

DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF SELF-DETERMINATION  
FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

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*From the Arab Students Club at NYU*

The state of Israel had its origins in the U.N. resolution of November 29, 1947 which partitioned Palestine into 2 states, one Jewish and one Arabic.

Although British Imperialism encouraged Jewish settlement in Palestine in the Balfour Declaration of 1917, it did so only to pit Jews and Arabs against each other thereby making it possible for them to perpetuate British rule under the League of Nations Mandate. Later on Britain severely restricted Jewish immigration into Palestine, and they never supported the formation of either an independent Jewish or Arab state or indeed any kind of independent state in Palestine.

In 1946 there were in Palestine some 608,000 Jews, nearly one-third of the total population of 1,973,000. Most of them were recent immigrants who had come during World War II. The majority, had come not as Zionist usurpers of Arab land but rather, in the face of tremendous odds, as refugees from the horrors of fascism, most of whom had nowhere else to go (thanks mainly to the refusal of the capitalist states to admit them).

Until the coming of Hitlerism, very few Jews had been persuaded to immigrate to Palestine by the Zionists (In 1931 the Jewish population was about 175,000, a figure which represents a little more than one-fourth of the 1946 total). Even so the Zionists managed to retain control and to fashion the state according to their own designs for an exclusive Jewish state. This was not only in contradiction to the just rights of the



indigenous Palestinian Arab People, but also violated even the 1947 U.N. partition resolution. For Theodore Herzl (founder of modern political Zionism) the Palestinian Arabs did not exist as a people, an attitude inherent in Zionist philosophy.

During the British Mandate, two Zionist terrorist groups were founded, one was Irgun Zvai Leumi and the other was the Stern Gang. It was the Irgun (headed by Menachem Begin--now a member of the Israeli cabinet) which was responsible for the atrocious massacre of 254 Arab people, mostly women and children, in the village of Deir Yassin on April 9, 1948, whose bodies they threw into a well. This is the most well known in a series of massacres which were perpetrated by Zionist gangs to terrorize the Palestinian Arab People into abandoning their national homeland, by warning them to flee or "the fate of Deir Yassin will be yours".

Long before the Irgun started to bomb British police stations, during the mandate, they used bullets and bombs against the Jewish and Arab Peoples of Palestine. Their youth group Betar, organized terrorist squads to break strikes, bomb worker's clubs, and to attack meetings.

Due to the antagonisms between the Jewish and Arab populations in Palestine (which did not exist before the advent of political Zionism), that was fostered by British Imperialism and the Zionist movement, the two peoples were not able to develop a unified front against British Imperialism at the end of World War II. The natural outcome of such a struggle would have brought about a state in which both peoples would have realized their national rights.

During the 1948 war some 750,000 Arabs either fled in panic or were



driven from their homes, to become refugees living in miserable circumstances. The Israeli rulers then seized more than half of the territory allotted to the Palestinian Arab State in the U.N. resolution, and they took over the property abandoned by those that had fled. Even among those that stayed many were dispossessed and they became refugees within their own country. There are more than 30,000 such people within the state of Israel. The recent struggle of the inhabitants of the two villages of Biram and Iqrit, (whose inhabitants were expelled in 1948 for "security" reasons) to return to their villages has given publicity to the situation and has managed to mobilize mass support among the Jewish and Arabic population in Israel. Along with the severe discrimination of Arabs in Israel, there is also discrimination which is practiced against the majority Sephardic-Oriental Jewish population. The policy of the government of Israel towards the Palestinian Arab People, <sup>+ other ARAB PEOPLES</sup> has always been one of terror, and this has lately been manifested in it's attacks on refugee camps in Lebanon, in it's mass repression of people in the territories occupied in the 1967 war, and by it's attacks on peaceful villages in Lebanon and Syria, as well as the downing of the Lybian airliner.

We are calling on all the progressive, anti-imperialist forces among the people of the New York City area to:

1. Commemorate with us the massacre of the villagers of Deir Yassin on April 9, 1948.
  2. protest U.S.-Israeli collusion against the Palestinians right of self-determination.
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3. oppose the oppression of Arab Peoples by reactionary Arab regimes such as Jordan's King Hussein, who massacred thousands of Palestinians in September 1970.
4. expose Zionist atrocities ever since 1917, most recently the attack and downing of a Libyan passenger airliner.
5. condemn pro-zionist propaganda in the western press.

Your presence will signify your support for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab People.

If you support their just demands, come to the demonstration on Monday, April 9, at 6P.M. in Herald Square(6th ave. & 34th street)

Swell our ranks!

*Demonstration for  
Done by the ALP students  
N.Y.C.*