

Refugees and their Descendants. Their Plight

“Everyone started to speak in our name, in our absence. Therefore, we could do nothing. And you recall, if you remember, that in 1948, when the ‘naqba’ or catastrophe, took place, we weren’t a party to it. We were taken out’, and we were told ‘after a week, we will return you’”

Mahmoud Abbas at PLO Consultative Council 9/12/2018

"Improve the living conditions of the Palestinian refugees. Allow them to settle down. Give them citizenship so that they can live as human beings....The Arabs do not care about the Palestinians and want them to remain Israel's problem. Countries such as Lebanon and Syria would rather see Palestinians living as "animals in the jungle" than grant them basic rights such as employment, education and citizenship....It is no surprise that refugees fleeing Syria have no ambitions to settle in any Arab country. They know that their fate in the Arab world will be no better than that of Palestinians living in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and other Arab countries”.

Dr. Ahmad Abu Matar, Oslo-based Palestinian academic, Gatestone Institute, 12/9/2015

“Pro-Palestinian groups? I believe that they are doing enormous damage to the Palestinian cause. The biggest problem today is countering the disinformation spread by them and their Jewish & Israeli leftist supporters....Most ordinary people are fed up with the shameful political corruption which currently exists in the PA and Gaza....The BDS advocates, UNRWA and other similar groups are all based on perpetuating the suffering of the Palestinians. The dragging of millions or billions of dollars from the rest of the world does nothing to solve the refugee problem and merely prolongs their miserable plight”.

Bassam Eid, Palestinian Human rights worker, <http://www.jwire.com.au/tachlis-writes-michael-kuttner/#more-54695>

"Kuwait and the other Gulf Cooperation Council countries are too valuable to accept any refugees. ... It's too costly to relocate them here. Kuwait is too expensive for them anyway, as opposed to Lebanon and Turkey, which are cheap. They are better suited for the Syrian refugees. ... it is not right for us to accept a people that are different from us. We don't want people that suffer from internal stress and trauma in our country."

Fahad al-Shalami, Kuwaiti official, blogs.new.spectator.co.uk, 12/9/2015

Of Palestinian refugees fleeing Syria: “It’s better they die in Syria than give up their Right of Return [to Israel]”.

Mahmoud Abbas, 18/5/2015 (meforum)

“The fact that there are these refugees is the direct consequence of the action of the Arab states in opposing partition and the Jewish state”.

Emil Khoury, Secretary general of the Arab Higher committee, September 1948 (www.pnews.org)

“It is shameful that the Arab governments should prevent the Arab refugees from working in their countries and shut the doors in their faces and imprison them in camps”.

Musa Al-Alami, Former Arab mayor of Jerusalem, ‘The Lesson of Palestine’, ME Journal 386, October 1949 (emory.edu)

“The Arab armies entered Palestine to protect the Palestinians...but instead, they abandoned them, forced them to emigrate”.

Mahmoud Abbas, Falastin Al-Thaura, March 1976

“The Arab nations keep the Palestinians and their descendants in squalor. They are denied citizenship rights. They are denied work. They are denied property. They are denied their human rights because they are and always will be a political football in the Arab campaign against Israel”.

Joseph Farah, Arab-American journalist, January 2004 (www.worldnetdaily.com)

“To us, the refugees issue is the winning card which means the end of the Israeli state”.

Sahker Habash, member of Fatah Central committee, at a seminar on ‘The Palestinian Refugee from the Political Parties’ perspective’, Al-Najah University, 23/11/04 (www.fateh.org_public/refugees.html, 12/9/2004)

Statehood “will never affect the right of return for Palestinian refugees.... [Refugees in the Palestinian territories] will not be considered citizens”.

Abdullah Abdullah, Palestinian Ambassador to Lebanon, Daily Star, September 2010

“Even Palestinian refugees who are living in [refugee camps] inside the [Palestinian] state, they are still refugees. They will not be considered citizens”.

Abdullah Abdullah, P.A Ambassador to Lebanon, Daily Star, May 2011

“Every Palestinian, in Gaza and throughout Palestine, can prove his Arab roots – whether from Saudi Arabia, from Yemen, or anywhere....Half of the Palestinians are Egyptians and the other half are Saudis”.

Fathi Hammad, Hamas Minister of the Interior and of National Security, (MEMRI,23/3/2012)

Others say

“British forces offered safe conduct out of the field of fire to Jews and Arabs....accepted only by the Arabs....British forces played a major part in the evacuation (Flight) of the Arabs in Northern Palestine”.

LCH Stockwell Papers, 6/19: “Evacuation from Palestine, November 1947 – May 1948”, General MacMillan, (“Ploughing Sand” p235, Naomi Shepherd, John Murray Publishers Ltd,