers in Ramallah as rumor quickly spreads that two Israeli undercover agents entered Ramallah. Palestinians stormed the police station, abused both soldiers and killing them.
- **October 17:** President Yasser Arafat, Prime Minister Ehud Barak, President Bill Clinton and Jordanian King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein participate in 'The Middle East Peace Summit' hosted by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at Sharm el-Sheikh.
- **November 2:** For the second time, a bomb explodes in the Mahane Yehuda Market, a Jewish suburb of western Jerusalem, killing two (2) Israelis. Hamas claims responsibility for the explosion.
- **November 7:** At the end of the Middle East Peace Summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, President Clinton calls for the formation of an inquiry committee, headed by U.S. Senator George Mitchell, to investigate the underlying causes of the intifada.
- US President said: the United States with Israelis and Palestinians, will form ,with the consultation of the UN Secretary General, an inquiry committee concerning the events that happened in the past few weeks and how to prevent the recurrence of these events. US President and UN Secretary General and the two parties will look at the Committee's report before its publication. Then a final report will be submitted, under the auspices of the US President.
- **November 29:** In an address to the UN Security Council, President Yasser Arafat appeals for international protection of civilians facing increasing

Israeli violence and grave breaches of international law in the occupied Palestinian territories.

- **December 23:** U.S. President Clinton proposes a permanent status agreement to resolve the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Known as 'The Clinton Parameters,' the proposal calls for a Palestinian State to include 94 to 96% of the West Bank; Israeli annexation of settlement blocs; the Arab and Jewish areas of East Jerusalem, including the Old City, to come under Palestinian and Israeli sovereignty respectively; temporary international and Israeli presence in the Jordan Valley; return of refugees only to the Palestinian State. Clinton later included the Gaza Strip as part of the Palestinian state in 'The Parameters.'
- **December 24-25:** President Yasser Arafat is joined by a number of international leaders for the Christmas celebration at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, that was an important event in the Palestinian celebrations 'Bethlehem 2000'.
- **2001**
- **January 1:** A suicide bomber wounds 60 Israelis at a shopping center in the city of Netanya. Hamas claims responsibility.
- **January 2:** More than 20 Israeli tanks, supported by armored vehicles, helicopter gunships and bulldozers, raid the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, demolishing 28 Palestinian homes.
- **January 3:** The White House releases a statement announcing both Israeli and Palestinian agreement, with reservations, to President Clinton's 'Parameters.'

- **January 21:** Israeli and Palestinian talks commence in Taba, Egypt, making progress on a number of issues that had been left unresolved at the Camp David summit six (6) months earlier.
- **February 6:** Direct ballot elections for Prime Minister (abolished in 2003) are held in Israel between incumbent Ehud Barak and Likud leader Ariel Sharon. Winning by an overwhelming majority, Sharon forms a broad coalition government that includes the Labor Party.
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- **March 23:** Israeli authorities approve the building of an additional 3,000 more units in the illegal Jewish settlement of Jabal Abu Ghneim.
- **April 30:** The international fact-finding committee led by former US Senator George Mitchell issues its 'Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee Report' (also known as 'The Mitchell Report') on possible causes for the outbreak of 'Al-Aqsa Intifada' and recommendations to end the violence, rebuild confidence and resume negotiations.
- **May:** The Israeli occupation authority imposes strict measures on the movement of individuals and commercial goods in the occupied Palestinian territories and creates detached zones separated by military roadblocks.
- **May 14:** Israeli occupation forces execute five (5) Palestinian policemen at a Palestinian checkpoint in the town of Beitunia, west of Ramallah.
- **May 31:** While in Kuwait mediating an end to the conflict between the Palestinian National Authority and

the Kuwaiti government, Palestinian National Authority Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Faisal Al-Husseini passes away. His coffin is carried from President Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah to Jerusalem in a massive funeral.

- **June 1:** A suicide bombing in the Dolphinarium night club in Tel Aviv results in the deaths of 18 Israelis. Hamas claims responsibility.
- **June 13:** CIA chief George Tenet brings together senior Israeli and Palestinian security officials to begin implementing a U.S.-brokered truce, known as the 'Tenet Plan' that aims to reaffirm the commitments made at the Sharm el-Sheikh summit in 2000.
- **July 9:** Part of an Israeli effort to restrict the number of Palestinians living in and around Jerusalem, bulldozers level 14 Palestinian homes under construction in Jerusalem, rendering many homeless.
- **August 10:** Israeli F-16 fighter jets fire four (4) air-to-surface missiles at police headquarters in the Al-Tireh suburb of Ramallah, destroying it completely.
- **August 13:** Scores of Israeli security forces raid and close down Orient House and nine (9) other Palestinian institutions in and around Occupied East Jerusalem.
- **August 26:** Israeli F-16 and F-15 fighter jets attack the Palestinian police headquarters in Gaza City and Salfit, as well as the Palestinian Military Intelligence Service in Deir Al-Balah.
- **August 27:** Israel assassinates Abu Ali Mustafa, Security General of the Popular Front for the Liberation

of Palestine, by firing a missile from a helicopter gunship into his office in Ramallah.

- **September 11:** In a huge terrorist attack by Al-Qaeda operatives, civilian airplanes are flown into two towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., killing thousands of Americans.
- **September 27:** The U.S. asks Israel to cease demolishing Palestinian homes, end incursions into Palestinian territory and refrain from provocative acts that escalate tension in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- **September 29:** During the first year of 'Al-Aqsa Intifada,' 661 Palestinians have been killed, over 10,000 injured, 384 Palestinian homes demolished and 5,103.7 acres of agricultural land destroyed. On the opposite side around 200 Israelis, soldiers and civilians, were killed
- **October 17:** In retaliation for the killing of Abu Ali Mustafa, members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine assassinate the extreme right wing Israeli Tourism Minister, Rehavam Ze'evi, at a hotel in Occupied East Jerusalem.
- **October 19:** The Israeli occupation forces deploy approximately 30 tanks and armored personnel-carriers into the neighboring cities of Bethlehem and Beit Jala, reoccupy parts of the cities and seize several buildings, including two (2) hotels.
- **November 10:** In a speech to the UN General Assembly, U.S. President George W. Bush refers to "two states—Israel and Palestine," the first time an American president uses the word 'Palestine.' U.S. Secretary of



State Colin Powell confirms that Bush's use of "Palestine" is deliberate and reflects his policy.

- **November 19:** U.S. Secretary of State Powell states that Israel must end its occupation and “accept a viable Palestinian State in which Palestinians can determine their own future on their own land and live in dignity and security.”
- **December 5:** A Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention is held with the participation of 114 states; three (3 ) states decline to participate.
- **December 8:** Israel declares that only it can permit President Arafat to leave Ramallah .
- **December 13:** Prime Minister Sharon severs all ties with President Arafat as Israeli tanks fire cannons and bulldozers crash into President Arafat's compound (al-Muqata'a) in Ramallah.
- **2002**
- **January 10:** Israeli occupation forces destroy the Palestinian airport in Gaza and demolish 73 homes in residential areas, leaving 120 families and over 500 people homeless. Water, telephone and electricity networks are also destroyed and the main road between Rafah and Khan Younis is severed.
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- **January 12:** Israeli battleships raid the Rafah port, confiscate Palestinian boats and destroy fishing and maintenance equipment. In the Rafah refugee camp, 54 homes are destroyed and many others damaged.

- **February 21:** Israeli military helicopters fire two (2) missiles at a building in al-Mukata'a in Ramallah and demolish Radio Palestine in Gaza.
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- **March 3:** A lone Palestinian sniper, kills 10 Israeli soldiers and settlers and wounds four (4) at a checkpoint near Ofra settlement.
  - **March 10:** Israeli helicopter and naval gunships demolish Yasser Arafat's residence in Gaza City.
  - **March 12:** Israeli troops reenter the West Bank town of Ramallah
  - Fourteen (14) of the UN Security Council members approve U.S.-backed UN resolution 1397, calling for an immediate ceasefire in the escalating conflict and endorsing the vision of the two-state solution, Palestine and Israel.
  - **March 27:** Ariel Sharon declares Yasser Arafat "an enemy". The Israeli cabinet resolves to isolate him and Israeli forces launch 'Operation Separation Wall', invade Ramallah and surround Arafat's headquarters. Israeli troops seize most of the buildings, confining Arafat to a few rooms.
  - Following several bombings, a suicide attack over Yom Kippur at the Park Hotel in Netanya kills 30 Israelis.
  - The Israeli government authorizes the building of a permanent 'separation' wall, called the 'Defense Fence' for 'security purposes' and to prevent suicide attacks.
  - The Arab League Summit, held in Beirut while Arafat is under siege from Israeli forces at his headquarters, unanimously endorses the 'Arab Peace Initiative' that would establish normal relations with Israel in return for Israel's complete withdrawal from Arab territories

occupied since 1967, and agreement on a just solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 194.

- **March 29:** Israel launches 'Operation Defensive Shield'. Beginning with an Israeli tank incursion into Ramallah reinforcing the siege on Yasser Arafat in his compound in al-Mukata'a, he responds: "They want me prisoner, but I say to them martyr, martyr, martyr." The Operation continues through May 2nd.
- **March 30:** Israeli war tanks enter and re-occupy Bethlehem and Beit Jala.
- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan calls upon Israel to withdraw from occupied Palestinian territory and not to harm President Arafat.
- In a closed-door meeting on the situation in the Middle East, the UN Security Council passes, by a vote of 14-0 (with Syria not participating), resolution 1402, calling for Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian cities including Ramallah.
- **April 2:** Israeli troops storm Jenin Refugee Camp in a siege that lasts until April 11th. Fifty-two (52) Palestinian fighters and civilians are killed; Israeli bulldozers demolish scores of homes; thousands of refugees are forced to flee in an assault that leads international human rights organizations to call for discussions on Israeli war crimes.<sup>102</sup>

**April 4:** Following intense pressure by Arab states to intervene, U.S. President Bush announces his intention to send Secretary of State Powell to the region and reiterates that the root cause of the conflict is Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territory. Bush calls on Israel to stop all settlement activity as

recommended by the Mitchell Committee and under international law; to halt incursions into Palestinian areas and to implement UN Security Council resolution 1402.

**April 4:** The UN Security Council votes unanimously to adopt resolution 1403, endorsing the Mideast mission of U.S. Secretary of State Powell and demanding the implementation of resolution 1402 and Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian cities ‘without delay.’

**April 15:** Israeli authorities arrest and convict Marwan al-Barghouti of planning suicide attacks and attempted murders and imposes five (5) life sentences.

**April 18:** After touring Jenin refugee camp, UN envoy Ambassador Terje Rod-Larsen describes the scene as “horrifying beyond belief” ... “a blot that will forever live on the history of the state of Israel” and demands “immediate access” by international humanitarian agencies. The Israeli government decides to consider Larsen a persona non grata due to his report of events in Jenin.

**April 19:** The UN Security Council unanimously adopts resolution (1405) 2000, welcoming the initiative of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to send a fact-finding team ‘to develop accurate information regarding recent events in the Jenin refugee camp’ and demands that Israel allow free access to humanitarian and medical organizations. The council was discussing a different resolution draft when the members knew that the Secretary General decided to send the fact-finding team after the approval of the Israeli foreign minister Shimon Perez and prime minister Sharon.

**April 20 :** Israeli occupation forces besiege The Church of the Nativity, where Palestinian activists, civilians and clerics had sought refuge from Israeli attacks. By the end of the siege on

May 10th, eight (8) activists are killed, 40, wounded and 13 are deported to Europe.

**May 1:** Former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari heads the fact-finding team appointed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to investigate the recent events in Jenin refugee camp. Israeli denies the team entry.

Israeli occupation forces begin to withdraw from Ramallah after the Palestinian Authority transfer six (6) Palestinian prisoners to United Kingdom and United States officials for detention in a prison in Jericho.

**May 2:** Representatives of the United Nations, the United States, the Russian Federation and the European Union meet in Madrid and agree to convert their quadripartite cooperation to a permanent forum, the 'Middle East Quartet', to mediate in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

**June 24:** In a speech, U.S. President George W. Bush asserts that "Peace requires a new and different Palestinian leadership, so that it can generate a Palestinian state. I would urge the Palestinian people to choose new leaders, leaders not tainted with terrorism."

**August 14:** The Israeli Government completes the first phase of the Wall in the north of the West Bank.

**September 21:** Israeli occupation forces demolish four (4) of the five (5) main buildings of al-Muqata'a. President Arafat, a few aides and 19 others are confined to the second floor of the remaining building.

**September 24:** In a vote of 14-0 with the United States abstaining, the UN Security Council adopts resolution 1435, demanding that Israel immediately cease measures in and

around Ramallah including ‘the destruction of Palestinian civilian and security infrastructure’ and end all acts of violence.

**September 29:** Under pressure from the United States, Israel withdraws its forces from al- Muqata'a.

**December 20:** The number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupation forces since September 18, 2000, surpasses 2,000 men, women, children and the elderly.

## **2003**

**March 10:** The Palestinian Legislative Council agrees to amend ‘The Basic Law’ that functions as a temporary constitution and introduces the new post of prime minister.

**March 13:** Yasser Arafat appoints Mahmoud Abbas to the post of Prime Minister.

**March 29:** The Palestinian Legislative Council endorses Mahmoud Abbas and his cabinet.

**April 30:** The Middle East Quartet proposes a ‘Roadmap’ to bring about a ‘final and comprehensive settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that ‘will result in the emergence of an independent, viable and democratic Palestinian state living side-by-side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbors.’ A performance-based, goal-driven plan, the map proposes three (3) phases whose basic elements include ending violence; stopping settlement activity; building Palestinian institutions and reaching agreement on all final status issues. The Palestinians agree to the Roadmap without condition.

**May 25:** The Israeli Government agrees to the ‘Roadmap’ with 14 reservations that the United States promises to ‘fully and seriously address’.

**June 4:** ‘The Aqaba Summit’ is held in Jordan with the participation of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, U.S. President George Bush and Jordan's King Abdullah II. Meanwhile, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat remains under siege in al-Mukata’a.

**June 29:** Fatah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad announce a unilateral three (3)-month truce, alleviating the rate of violence in the occupied Palestinian territories.

**June 30:** Israel completes the first phase of the northern Wall and prepares for the second phase, Prime Minister Sharon later announces Israel's plan to build an eastern wall parallel to the Jordan Valley.

The wall is comprised of concrete sections up to 9 meters in height in some areas, interspersed with watchtowers and other barriers. It runs partly along the 1949 then-Jordanian-Israeli ‘Green Line’ and cuts deep into the occupied territory of the West Bank. Projections of the stages of the wall indicate that it will encircle all Palestinian communities, with a number already completely isolated, such as Bethlehem and Qalqilya, and separates thousands of Palestinians from their families and livelihoods. It is clear that the construction of the Wall aims to *de facto* annex parts of the West Bank to Israel and separate a significant number of settlements apart from the Palestinian side and that enable additional confiscation of water and natural resources. All previous actions affects seriously the ability of the Palestinian People to practice his right in self-determination.

**August 19:** Hamas claims responsibility for a suicide bombing on a bus in West Jerusalem that kills 23 Israelis. Israel responds by assassinating a number of leaders in Hebron and the Gaza Strip ,and imposes a total curfew in Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem. Nablus remains under siege for almost 100 days.

**August 21:** Israel assassinates Ismail Abu Shanab, a founding leader of the Hamas movement, in the Gaza Strip.

**August 31:** A suicide bombing took place in Beersheba by a group of citizens from Hebron.

**September:** Ahmad Qurei' is appointed Prime Minister by President Arafat upon the resignation of Mahmoud Abbas.

**September 9:** Suicide bombings, in Café Hillel in Jerusalem and at a bus station near the military base of Tzervin, result in the deaths of 16 Israelis. Technically the last bombing claimed by Hamas, several later suicide bombings were organized by Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade with the cooperation of some Hamas members.

**September 13:** Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his security advisors declare their intention to remove Yasser Arafat.

**October 4:** Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for a suicide bombing at the Maxim Restaurant in Haifa.

Israel accuses Syria and Iran of supporting Islamic Jihad and bombs an old military training camp in Ein Saheb, Syria.

**October 14:** A draft resolution condemning the construction of the wall was considered by the UN Security Council but did not pass due to the veto of the United States.

**October 15:** A U.S. diplomatic convoy explosion at the Beit Hanoun barrier in northern Gaza results in the deaths of three (3) Americans.

**October 21:** The Tenth Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly resumes to consider the issue of the 'separation wall.' Palestine, Arab and friendly countries



propose two draft resolutions and, after lengthy negotiations, the European Union proposes an alternative draft resolution (ES 10/13) that passes by a majority of 144 votes with four (4) against and 12 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force; calls for a cessation of violence; demands that Israel halt its construction of the Wall and dismantle its existing parts and requests the Secretary-General submit periodic reports on compliance with the resolution.

**November 15:** The UN Security Council unanimously adopts resolution 1515, endorsing the ‘Roadmap for Peace’ proposed by the Middle East Quartet. The resolution calls on all parties to fulfill their obligations under the ‘Roadmap’, working in cooperation with the Quartet to achieve a two-state solution.

**November 24:** In accordance with UN resolution ES 10/13, Secretary-General Kofi Annan submits a report on Israel's failure to comply with the General Assembly’s demand to cease construction and dismantle the Wall.

**December 8:** The UN General Assembly resumes its Tenth Emergency Special Session to consider the Secretary-General’s report and adopts resolution ES 10/14 by 90 votes with eight (8) against and 74 abstentions, including European countries, demanding an urgent advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice regarding ‘... the legal consequences arising from the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem ... considering the rules and principles of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.’

**December 19:** In consideration of Palestine's special status of observer and its co-sponsorship of the draft resolution requesting the advisory opinion, the International Court of

Justice requests the UN member states to provide information regarding all aspects of the advisory question submitted by General Assembly and requests a written statement by Palestine on the issue.

## **2004**

**January:** The Israeli occupation forces expand operations in Rafah, targeting tunnels between the Gaza Strip and Egypt.

**February 2:** Ariel Sharon announces his plan to dismantle Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip.

**February 23:** The International Court of Justice opens hearings on data interpretations regarding the Wall. The Palestinian delegation, headed by Ambassador and Permanent Observer of Palestine to the UN, Dr. Nasser Al-Kidwa, includes legal advisor Stephanie Khoury; international law professors James Crawford, George Abi Asab, Vaughan Lowe and Jean Salmon. Israel declines to participate in the hearing. In all, 35 participants provide the Court with oral and written statements.

**March 22:** Founder and spiritual leader of Hamas Sheikh Ahmed Yassin is assassinated in an Israeli helicopter missile strike along with two (2) bodyguards and nine (9) civilians.

**April 14:** During their meeting in Washington, D.C., Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and President George Bush exchange letters aimed at achieving a settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians in the context of the 'Roadmap' and the 'Disengagement Plan.' President Bush's letter agrees with the Israeli position that the Wall is a security rather than political barrier, temporary rather than permanent, and asserts 'In light of new realities on the ground, including already existing major Israeli population centers, it is unrealistic to expect that the outcome of final status negotiations will be a full and complete

return to the armistice lines of 1949, and all previous efforts to negotiate a two-state solution have reached the same conclusion. It is realistic to expect that any final status agreement will only be achieved on the basis of mutually agreed changes that reflect these realities.’

**April 17:** Less than four (4) weeks after the extrajudicial execution of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in Gaza City, Israeli occupation forces assassinate Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Al-Rantisi and his son, Mohammad, in Gaza.

**May 11:** Palestinian fighters damage two (2) Israeli tanks and kill 13 Israeli soldiers in Al-Zaytoun neighborhood in Gaza. Israeli occupation forces impose collective punishment, raiding the neighborhood killing 30 Palestinians and causing massive destruction.

**May 18:** Israeli occupation forces launch 'Operation Rainbow' in Rafah killing 60 Palestinians, mainly civilians, and demolishing a number of buildings.

**May 19:** The UN Security Council adopts resolution 1544 by 14 votes, with the abstention of the United States, calling on Israel to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law and expressing ‘grave concern’ over the killing of civilians and demolition of homes resulting in a humanitarian crisis in Rafah.

From September 2000, Israeli forces have demolished 1,500 homes in Rafah causing the displacement of 16,000 Palestinians.

**June 6:** The Israeli Government announces its unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip and four (4) settlements in the north of the West Bank.

**July 9:** The International Court of Justice issues its legal opinion regarding the Wall, concluding that ‘The construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian lands, including Eastern Jerusalem and its

surroundings, and its associated regime are contrary to international law.’ In addition, ‘Israel is obliged to end its violations of the International Law; therefore, it is obliged to stop the building process of the separation wall in the West Bank and remove all the remaining parts of the wall as well as to repeal all the legislative and administrative work that is related to the separation wall in accordance of the 151 paragraph from the advisory opinion.’

“Israel is responsible to return things as it used to be as a way to indemnify the damages caused by the separation wall”.

“All countries are bound not to admit the illegal case resulting from the illegal status of the construction of the separation wall. It is bound not to offer any help to maintain this case, and all member states of the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva convention for the protection of civil people in times of war on 12 August 1949, in addition to their commitment under the United Nations Act and International Law, are bound to hold Israel committed the International Humanitarian Law which is granted under the convention”.

“The United Nations, especially the General Assembly and the Security Council are bound to examine the extra procedures which could be necessary in order to put an end to the illegal case derived from the construction of the separation wall and its consequences, taking into consideration this legal advisory opinion”.

**July 20:** The 10<sup>th</sup> Emergency Session of the UN General Assembly is resumed and adopts resolution 1028, demanding Israel's compliance with the legal advisory of the International Court of Justice and requests the Secretary-General to ‘set up a register of all damage caused to all the natural and legal persons in connection with Israel's construction of the barrier ... .’

**August 31:** Hamas claims responsibility for a suicide bombing in Beersheba. Suicide attacks by Islamic Jihad and Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades continue at low rates, the last occurring on January 29, 2007.

**September 29:** Hamas militants fire Qassam rockets on Sderot, killing two (2) Israeli children.

Israeli forces launch 'Operation Days of Remorse' in northern Gaza that continues through October 17th.

**October 12:** Yasser Arafat's health deteriorates and a number of medical tests are conducted to determine the cause. Egyptian and Tunisian medical teams are consulted and advise that Arafat be transferred abroad for treatment.

After receiving U.S. and Israeli assurances that he will be allowed to return, Arafat agrees to leave and is received in France for treatment.

**October 29:** Arafat departs by helicopter to Jordan and is transferred onto a French medical plane to Paris, where he is admitted to Percy Military Hospital that also specializes in hematology.

**November:** Yasser Arafat's health improves to the extent that he is able to follow up on various matters including contacting Minister of Finance Salam Fayyad to check on the payment of salaries for the coming Eid Al Fitr.

**November 4:** Arafat suffers a sudden setback and is placed in intensive care.

**November 8:** A delegation from the Palestinian leadership including Mahmoud Abbas, Ahmad Qurei', Rawhi Fattouh and Nabil Sha'ath travel to Paris and consult with Arafat's doctors, after which they meet with French President Jacques Chirac.

**November 11:** At four o'clock in the morning, Yasser Arafat passes away at the age of 75.

France arranges a presidential farewell ceremony at an airport in Paris, where the delegation accompany Yasser Arafat's remains to Cairo on President Chirac's plane.

The medical report of Percy Hospital and the personal report of Yasser Arafat state that 'The case cannot be explained according to the pathology ... the main problem was in the broken platelets but there was no leukaemia nor any severe infection. The probable reason for the broken platelets could be from poisoning', however 'We did not find any poison that is known to us.'

**November 12:** The Arab Republic of Egypt holds a state funeral for Yasser Arafat. Heads of state, prime ministers, foreign ministers and huge numbers gather to pay final respects. His remains are then transported on an Egyptian military plane to Al-Areesh Airport in the Sinai and from there by helicopter to al-Mukata'a in Ramallah. Tens of thousands of Palestinians gather to receive Yasser Arafat and bid farewell to the 'Leader of the Palestinian People.'