



# 50 Years of Palestinian Political History 1967-2017

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On the occasion of 50 years of Israeli occupation, this bulletin aimed at providing a brief but comprehensive overview of 50 years of Palestinian political history – from 1967 to 2017 - as seen from a Palestinian perspective.

In trying to provide an understanding of the Palestinian narrative, the bulletin delves into at the following political-historical periods: The Shock of Defeat (1967-1970); 'Sumud' - Steadfastness (1970-1982); From Military Confrontation to Political Dialogue (1982-1987); The First Intifada (1987-1990); Negotiations (Madrid, Washington & Moscow) (1991-1993); The Oslo Channel (1993); Interim Agreements (1994-1999); Camp David II & the Second Intifada (2000-2004); From Disengagement to Resumption of Direct Negotiations (2005-2010); The UN Bid & Other Tracks (2011-2017).



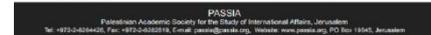
### Introduction: The June 1967 War

In early 1967, the State of Israel, established less than two decades previously, commenced a concerted drive to escalate tensions on the Syrian border. According to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan: "I sent this way. We would send a tractor to plow some place... in the demilitarized zone, and know in advance that the Syrians would start to shoot. If they don't shoot, we would tell the tractor to advance further, until in the end the Syrians would get annoyed and shoot. And then, we would use artillery and later the air force... that's how it was." In April 1967, Israeli jets shot down six Syrian planes over Damascus, and a month later, the Israeli army's Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin threatened, in a newspaper interview, to conquer Damascus.

Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, feeling obliged to make a show of strength and act on Egypt's defense pact with Syria, deployed troops in the Sinai and closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping. The US saw no sign of any imminent Arab invasion, but said that in any event, Israel would "whip the hell out of them" and pledge to return it to a post-war scenario. Israel acted on 5 June, attacking Egypt's air force on the ground and annihilating it within two hours. When Syrian and Jordanian forces engaged from the east, their air forces met a similar fate. Some 400 planes were destroyed in a single day. In the five subsequent days, the eastern front was defeated. While the attack on the Sinai was well planned, the occupation of other territories was not, but as soon as intelligence reports revealed that King Hussein had ordered his troops back across the River Jordan, Israel seized the West Bank and Golan Heights. The Chief of Staff to order the Golan and Golan Heights after Syria had requested a ceasefire. Later, Dayan would call his adventurism a failure of duty, while Prime Minister Eshkol called him a "safe man".

The war, during which Israel razed entire Palestinian villages to the ground (Birnas, Yalo and Bayt Nuba in the Latrun area) along with the Moroccan Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, and added some 300,000 Palestinians to the refugee population it had created in 1948, had brought Israel massive unexpected gains on all fronts, prompting Eshkol to proclaim "a new reality in the Mideast." Following the cessation of hostilities on 20 June, Israeli forces had occupied Syria's Golan Heights, Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip, gaining control over 90,000 km<sup>2</sup> of territories. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) called on Israel to comply with the Fourth Geneva Convention and to allow the "return of those inhabitants who have fled." "I said it neither."

"I said it neither." In the 1967 war, Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, and Sinai Peninsula. The UN Security Council passed Resolution 242, which called for a "just and lasting peace in the Middle East" and for "a settlement of the refugee problem." The UN also passed Resolution 2334, which stated that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal under international law.



# International Law - Israeli Violations and Third Party Responsibility

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### INTRODUCTION July 2017

Since the very first clashes between Palestinians and Jewish immigrants in the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the quest for control over the lands between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River has had international dimensions. Especially after World War II, an increasingly important factor in the conflict was the development and adoption of international law.

Like all nations, Israel is a subject to international law and therefore bound by its regulations in several ways. However, despite the fact that there is a broad international consensus that Israel as an occupier has systematically and constantly violated international law, it was able to do so unabated and with impunity like no other country. The international community, meanwhile, has been criticized by Palestinians (and others) for using aid and development as fig leaves to mitigate their inaction in facing up to Israel's blatant human rights violations.

Today, violations of international law and the commission of war crimes by the state of Israel are frequently mentioned in the context of the ongoing occupation, which has entered its 50<sup>th</sup> year, but often people are not fully aware of what this "international law" actually refers to or where and why it is being "violated". This bulletin intends to shed some light on these questions by surveying the international law regulations currently violated by Israel, which include UN resolutions and articles from treaties and declarations. It introduces the different sources of international law and explains third states' responsibility to enforce them. It further elaborates on the authority and legal power of different sources of international law and gives an overview of Israel's duties following from it, be it as a state party to treaties, as a subject of UN resolutions, or otherwise.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted here that in principle, enforcing law internationally can be problematic – different cultures may have different human rights standards and may be unwilling to change their behavior to satisfy internationally accepted norms.



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The bulletin includes a comprehensive appendix listing the main Israeli violations of the different sources of international law and what obligations follow from that for Israel

as well as the international community.

## Bab Ar-Rahmeh - A Venue for A Short Historical Review and Portraying the Current Situation 2017

PASSIA Publication, Arabic, 16 pages, December 2017

This bulletin portrays the situation in Jerusalem, especially with regard to the Holy Places, using the example of Bab Ar-Rahmeh/Golden Gate and the building attached to it as an actual case of threatening the "status quo" of the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem. The bulletin is based on Arabic and English sources as well as on interviews with a number of personalities from Jerusalem. It documents Israeli means and attempts aimed at distorting and falsifying the historical narrative of the city and its holy places, thereby excluding anything "Palestinian". In doing so, the bulletin demonstrates how the entering and touring of Al-Aqsa Mosque compound by Jewish groups is part and parcel of their plan to "Israelize" the city under the guise of "developing" Jerusalem and its neighborhoods. Furthermore, the bulletin outlines the chronology of events around the case of Bab Ar-Rahmeh and the cemetery attached to it, presenting major historical and political milestones as well as a variety of references and legal texts.

