

# Exploiting the Holocaust to Justify Genocide

“The Holocaust has become the chief ideological justification for the oppression of the Palestinian people”

(Prof. Norman Finkelstein—son of Holocaust survivor)

The memory of the Nazi extermination of Jews in the 1930s and 40s has been exploited by both the Israeli and US governments to justify the brutal crimes and acts of genocide against the people of Palestine. Describing the Jewish Holocaust as a unique genocide is the Zionist pretext for claiming a special moral impunity with regards to the constant aggressions against Palestinians. Israeli crimes include illegal occupation, killing, expulsion, land confiscation, house demolition, movement restriction, and most recently the building of Israel's Apartheid Wall in the West Bank.

The genocide\* in Palestine began with the events leading to the creation of the State of Israel. On April 9, 1948, members of the two Zionist militias massacred over 100 Palestinian men, women and children in the village of Deir Yassin, near Jerusalem. The Deir Yassin massacre marked the beginning of the destruction and depopulation of over 500 Palestinian towns and villages. In 1948, over 750,000 Palestinians (around 70% of the population) were expelled from their homeland. Today, over 6 million Palestinian refugees (comprising around three-quarters of the Palestinian people, and nearly one-third of the global refugee population) remain without a durable solution to their plight. Israel refuses to grant them their internationally-recognized “right of return”.

As of January 2006, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have killed over 3000 Palestinian civilians—20% of which are children—since the beginning of the Al Aqsa Intifada (uprising) in September 2000. In addition, over 22,000 Palestinians have been wounded by the IOF. (Palestinian Center for Human Rights)

It is the duty of the people of conscious around the world to stand against the injustice in Occupied Palestine and the exploitation of the Holocaust to justify it.

\* Article 2 of the First Geneva Convention defines “genocide” as “any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, as such: a) killing members of the group; b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. The State of Israel is thus guilty of committing genocide against the Palestinian people.

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