



## **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS**

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

### **ICSFT Mourns 70th anniversary of Nakba: We will never forget the Palestinian Exodus**



**Today, on the 70th anniversary of the Nakba, those who see the truth of the suffering of the Palestinian people, and what has been done to them, stand in mourning with Palestine. Today, together we mourn while the oppressors and occupiers, Israel, celebrates.**

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Today marks the 70th anniversary of the Nakba. The Israeli's call this their Independence day, or Yom Ha'atzmaut. In their warped and false narrative, May 15 commemorates the so called Israeli Declaration of Independence. Zionist rejoiced as they dominated land that was not theirs, and danced and celebrated at their own slaughter and forced exile of true Palestinians. They called this brutality "inspiring" and "remarkable" and falsely and illegally claimed that they had the right to the Palestinian land because they themselves were tired of being exiled:

"The Jews of Palestine ... were dancing because they were about to realize what was one of the most remarkable and inspiring achievements in human history: A people which had been exiled from its homeland two thousand years before, which had endured countless pogroms, expulsions, and persecutions, but which had refused to relinquish its identity—which had, on the contrary, substantially strengthened that identity; a people which only a few years before had been the victim of mankind's largest single act of mass murder, killing a third of the world's Jews, that people was returning home as sovereign citizens in their own independent state."<sup>1</sup>

ICSFT comprehensively and totally condemns this false victim narrative which the Jews and Israel used as a propaganda cover to steal the land from the rightful owners, the Palestinians. The true account of May 15 is contained in the word Nakba, which means the Day of the Catastrophe.

**Let us never forget:**

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<sup>1</sup> [Oren, Michael B.](#) "Ben-Gurion and the Return to Jewish Power." *New Essays on Zionism*. Ed. Hazony, et al. Jerusalem: Shalem Press, 2006. 406.



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- On this day in 1948 hundreds of villages of peaceful, innocent Palestinians were razed to the ground.
- Between **750,000 and 1 million** innocent, peaceful Palestinians were forced to be refugees by Zionist paramilitaries
- Between **250,000 and 350,000** Palestinians were forcefully and violently expelled from their own homes by Zionist paramilitaries



- Approximately **150,000** Palestinians remained inside the Zionist Israel's 1948 borders, becoming internally displaced peoples (IDPs) in their own homeland

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- More than **24** total individual massacres were perpetrated by the Zionist occupiers on the Palestinians on the 1948 Nakba day
- Approximately **100** women children and men were massacred in Deir on the day of Nakba in 1948
- **4,244,776** acres of land were stolen by Israelis during the 1948 take over
- Between **100 and 200 billion**- the amount of money in United States dollars dispossessed during the takeover of Palestine.

Yet- this violence is not all. As ICSFT has been covering, analyzing, and advocating on daily, the massacre, theft of the right to self-determination and brutality have been continuing.

Gaza has witnessed its deadliest day since 2014, with over 60 Palestinians brutally, illegally, and unilaterally murdered by Israeli forces. The victims are women, children, and men, including an infant child murdered by Israelis due to tear gas inhalation.

Since the beginning of the courageous Great Return March, the total innocent Palestinians murdered by Israelis has reached 109, with over 20,000 injured, including severe and critical injuries which may lead to a rise in the eventual death toll.

In contrast, there has only been one potential minor injury of an Israeli soldier. This is clear evidence of unilateral, unchecked and undefendable brutality by Israel against Palestine.

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The United Nations is taking note of the clearly illegal, brutal and unchecked Israeli violence. It has said in a statement that:

"We only seem to be seeing investigations carried out when there is a very clear bit of video evidence becoming public through witnesses and bystanders and so on. **The official statements simply say this is all Hamas' fault and just ignore the fact that children are being killed, women are being killed, unarmed protesters are being killed in large numbers.** So for the state of Israel I think its very important that there are credible investigations in to these very serious events and also very serious crimes as well. **It seems anyone is liable to be shot dead and injured, including women, children, press personnel, first responders, bystanders and at almost any point up to 700 m from the fence.** Israel has a right to defend its borders but it has to defend them according to international law and principles so I think we've been very clear. The use of lethal force must only be a last result. **You just have to look at the different casualty figures on both sides to see that it is not being used as a last result: huge casualties on the Palestinian side, and I believe one injury maybe to an Israeli soldier through a stone-throwing.** So they are under some obligation under international law to handle these demonstrations in a way that preserves life, unless their own lives are very clearly threatened, **which has not been the case.**"

On this 70th Nakba, we mourn for both past losses, including the exiling of innocent Palestinians from their homeland in 1948, current massacres, including the 60 slain by Israeli military, and the future pain that Palestine must march into because of Israel's unrelenting oppression of Palestinian people.

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As long as Israel steals the land, the dignity, and the life of Palestinians ICSFT will not stop advocating to international bodies that it is time for the human rights industry to stand up to its own lip service, and act in service of people who deserve peace and justice. It is time for the United States and its Western allies to feel the shame it deserves and stop arming Israel to murder Palestinian children. It is time for the UN bodies, including the Human Rights Council to produce resolutions with teeth and means of implementation and accountability to ensure that Israel stops these atrocities.

ICSFT stand with the protestors, women, children and men in Gaza and Palestine in the past, in the present, and in the future on this 70th anniversary of Nakba. We will never forget.



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