



Presented by:
All India Peace & Solidarity Organisation, West Bengal State Committee

PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: TIMELINE

“Palestine belongs to the Arabs in the same sense that England belongs to the English or France to the French. It is wrong and inhuman to impose the Jews on the Arabs. What is going on in Palestine today cannot be justified by any moral code of conduct.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Editorial, Harijan, 26-11-1938

1947-1966

29 November 1947: The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 181 (II), which came to be known as the Partition of Palestine Resolution.

The General Assembly approved the partition plan for Palestine put forward by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (created on 15 May 1947).

Resolution 181 (II) (1947) partitioned Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish state, with Jerusalem as a corpus separatum, i.e. under international administration.

Proposed Arab State: The resolution allocated to the Arab State approximately 42.88% of the total territory of mandate Palestine (although the Christian and Muslim Arabs in Palestine owned 93% of the land). This area encompassed the Western Galilee, the mountainous area of Nablus, the Hebron area and the Jordan Valley. It also included part of the coastal area, starting from Ashdod in the south and extending to the Egyptian border.

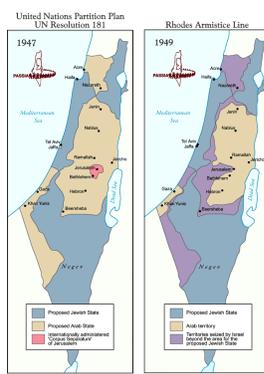
Proposed Jewish State: In regard to the Jewish State, the resolution allocated approximately 56.74% of the total area of mandate Palestine (although Jews owned 7% of the land). This area was to encompass the Eastern Galilee, Marj ibn Amr, and most of the coastal area, as well as the area of Be'r es-Sabe', including the desert.

The indigenous Palestinians and neighboring Arab states rejected the partition plan for obvious reasons.

India also voted against the partition of Palestine at the UN General Assembly. Sir Abdur Rahman, the representative of India and member of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine demanded in a Special Note that the denial of independence to Palestine constituted a serious menace to the peace of the Middle East and had been the chief cause of violence in the region. India in fact, favoured the minority plan which proposed a plan for the establishment of a federal state. Prime Minister Nehru explained India's stand on Palestine in a speech delivered in Constituent Assembly on 4 December 1947.

It may be noted that the Indian National Congress observed 27 September 1936 as Palestine Day by holding meetings and demonstrations throughout the country in support of the Arabs.

Since its foundation, Israel illegally and in violation of all international laws occupied about 80% of Palestinian land.



19 December 1947: In India, the RSS leader Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in a statement welcomed the establishment of Israel and viewed its creation as "joyous" and condemned India's vote at the UN against Israel. (Historic-Statements-Veer-Savarkar". Docstoc.com. 2009-07-13)

14 May 1948: The British Mandate over Palestine ended at midnight on 14 May 1948. Palestine became a British mandate following the end of World War I (1914-1918).

14 May 1948: David Ben-Gurion, Executive Head of the World Zionist Organization and president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, declared "the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz Israel, to be known as the State of Israel," upon the termination of the British Mandate for Palestine on 15 May 1948. Israel declared its "independence," but strangely chose not to name its borders.

Israel's founding was preceded by more than 60 years of calculated move to establish a so-called "homeland" for Jews. In 1886, Theodore Herzl (1860-1904/ Austro-Hungarian), father of Zionism, published a pamphlet, "The Jewish State", proposing that the scattered Jews should be gathered into one land, where they could establish a state. Under his supervision, the first Zionist congress met in 1887, in Basel, Switzerland, and set up the World Zionist Organization (WZO).

At first, a "Jews homeland" seemed an impossible idea. Palestine was under Turkish control and was inhabited by Arab Palestinians. Some Zionists considered other territories, especially Uganda in East Africa. The 1905 Zionist congress, however, decided that Palestine must be the Jewish homeland.

In 1917, during the First World War, Dr. Chaim Weizmann (1874 –1952), president of British Zionist federation, led in persuading the British government to issue a statement, The Belfour Declaration, supporting the creation of a Jewish State in Palestine. Dr. Weizmann later became first president of Israel. After the First World War, Palestine became a British mandate since Turkey lost the war.

The 1917 Balfour Declaration (dated 2 November 1917) asserted the British Government's support for the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Arthur James Balfour (1848-1930), British Conservative Prime Minister, July 1902-December 1905, later served as the Foreign Secretary in 1916–1919. The Declaration was actually a letter Balfour sent to Baron Rothschild, leader of the British Jewish community, for transmission to the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland.

The United States played a key supporting role in Israel's founding. Commitment to Israel's "security" has been a cornerstone of US Middle East policy since Israel's creation.

Between the time of partition and the declaration of Israel on 78% of Palestine land, the Jewish state had depopulated (through massacres, expulsion orders, and fear tactics) over 400 villages and made refugees of at least 726,000 Palestinians.

14 May 1948: President Harry S. Truman, the 33rd President of the United States (1945–1953), on behalf of the US government communicated their recognition to the provisional government of Israel.

17 May 1948: The Soviet Union granted de jure recognition to Israel.

15 May 1948 – 7 January 1949: The first Arab-Israeli war. The war resulted in an Israeli victory, with Israel annexing territory beyond the partition borders for a proposed Jewish state and into the borders for a proposed Palestinian Arab state. Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt signed the 1949 Armistice Agreements with Israel. The remaining territories, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, were occupied by Egypt and Transjordan, respectively.

8 July 1948: The Arab League decided to set up a temporary civil administration in Palestine, to be directly responsible to the Arab League (founded in 1945).

22 September 1948: Formation of All-Palestine Government in Gaza. It was under official Egyptian protection. In 1958, the All-Palestine Government was officially merged into the United Arab Republic.

22 September 1948: Israel adopted the “Area of Jurisdiction and Powers Ordinance”, which absorbed, de facto, almost half of the land allocated to the Arab state which was occupied illegally by Israeli forces.

30 September 1948: The Palestinian National Council was convened in Gaza under the chairmanship of Amin al-Husayni (1897—1974). The council passed a series of resolutions culminating on 1 October 1948 with a declaration of independence over the whole of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital.

29 November 1948: Israel applied for admission into the United Nations. Israel was criticized in the Security Council for its non-compliance with U.N. resolutions, and, on 17 December, its application fails, receiving 5 votes in favour, 1 against, and 5 abstentions.

11 December 1948: The UN General Assembly Resolution 194 was adopted. The Resolution defined principles for reaching a final settlement and solving the refugee problem in the region. The resolution was adopted by a majority of 35 countries from among the 58 members of the United Nations at that time; however all six Arab countries then represented at the UN voted against it (Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen, all were parties to the conflict). Israel was not a UN member then.

24 February 1949: The Israel–Egypt Armistice Agreement was signed in Greek island of Rhodes.

23 March 1949: The Israel– Lebanon Armistice Agreement was signed.

3 April 1949: The Israel– Jordan Armistice Agreement was signed.

11 May 1949: Israel was admitted as 59th a member of the United Nations by a majority vote.

20 July 1949: The Israel– Syria Armistice Agreement was signed.

8 December 1949: The United Nations established the Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to assist the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees living in makeshift camps in bordering countries.

23 January 1950: In defiance of United Nations resolutions, Israel moved its capital from Tel Aviv to the western part of Jerusalem.

24 April 1950: Jordan formally annexed the West Bank and East Jerusalem, giving all residents automatic Jordanian citizenship.

17 September 1950: India announced recognition of Israel. Soon after, the Jewish Agency established an immigration office in Bombay. This was converted into a Trade Office and later a Consulate.

18 June 1953: The monarchy was abolished and the Republic of Egypt was declared.

23 June 1956: Gamal Abdel Nasser (1918-1970) became President of Egypt.

26 July 1956: Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal.

29 October - 5 November 1956: The UK and France declared war on Egypt for nationalizing the Suez Canal. The Zionist Israel came forward to gang up with the UK and France. They aimed at occupying the Sinai Peninsula to regain control over the Suez Canal.

Although the Israeli occupation of the Sinai was successful, the USSR forced it to abandon this conquest. However, Israel managed to re-open the Straits of Tiran and secured its southern border.

8 March 1957: Israel withdrew from Sharm al-Sheikh and the Gaza Strip and the U.N. Emergency Forces (UNEF), established earlier by the United Nations 1st Emergency Special Session, moved in.

January 1959: Fatah was established by Yasser Arafat and Khalil al-Wazir [Abu Jihad]. It issued in Lebanon the clandestine Fatah magazine *Filastinuna* [Our Palestine]

28 May 1964: Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed as the broadest forum of Palestinian people at the first Palestinian Conference held in Jerusalem.



King Hussein of Jordan, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Abdel-Khaliq Hassouna, and high level representatives from Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, the United Arab Republic (Egypt), Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Yemen attended the conference.

The conference adopted the “Palestine National Charter” and a “Fundamental Law” of the organization.

Ahmad al-Shukeiri (1908–1980) was elected Chairman of the PLO.

1 January 1965: The Al-‘Asifa, military wing of the Fateh movement started armed struggle against Israel.

1967-1987

5–10 June 1967: The Six-Day War fought between Israel and all of its neighboring countries: Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, which were aided by other Arab countries. The Israeli military occupied the remainder of Mandated Palestine: the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which was under Jordanian control, and the Gaza Strip, which was under Egyptian administration. The lines of these areas were defined as such by the 1949 Armistice Agreements that were concluded between Israel and Jordan and Egypt respectively. The Israeli military also occupied the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula and the Syrian Golan. Palestinian refugees as approximately 325,000 persons fled from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to neighboring Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

The West Bank and the Gaza Strip became distinct geographical units as a result of the 1949 armistice that divided the new Jewish state of Israel from other parts of Mandate Palestine.

The Zionist Israeli government uses “Judea and Samaria”, a biblical term, for the West Bank.

27-28 June 1967: Israel’s “Greater Jerusalem”. East Jerusalem was annexed to West Jerusalem by incorporating it into one administrative and municipal area, Jerusalem. Jerusalem was declared Israel’s capital.

Following the war, Israel began establishing numerous settlements or illegal housing developments for Jewish Israelis throughout the West Bank and Gaza, as well as in the Syrian Golan Heights.

Palestinian families (many of whom have lived in Jerusalem for centuries) were denied permits necessary to build new homes.

Israel reaffirmed East Jerusalem's annexation in 1981.

1 September 1967: The Arab League summit (29 August-- 1 September/ in Khartoum, Sudan) attended by eight Arab heads of state adopted a resolution, known as the Khartoum Resolution.

The resolution contains the Three No's: "no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it."

22 November 1967: The UN Security Council Resolution 242 was adopted unanimously calling for Israel to withdraw "from territories occupied in the recent conflict".

24 December 1967: Yahya Hammuda (1908--2006) became new PLO Chairman following the resignation of Ahmad Shukeiri.

January 1968: Fatah declared its political programme calling for the establishment of a democratic state in Palestine where Arabs and Jews live together without discrimination.

21 March 1968: Israeli occupation forces crossed over the border into Jordan, attacking the Fatah bases in Al-Karamah. The Palestinian side (fida'iyyin) waged a heroic resistance and the battle becomes a turning point for the Fatah movement, which becomes the main Palestinian political force.

1-4 February 1969: The 5th session of the Palestine National Council, in Cairo, elected a new Executive Committee as well as a new Chairman, Mr. Yasser Arafat (24 August 1929 – 11 November 2004), head of the Fatah Movement, on 2 February.

17 March 1969: Mrs. Golda Meir (1898 –1978) was elected the fourth Prime Minister of Israel. She remained Prime Minister till 3 June 1974.

15 June 1969: "There was no such thing as Palestinians, they never existed.", said Golda Meir, Israeli Prime Minister.

21 August 1969: The desecration of the Islamic holy site in Jerusalem. The U.N. Security Council responded with resolution 271 (1969) of 15 September, calling the act of destruction a danger to peace and security, and calling upon Israel to refrain from hindering the functions of the Supreme Muslim Council of Jerusalem, and condemning its failure to comply with U.N. resolutions.

22 September 1969: The Arab world was outraged at the desecration of the Islamic holy site in Jerusalem. More than 28 leaders from Islamic countries, led by King Hassan II of Morocco, met in Rabat, Morocco, to discuss the situation. This meeting set the groundwork for the establishment of the Organization of the Islamic Countries (OIC). The PLO was invited and attended as an observer.

15 October 1968: In a statement to the General Assembly, the PLO rejected Resolution 242, saying "the implementation of said resolution will lead to the loss of every hope for the establishment of peace and security in Palestine and the Middle East region."

9 December 1969: The UN General Assembly adopted resolution 2535 (XXIV) reaffirming the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine.

February 1970: King Hussein of Jordan visited US President Richard Nixon, and the Egyptian President Nasser. Upon his return, King Hussein published a 10-point edict, restricting activities of the Palestinian organizations.

1 June 1970: PLO's news agency Wafa was established.

8-10 September 1970: PLO for the first time attended the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit with the observer status at the Third Summit in Lusaka, Zambia.

16 September 1970: King Hussein declared military rule in Jordan — resulting in the deaths and expulsion of thousands of Palestinians from Jordan. The PLO is violently expelled from Jordan. It moved to Beirut, Lebanon.

The Black September -- the Jordanian Civil War ended in July 1971.

26 September 1970: Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser died of a sudden heart attack at the age of 52.

28 February 1971: The PNC held its 8th session in Cairo and decided to establish a Unified General Command of the forces of the Palestinian revolution. Yasser Arafat was elected the Commander.

23 July 1971: Palestinian leader Abu Ali Iyad was killed by Jordanian armed forces with the help of the Syrian army.

15 March 1972: Jordan's King Hussein in a statement proposed a "United Arab Kingdom" composed of two parts, a Palestinian, represented by the West Bank and any other liberated territory, and a Jordanian, represented by the East Bank. The King would be the head of state.

5 September 1972: The Israeli Olympic team was attacked by a splinter Palestinian group during the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany.

6-12 January 1973: The Palestine National Charter and the Political Programme were drawn up at the eleventh session of the PLO.

22 February 1973: The Israeli Air Force jets shot down a Libyan Airlines Boeing over Sinai, killing 104 passengers and crew.

10 April 1973: Israeli commandos raided PLO targets in Beirut, Lebanon (Operation Spring of Youth). Muhammad Yusif Najjar, Kamal Udwan and Kamal Nasser were killed in their homes. The resulting demonstrations brought down the Lebanese government.

6 October 1973: Egypt and Syria went on the offensive and attacked Israeli military positions in the occupied territories in what is considered the 4th Arab-Israeli War. The Egyptian army dramatically succeeded in crossing the Suez Canal, destroying the Israeli "Bar Lev" defense line and makes advances into the Sinai. At a later stage, the Israeli army sent units across the canal into Egyptian territory.

17 October 1973: The ministers of the Arab oil producing states decided to cease oil exports to the U S and the Netherlands and decided to reduce oil production by 5% monthly until the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

19 October 1973: U S President Richard Nixon in his speech to Congress requested permission to deliver large amounts of weapons to Israel. In response King Faisal announced that Saudi Arabia will stop all oil shipments to the United States.

22 October 1973: UN Security Council adopted resolution 338 calling for an immediate cease-fire, for the implementation of resolution 242 in all of its parts, and for the start of negotiations between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

21 December 1973: First Geneva peace conference: Included Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the US and USSR (excluded Syria who refused to participate, as well as the PLO). Negotiations collapsed after one day.

22 February 1974: The PLO attained full membership in the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) at the 2nd OIC conference, held in Lahore, Pakistan.

1-8 June 1974: The 12th session of the PNC was held. It adopted a political programme that came to be known as the “10-Point Programme”, calling for the establishment of the Palestinian Authority on any liberated part of Palestine. The Council elected the Executive Committee, including three representatives from the Palestinian National Front, which was functioning in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

14 October 1974: The UN General Assembly resolution 3210 (XXIX) was adopted, inviting the PLO to participate in the deliberations on the question of Palestine in plenary meetings.

26–29 October 1974: The Arab League summit held in Rabat, Morocco recognized the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians.

13 November 1974: Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO became the first representative of a liberation movement, not a member state, to address the United Nations General Assembly plenary.

22 November 1974: The UN General Assembly adopted the resolution 3236 reaffirming the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination. The PLO was granted observer status at the UN General Assembly by resolution 3237.

10 January 1975: The PLO office was set up in New Delhi. India is the first non-Arab state to recognize PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of Palestinian people.

13 April 1975: Lebanese Civil war erupted.

11 May 1975: Israel became an Associate Member of the European Community after signing of the Agreement between the European Community and the State of Israel in Brussels.

10 November 1975: The UN General Assembly Resolution 3379 was adopted which determined that “Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination.” This was revoked by the General Assembly sixteen years later on 16 December 1991.

10 November 1975: The UN General Assembly Resolution 3376 was adopted deciding to create the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP). In its inception year, the CEIRPP urged the Security Council to promote action for a fair solution- recommending “a two-phase plan for the return of Palestinian to their homes and property, a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories by 1 June 1977, with the provision, if necessary, of temporary peacekeeping forces to facilitate the process.”

1975: Israel and South Africa Agreement signed a secret defence co-operation agreement.

(Sasha Polakow-Suransky, 2010: The Unspoken Alliance: Israel's Secret Relationship with Apartheid South Africa. Jacana Media. ISBN 1-77009-840-2)

30 March 1976: Land Day-- the first widespread struggle of Palestinian citizens of Israeli against land confiscation intended to create Jewish majorities in certain communities: the policy of Judaisation. The marches and general strikes began in Galilee; six unarmed Arab Israelis were killed. After solidarity protests spread to the occupied West Bank, Gaza and the refugee camps in Lebanon, the day marked the first common struggle for a Palestinian national cause after the founding of the state of Israel in 1948, an event Palestinians call the "Nakba" ("Catastrophe").

9-16 April 1976: The South African Prime Minister John Vorster made a state visit to Israel. It began with a tour of Yad Vashem, Israel's major Holocaust memorial, where the late Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli prime minister, invited the one time Nazi collaborator to pay homage to Jews killed in the Holocaust in Germany under Hitler. (<http://cosmos.ucc.ie/cs1064/jabowen/IPSC/php/event.php?eid=1134>)

11 July 1976: West Bank-based Birzeit University awarded its first bachelor's degrees in eight disciplines: Arabic literature, English literature, business administration, Middle East studies, sociology, mathematics, physics, and chemistry. The event represents the first important landmark in the academic biography of Birzeit.

16–19 August 1976: PLO for the first time attended the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit as a full member at the Fifth Summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

September 1976: PLO became a non-state member of the Arab League.

15 March 1977: Hadash – (the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) was established in Israel. In the 1977 elections, Hadash won 5 seats in the Knesset.

16 March 1977: United States President Jimmy Carter endorsed the idea of a "Palestinian homeland". He sought another international Mid-East conference in Geneva.

17 May 1977: The Elections for the ninth Knesset were held in Israel. Likud Party (meaning 'consolidation') formed government, end of 30 years of Labour rule. Likud's Menachem Begin formed the country's 18th government on 20 June 1977. The Likud Party started out as a group of parties that united in 1973 just before the elections to the 8th Knesset.

July 1977: According to a Special Report (March 2002) of the Washington-based Foundation for Middle East Peace, in July 1977, the then Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin refused President Jimmy Carter's request to freeze settlement activity. At the time, there were about 50,000 Israelis living in annexed East Jerusalem, but only 7,000 settlers in 45 civilian outposts in the West Bank and Gaza. In September 1977 Begin's Minister of Agriculture, Ariel Sharon, unveiled "A vision of Israel at Century's End," calling for the settlement of 2 million Jews in the occupied territories.

(<http://www.fmep.org/reports/special-reports/a-guide-to-israeli-settlements-in-the-occupied-territories/PDF>)

17 July 1977: President Anwar Sadat of Egypt announced willingness to accept Israel after signing a peace treaty.

19 November 1977: President Anwar Sadat visited Jerusalem and addressed the Israeli parliament. Consequently, Egypt started to become isolated in the Arab world. Arab League suspended Egypt.

2 December 1977: The UN General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (resolution 32/40 B). On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine.

2 December 1977: The UN General Assembly resolved to set up the UN Division for Palestinian Rights (UNDP) as a part of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

6-10 March 1978: Yasser Arafat's Moscow visit.
(<http://www.itnsource.com>)

14 March 1978: Operation Litani: Israel invaded South Lebanon.

19 March 1978: UN Security Council Resolution 425 called for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory and established a UNIFIL force to be dispatched to southern Lebanon.

22 March 1979: UN Security Council Resolution 446 calls on Israel to dismantle settlements "having no legal validity" in Occupied Palestinian Territories, including Jerusalem.

18 September 1978: Israel and Egypt signed the Camp David Accords. It included a condition of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai.

16 January 1979: Mohammad Reza Shah and his wife left Iran. On 1 February, Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Iran from exile. The Shah regime was formally deposed on 11 February.

26 March 1979: The Egypt–Israel Peace Treaty was signed in Washington, D.C. following the 1978 Camp David Accords. The treaty was signed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and witnessed by the then US President Jimmy Carter. Egypt became the first Arab country to officially recognize Israel.

The Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt in stages beginning in 1979 as part of the Treaty. As required by the treaty, Israel had to evacuate Israeli military installations and civilian settlements before establishing normal and friendly relations. Since 1982, the Sinai Peninsula has not been regarded as occupied territory.

26 July 1979: Zohair Mohsen, well-known leader of Al-Saika (Vanguard of the Popular Liberation War), a constituent of the PLO, was assassinated in Cannes, France by Israeli agents.

1979: Edward Said's famous book, *The Question of Palestine* was published.

22 September 1979: Alleged joint nuclear test by Israel and South Africa. (<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/features/did-israel-play-a-role-in-1979-south-africa-nuclear-test-1.281226>)

South Africa turned to Israel after West froze nuclear ties in 1976 over development of military programme. The Vela Incident — sometimes referred to as the South Atlantic Flash — was an unidentified "double flash" of light detected by an American Vela Hotel satellite on 22 September 1979, near the Prince Edward Islands off Antarctica which many believe was of nuclear origin, resulted from a joint South African and Israeli nuclear test.

26 March 1980: India became the first government to extend full diplomatic recognition to the Palestine Liberation Organization. The PLO office in New Delhi was upgraded to the status of an embassy, two days before the historic first visit of Chairman Yassir Arafat to India.

30 July 1980: The Israeli parliament, Knesset, passed the 'Jerusalem Law' making annexation of East Jerusalem explicit.

20 August 1980: The UN Security Council Resolution 478, was adopted condemning Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem. The resolution condemned Israel's 1980 Jerusalem Law which declared Jerusalem to be Israel's "complete and united" capital, as a violation of international law. This resolution also called upon member states to withdraw their diplomatic missions from the city. The resolution was passed with 14 votes to none against, with the United States abstaining.

1980: World Peace Council conferred Ho Chi Minh Award on Yasser Arafat.

7 June 1981: Israeli military planes destroyed the Iraqi nuclear plant.

17 July 1981: Israel bombed PLO headquarters, which had been located in a civilian area of Beirut, Lebanon and caused more than 300 civilian deaths.

6 October 1981: The pro-US President of Egypt, Anwar Sadat, was assassinated in Cairo.

14 October 1981: Hosni Mubarak assumed the presidency in Egypt. He was appointed Vice President in 1975. Mubarak stepped down after 18 days of demonstrations on 11 February 2011.

30 November 1981: The Strategic Cooperation Agreement was concluded between the United States and Israel during the first Reagan administration and coincided with an official visit of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The agreement was signed by Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and the then American Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

14 December 1981: Israel passed the "Golan Heights Law", imposing Israeli administration and law to the occupied territory.

17 December 1981: The UN Security Council resolution 497, adopted unanimously calling on the State of Israel to rescind its de facto annexation of the Golan Heights. The most important provision is "the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is null and void and without international legal effect".

6 June 1982: The First Lebanon War. Israel invaded southern Lebanon in "Operation Peace for Galilee" leaving close to 20,000 civilians dead. Israeli armed forces invaded southern Lebanon. The war resulted in the expulsion of the PLO from Lebanon, and created an Israeli Security Zone in southern Lebanon.

21 August 1982: The PLO started to retreat from Beirut and moved to Tunis.

25 August 1982: Deployment of International Separation Forces (mainly American, French, and Italian) in Lebanon.

30 August 1982: PLO Chief Yasser Arafat left Beirut.

1 September 1982: "Peace Plan" by pro-Israel US President Reagan which called for peace in the area on the basis of the Camp David accords and proposed "self-government for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan".

6-9 September 1982: The Arab League Summit at Fez, Morocco announced a Peace Plan. It demanded:

- Israeli withdrawal from all the Occupied Territories
- Dismantling of settlements established on Arab territories after 1967. At the time they amounted to a total of 92 settlements in 1982, up from 35 in 1977.
- The declaration of a Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

10 September 1982: The International Separation Forces left Lebanon.

14 September 1982: Bachir Gemayel was assassinated when a bomb exploded in the Beirut headquarters of the Phalange. He was a senior member of the Phalange party and the commander of the Lebanese Forces militia amid the first several years of the Lebanese Civil War (1975–90). He was elected president on 23 August 1982 while the country was torn by civil war.

16--18 September 1982: Sabra and Shatila Genocide. The Lebanese Phalange militia in collaboration with the Israeli army slaughtered countless (around 3000, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent) Palestinian refugees, mostly women, children and elderly, in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut.

17 September 1982: The UN Security Council resolution 520 was adopted unanimously demanding immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon in order to restore a stable government there.

8 February 1983: The Kahan Commission, formally known as the Commission of Inquiry into the Events at the Refugee Camps in Beirut, submitted its report. The commission was appointed by the Israeli government on 28 September 1982, to investigate the Sabra and Shatila Massacre (16–18 September 1982). The Commission was chaired by the President of the Supreme Court, Yitzhak Kahan. The then Israeli Defense Minister, Ariel Sharon was asked to resign for his role.

Initially, Sharon refused to resign, and Prime Minister Menachem Begin defended him. However, subsequently he was compelled to resign as Defence Minister, but he remained in the Cabinet as a Minister without Portfolio. Sharon served as Israel's Prime Minister from 7 March 2001 to 14 April 2006.

17 May 1983: Agreement between Israel and anti-PLO Lebanese regime.

24 June 1983: The Syrian government declared Yasser Arafat a persona non-grata, when Arafat castigated the Syrian government for blocking PLO supplies.

23 July 1984: Elections for the 11th Knesset were held in Israel . National unity government (Likud and Labor) formed after elections.

14 January 1985: Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced the cabinet decision to deploy Israeli army in southern Lebanon, again in violation of UN directives.

16 February 1985: The formal existence of Hizballah, the “Party of God” and its armed wing, the Islamic Resistance, were announced in an “Open Letter to the Downtrodden in Lebanon and the World.” The pro-Iranian group came into existence in 1982.

22 April 1985: The United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement was signed.

June 1985: Israel withdrew from most of Lebanon but kept control of the 12-mile-wide security zone in the south. Israel remained there until May 2000. The United Nations established the “Blue Line” as a border between the two countries.

1 October 1985: An Israeli Air Force squadron of eight F-15s followed a nearly straight-line route from Israel for 1,300 miles across the Mediterranean across the Mediterranean Sea and bombed the PLO Headquarters in Hamam al-Shat, Tunis destroying the PLO complex and reportedly killing more than 70 people. It was a clear violation of international law and an act of state terrorism. It was condemned around the world. But, the Reagan administration in the USA hailed the bombings as “a legitimate response and an expression of self-defense,” and abstained from a UN Security Council vote condemning the attack.

January 1987: The United States granted Israel the status of major non-NATO ally, strengthening further their military ties.

8 December 1987: Start of the First Intifada: The first Palestinian uprising took place in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank against the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories. By the end of 1987, a total of 131 Jewish settlements had been built in occupied Palestinian Territories with a total population of 190,000 settlers.

9 December 1987: Hamas (Harakat al Mawqawama al Islamiyya) meaning Islamic Resistance Movement, was formed by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi. It was formed as Egypt-based Muslim Brotherhood’s political arm.

The very next day, leading members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza met to discuss ways of utilizing the event to stir up religious and nationalist sentiments and assure the spread of wide public demonstrations. The meeting was held at the house of Ahmad Yasin, the founder of the Islamic Center, and was attended by other prominent leaders of the Center. On 14 December, the Brotherhood leaders issued a statement calling on the people to stand up to the Israeli occupation. Hamas retrospectively considered this its first serialized leaflet, though the new organization did not identify itself as such until January 1988 when it issued leaflets under the name “Hamas.” [Hamas: A Historical and Political Background, Author(s): Ziad Abu-Amr Source: Journal of Palestine Studies, Vol. 22, No. 4 (Summer, 1993), pp. 5-19, Published by: University of California Press on behalf of the Institute for Palestine Studies/Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2538077>. Accessed: 12/09/2013]

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was allowed by the Israeli authorities to legally register in 1975 an Islamic Association by the name Al-Mujamma al Islami, in Gaza which widened its base of supporters and sympathizers by religious propaganda and camouflaged social work. They set up orphanages and health clinics, as well as a network of schools, as well as system of financial aid to the poor, even the Islamic University in Gaza. With the help of Israel’s intelligence agency Mossad (Israel’s Institute for Intelligence and Special Tasks), they were allowed to strengthen their base in the occupied territories to consolidate anti-PLO forces. (<http://frontpagemag.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/hamas.pdf>)

Though Yassin was arrested in 1984 and sentenced to 13 years of imprisonment for illegal possession of arms and establishing a military organization, he was kept behind the bar only for eleven months. Yassin was released 20 May 1985 by the Israeli government in line with a prisoners’ exchange deal between the Israeli occupation authorities and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The deal, initiated by then-Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, was sharply criticized at the time, but Rabin won the Cabinet’s support.

The Israeli occupation forces ransacked by ransacked Sheikh Ahmed Yassin’s house in late August 1988 and threatened him to expel to Lebanon.

1988-1995

16 April 1988: PLO leader Abu Jihad was assassinated in his Tunis residence by a commando team deputed by Israel's Mossad .

April 1988: Indian government didn't allow its Davis Cup team to play matches in Tel Aviv.

31 July 1988: King Hussein surrendered all Jordanian claims to the West Bank to the PLO. Under the UN Partition Plan of 1947 the West Bank was allotted to the Arab state, but the West Bank was occupied by Trans-Jordan after the 1948 war. In April 1950, Trans-Jordan annexed the West Bank. During 1948-1967, the West Bank was under Jordanian control.

18 August 1988: The Hamas Covenant 1988 (The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement in The Name of The Most Merciful Allah) was adopted.

15 November 1988: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat proclaimed at the 19th session of the PNC in Algiers the Palestinian Declaration of Independence, a statement written by Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish. The Arab League immediately recognized the State of Palestine. The Declaration accepted General Assembly resolution 181(II) of 1947 and the communiqué accepted Security Council resolution 242 of 1967.

18 November 1988: India recognized Palestine's statehood.

13 December 1988: Yasser Arafat spoke before the UN General Assembly. The session was shifted to Geneva, Switzerland due to the United States' refusal to issue the PLO leader with a visa. Yasser Arafat reiterated the declaration of independence of the State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital; he reaffirmed the right of the refugees to return and the right of self-determination.

14 December 1988: At a news conference in Geneva, Yasser Arafat accepted the General Assembly resolution 181 (II) (1947) and Security Council 242 (1967), recognizing the two-state solution. On the same day, the US announced its decision to enter into a "substantive dialogue" with PLO representatives.

15 December 1988: The UN General Assembly adopted resolution 43/177 acknowledging the proclamation of a State of Palestine by the PNC and decided that the designation Palestine be used instead of PLO in the UN system.

8 January 1988—29 April 1992: Birzeit University was closed for 51 months by the Israeli authority. During this period, the University operated underground with small study groups in makeshift arrangements outside the campus. Many students had to spend 10 years to complete their four-year degree programmes.

9 March 1989: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat visited New Delhi to open the Palestine Embassy.

18 May 1989: The Israeli army again arrested Sheikh Yassin. On 16 October 1989, an Israeli army court passed a life sentence in addition to 15 years imprisonment sentence against him. In the meantime, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas was established in 1991. But again Sheikh Yassin was released by the Israel government on 1 Oct 1997 in exchange for two captured Mossad agents. (<http://cosmos.ucc.ie/cs1064/jabowen/IPSC/php/authors.php?auid=2910>)

28 March 1990: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat visited Kolkata. A public reception was accorded to him at Netaji Indoor Stadium in presence of the then West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu. Arafat also met Mother Teresa in Kolkata.

17 July 1990: Yasser Arafat married Suha Tawil.

2 August 1990: Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait. The action was condemned and the UN Security Council imposed economic sanctions against Iraq. But, no such step was taken against Israel before when it attacked and invaded Egypt or Lebanon.

8 October 1990: The Israeli police killed 17 Palestinians in Jerusalem.

17 January 1991: The “Operation Desert Storm” (17 January 1991 – 28 February 1991), a war waged by a UN-authorized coalition force from 34 nations led by the United States against Iraq in response to Iraq’s invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

6 March 1991: President George Bush in a speech addressed to the Congress stated: “A comprehensive peace must be grounded in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace. This principle must be elaborated to provide for Israel’s security and recognition. At the same time for legitimate Palestinians political rights. Anything else would fail the twin tests of fairness and security. The time has come to put an end to Arab-Israeli conflict.”

24–25 May 1991: Israeli army conducted a secret operation in which more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews were brought to Israel.

30 October 1991: The Madrid Conference was convened by the government of Spain and co-sponsored by the USA and the USSR to start a peace process through negotiations involving Israel and the Palestinians as well as Arab countries including Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. It lasted for three days.

16 December 1991: The UN General Assembly Resolution 46/86 revoked Resolution 3379 of 10 November 1975 (on Zionism and racism) with a vote of 111 to 25, with 13 abstentions. India voted in favour of the resolution.

25 December 1991: USSR collapsed.

29 January 1992: Establishment of full bilateral diplomatic relations between India and Israel. Israel opened its Embassy in Delhi in February 1992.

15 May 1992: India opened its Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel.

May 1993: Israeli FM Shimon Peres visited India.

13 September 1993: The first Oslo Accords (Oslo I). The “Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements” was signed at the White House in Washington D.C. in presence of Yitzhak Rabin for Israel, Yasser Arafat for PLO and Bill Clinton for the United States.

The documents themselves were signed by Mahmoud Abbas for the PLO, foreign Minister Shimon Peres for Israel, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher for the United States and foreign minister Andrei Kozyrev for Russia. It was the first face-to-face agreement between the government of Israel and the PLO.



A follow up of the Madrid Conference of 1991, were conducted secretly in Oslo, Norway, hosted by the Fafo institute, and completed on 20 August 1993.

Before signing of the accord, the Government of Israel and the PLO exchanged letters of mutual recognition on 9 September 1993. The two sides agreed on a framework for the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations within the Middle East Peace Process with the aim of, among other things, “to establish a Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority, the elected Council, for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, for a transitional period not exceeding five years, leading to a permanent settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973)”.

4 May 1994: PLO established the Palestinian National Authority territorial administration.

4 May 1994: Agreement on the Gaza Strip and Jericho area signed between Israel and PLO in Cairo, Egypt.

1 July 1994: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat returned to Palestinian lands after 27 years in exile.

11 October 1994: Yasser Arafat was awarded Nobel Peace Prize jointly with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

26 October 1994: The Israel-Jordan Treaty of Peace was signed.

28 September 1995: The Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (also called Oslo 2) was signed, giving Palestinians self-rule in Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah, Tulkarm, and some 450 villages.

4 November 1995: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated in Tel Aviv by a right-wing Jewish activist, Yigal Amir. Shimon Peres assumed the position of acting Prime Minister.

9 November 1995: Arafat visited Tel Aviv, met widow of Shimon Peres to offer his condolences in person.

20 November 1995: Israel becomes an associate member of the European Common Market by the EU-Israel "Association Agreement" signed in Brussels, on 20 November 1995, and following ratification by the 15 Member States parliaments, the European Parliament and the Knesset, entered force on 1 June, 2000. It replaces the earlier Cooperation Agreement of 1975.

(http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/israel/eu_israel/political_relations/agreements/index_en.htm)

1996-2006

20 January 1996: The Palestinian general elections of 1996 were the first elections for the President of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and for members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), the legislative arm of the PNA. They took place in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

Yasser Arafat was elected President; his only opponent was Samiha Khalil (1923-1999). Arafat won the election with 88.2 percent of the vote to Khalil's 11.5 percent. Samiha Khalil was a Palestinian social worker and a prominent figure in Palestinian politics.

During the 1980s, Khalil was active in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and was detained several times. She served on the Palestinian National Council until her death in 1999.

11-27 April 1996: The “Operation Grapes of Wrath” , the code-name for Israeli Army’s sixteen-day invasion into Lebanon. Israel conducted more than 1,100 air raids and extensive shelling (some 25,000 shells). On 18 April, Israeli artillery killed 106 civilians and Israeli warplanes killed 9 other civilians in the city of Nabatiyeh. On 27 April by a ceasefire agreement banning attacks on civilians was reached.

25 June 1996: India opened a Representative Office in Gaza. The office was shifted to Ramallah in August 2003.

29 December 1996-5 January 1997: Israeli President Ezer Weizmann visited India.

7 March 1997: The USA vetoed a Security Council draft resolution on Jerusalem, presented by the four European members of the Council. The resolution called upon Israel to abandon its impending construction of a new settlement at Jabal Abu Ghneim, to the south of East Jerusalem.

21 March 1997: The USA again vetoed a Security Council resolution calling upon Israel to halt the construction at Jabal Abu Ghneim.

24-25 April 1997: The UN General Assembly, in reaction to the two US vetoes, convened for the first time in 15 years, an Emergency Special Session (ESS) to consider “Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory”. It overwhelmingly adopted a resolution (ES-10/2) condemning Israel's construction at Jabal Abu Ghneim, demanding cessation of all illegal Israeli actions, recommending collective measures, and establishing mechanisms for follow-up.

4 December 1997: “...I have come to join you today to add our own voice to the universal call for Palestinian self-determination and statehood. We would be beneath our own reason for existence as government and as a nation, if the resolution of the problems of the Middle East did not feature prominently on our agenda. When in 1977, the United Nations passed the resolution inaugurating the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, it was asserting the recognition that injustice and gross human rights violations were being perpetrated in Palestine. In the same period, the UN took a strong stand against apartheid; and over the years, an international consensus was built, which helped to bring an end to this iniquitous system. But we know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians...”.

--Excerpts from President Nelson Mandela’s address at the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in Pretoria on 4 December 1997. (<http://anc.org.za/show.php?id=3384>)

20–22 November 1997: PLO President Yasser Arafat visited India.

22 January 1998: During a visit by President Yasser Arafat to Washington, DC, President Clinton states, inter alia, the following: “I also would like to take just a second to underline the principles of the peace process: mutual obligations and the concept of land for peace, so that Israelis can live in security, recognized by all their neighbours; and the Palestinians can realize their aspirations to live as a free people”.

23-25 March 1998: The UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, visited Gaza and the West Bank. He met President Arafat and visited a refugee camp. He also met Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem.

7 July 1998: The General Assembly adopted the resolution 52/250, entitled “Participation of Palestine in the work of the United Nations,” voting overwhelmingly to upgrade Palestine's representation at the United Nations to a unique and unprecedented level, somewhere in between the other observers on the one hand and Member States on the other. The resolution conferred upon Palestine additional rights and privileges of participation that had traditionally been exclusive to Member States.

23 October 1998: Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat signed the Wye River Memorandum at a summit in Maryland hosted by US President Bill Clinton. The sides agreed on steps to facilitate implementation of the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip (28 September 1995) and other related agreements including the Hebron Protocol (17 January 1997). Israel's parliament, the Knesset, approved the Wye River Memorandum on 17 November 1998.

14-16 December 1998: US President Bill Clinton visited Gaza and Bethlehem, becoming the first American president ever to visit any Palestinian territory and to deal directly with Palestinian leaders and institutions on their land. Clinton was accompanied by his family and by a large official delegation which included the Secretary of State and the National Security Advisor. President Clinton addressed a meeting in Gaza attended by the President Arafat and other Palestinian dignitaries.

10 April 1999: PLO President Yasser Arafat paid a visit to India.

17 May 1999: Ehud Barak of the Labour Party was elected Prime Minister under the “One Israel” banner.

24 May 2000: Israel completed its unilateral withdrawal and deployed its forces along the 1949 Israeli-Lebanese armistice line. In the midst of Israel's election campaign in 1999, then-prime ministerial candidate Ehud Barak pledged to “bring the boys home” within one year of the inauguration of his government.

10 June 2000: Hafez al-Assad, President of Syria, died.

June 2000: Indian Home Minister Home Minister LK Advani visited Israel. In July 2000 External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh visited Israel.

29 June- 6 July 2000: West Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu visited Israel.

11--25 July 2000: The 2000 Camp David Summit was a summit meeting at Camp David between United States President Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. It was an effort to end the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. The Summit ended without an agreement.

17 July 2000: Bashar Hafez al-Assad, son of former President, Hafez al-Assad, assumed charge as the Syrian President.

28 September 2000: Likud opposition leader Ariel Sharon and members of his Likud party made a visit to Al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem that sparked the Second Intifada. The Second Intifada continued till 2005. Sharon at that time was an opposition leader. He declared that the complex would remain under perpetual Israeli control. Palestinian commentators accused Sharon of purposely inflaming emotions with the event to provoke a violent response and obstruct success of delicate ongoing peace talks.

27 November 2000: Israeli parliament the Knesset amended the “Jerusalem Basic Law”. The amendment further specified the jurisdiction of the law that included East Jerusalem. The amendment also “prohibited transfer of authority to a foreign body”, for example an international regime.

2 November 2000: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak approved a plan to establish a “barrier to prevent the passage of motor vehicles” from the northwest end of the West Bank to the Latrun area. (<http://www.ochaopt.org/> <http://www.btselem.org>)

10 December 2000: Prime Minister of Israel, Ehud Barak, resigned.

21–27 January 2001: The Taba Summit. Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority aimed to reach the “final status” of negotiations. Ehud Barak temporarily withdrew from negotiations during the Israeli elections.

6 February 2001: Election in Israel. Ariel Sharon of Likud Party was elected Prime Minister decisively defeating Ehud Barak. Ariel Sharon presented his government to the Knesset on 7 March 2001. Ariel Sharon refused to continue negotiations with Yasser Arafat at the Taba Summit favouring a tougher approach to Israel’s “Palestinian problem”. Sharon intensified security measures. Assassinating Palestinian militants, air strikes and military incursions into Palestinian self-rule areas became common. Palestinian militants, meanwhile, stepped up suicide bomb attacks in Israeli cities.

June 2001: Prime Minister Ariel Sharon established a Steering Committee under the National Security Council (NSC) to develop a more comprehensive plan to prevent Palestinian militants from infiltrating into Israel. The Steering Committee’s recommendations led to the implementation and expansion of Barak’s earlier plan. A barrier to block Palestinians crossing by foot into Israel at certain locations along the ‘Seam Zone’ (a strip of land extending on both sides of the 1949 Armistice or Green Line) is conceived.

On 18 July 2001, the Ministerial Committee for Security Matters approved the steering committee’s recommendations. (<http://www.ochaopt.org/> <http://www.btselem.org>)

27 August 2001: Abu Ali Mustafa, General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was assassinated by an Israeli missile shot by an Apache helicopter through his office window in Ramallah.

3 October 2001: “Every time we do something you tell me America will do this and will do that . . . I want to tell you something very clear: Don’t worry about American pressure on Israel. We, the Jewish people, control America, and the Americans know it.”

-- Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, October 3, 2001. Ariel Sharon acted as Prime Minister from 7 March 2001 to 14 April 2006.

17 October 2001: Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi was assassinated in Jerusalem.

3 December 2001: The UN General Assembly adopted resolutions 56/33 and 56/34 appealing to extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations in order to mobilize

international solidarity and support for the achievement by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and for a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine.

14 December 2001: The French daily L'Humanité reported that the Hamas was founded by Israel's intelligence agency, Mossad, to prevent the creation of a Palestinian State. The report was translated to English by Global Outlook in 2002, and published by Global Research in March 2004.

Ahmed Yassin, leader of the Islamic fundamentalists in Palestine, returned from Cairo in the seventies, and established an Islamic charity association. The then Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, saw this as an opportunity to counterbalance the rise of Arafat's Fatah movement.

According to the Israeli weekly, Koteret Rashit (October 1987), "The Islamic associations as well as the university had been supported and encouraged by the Israeli military authority" in charge of the (civilian) administration of the West Bank and Gaza.

At the end of 1992, there were six hundred mosques in Gaza. The Islamists were allowed to reinforce their presence in the occupied territories. Meanwhile, the members of Fatah and the Palestinian Left were subjected to the most brutal form of repression.

(<http://wariscrime.com/new/hamas-was-founded-by-mossad>)

11 February 2002: The Israeli warplanes bombed a Palestinian security complex a few hundred metres from the offices of the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. The complex had already been badly damaged by previous attacks.

23 February 2002: A missile fired from an Israeli helicopter slammed into President Arafat's Ramallah compound. The PLO leader was unhurt.

24 February 2002: The Israeli helicopters again blasted targets in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, while missiles struck metres away from President Arafat's bedroom. The Israeli ground troops entered Gaza City for the first time in 17 months.

28 March 2002: Beirut Declaration on Saudi Peace Initiative: The Arab States' offered official recognition of Israel in exchange for Israel's full retreat from to pre-4 June 1967 lines and the establishment of a Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital.

29 March–3 May 2002: Israeli occupation forces invaded (Codenamed: Operation Defensive Shield) Ramallah. The offensive began with an attack on President Yasser Arafat's headquarters.

The Israeli occupation forces then entered Bethlehem, Tulkarem and Qalqiliya from 1 April, followed by Jenin and Nablus from the nights of 3-4 April. Those places were declared "closed military areas", barring access to the outside world, including medical aid and humanitarian relief services. Jenin was cut off for 4-15 April; the old city area of Nablus for almost all the time during 3-22 April. The Israeli occupation forces cut water and electricity in most areas, and imposed strict curfews on residents within the towns. (<http://www.globalexchange.org/country/palestine/primer#10>)

10 April 2002: The Quartet, comprising the US, the UN, Russia and the EU, was founded with the aim of mediating the peace process. It issued its first statement calling for a two-state solution.

16- 17 April 2002: The International Meeting in Support of Middle East Peace held in Nicosia, Cyprus.

18 April 2002: The United Nations NGO Meeting in Solidarity with the Palestinian People was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

23 June 2002: The Israeli Cabinet approved in principle the Seam Zone Administration formulated plan to build Phase I of the Barrier through the northern part of the West Bank and along the northern and southern borders of the 'Jerusalem Envelope'. Construction of the Wall, including land confiscation and the uprooting of trees, began in June 2002.

(<http://www.ochaopt.org/> <http://www.btselem.org>)

24 June 2002: US President George Bush's Rose Garden Speech.

He said: "In the situation the Palestinian people will grow more and more miserable. My vision is two states, living side by side in peace and security. There is simply no way to achieve that peace until all parties fight terror. Yet, at this critical moment, if all parties will break with the past and set out on a new path, we can overcome the darkness with the light of hope. Peace requires a new and different Palestinian leadership, so that a Palestinian state can be born.

I call on the Palestinian people to elect new leaders, leaders not compromised by terror. I call upon them to build a practicing democracy, based on tolerance and liberty. If the Palestinian people actively pursue these goals, America and the world will actively support their efforts. If the Palestinian people meet these goals, they will be able to reach agreement with Israel and Egypt and Jordan on security and other arrangements for independence."

22 July 2002: The Israeli warplane fired a missile at an apartment in Gaza City killing Salah Shehadeh, top commander of Hamas' military wing.



14 August 2002: The Israeli Cabinet approves the final route of Phase I which consists of 123 km of barrier in the northern West Bank and 20 km around Jerusalem.

(http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_barrier_report_july_2009_english_low_res.pdf)

5 October 2002: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat signed a law to making Jerusalem the capital of the future Palestinian state. The law was passed

by the Palestinian Council in 2000.

28 January 2003: Elections for the 16th Knesset were held in Israel.

Ariel Sharon formed the 30th government. His coalition initially included just Shinui and the National Union (Israel BaAliya had merged into Likud soon after the election), though the National Religious Party joined the government on 3 March.

16 March 2003: Ms. Rachel Corrie, a 23-year old American member of the International Solidarity Movement from Olympia, Washington, was crushed deliberately by an Israeli army bulldozer in Rafah, in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, while protesting against the demolition of Palestinian homes.



19 March 2003: Mahmoud Abbas was appointed Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority.

20 March 2003: The US Army invaded Iraq. The US completed its withdrawal of military personnel in December 2011.

April 2003: B'Tselem – The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories published a report titled, Behind The Barrier-- Human Rights Violations As a Result of Israel's Separation Barrier.

30 April 2003: “A Performance-based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” was announced. It specifies the steps that the two parties need to implement to reach a full settlement of disputes, and a timeline for doing so, under the auspices of the Quartet - the United States, the European Union, the United Nations, and Russia.

8 May 2003: Brajesh Mishra, National Security Advisor of India at the time of the BJP-led NDA government gave a speech at the annual dinner of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) in Washington, in which he proposed an informal association of democratic countries, which come together for a limited aim of combating terrorism.

“It is an honour to be invited to this distinguished gathering at the AJC Annual Dinner. The people of India admire the pioneering work of AJC, particularly in promoting human rights and combating religious discrimination. We also value your contribution to promoting US-India relations and India-Israel relations.

India has a historical affinity with the Jewish people. It is one of very few countries in the world with no history of anti-Semitism. Until the early 1990's, the constraints of the Cold War prevented this cordiality from extending to India's relations with Israel. Now we have full diplomatic relations, and a broad range of economic and, defence cooperation. We have increased the tempo of our high-level visits. We hope to receive Prime Minister Ariel Sharon soon in India on an official visit.

The end of the Cold War also ushered in a major transformation in India's relations with USA. Our Prime Minister has referred to the two countries as `natural allies'. The US National Security Strategy report, released last September by President Bush, asserts that the two countries have common strategic interests.

India, the United States and Israel have some fundamental similarities. We are all democracies, sharing a common vision of pluralism, tolerance and equal opportunity. Stronger India-US relations and India-Israel relations have a natural logic.

I am pleased to see so many distinguished members of the United States Congress here today. They are friends of Israel. They are also friends of India. The Caucus on India and Indian-Americans in the House of Representatives has nearly 160 members. It is perhaps the largest single country-Caucus in the House, testifying to the growing bonds of friendship between the world's oldest democracy and its largest.

The increasing contact between the AJC and Indian-American community organizations is another positive reflection of shared values of our peoples.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our principal theme here today is a collective remembrance of the horrors of terrorism and a celebration of the alliance of free societies involved in combating this scourge. The US, India and Israel have all been prime targets of terrorism. They have to jointly face the same ugly face of modern day terrorism.

This is a common challenge. Global terrorism did not start on September 11, 2001. But that date marks a global awakening to its reach.

The international coalition against terrorism has scored some successes. Terrorism needs to be rooted out wherever it exists.

After over a year and a half of the global fight against terrorism, it is far from over. The leaders of the Al-Qaeda remain at large. We keep hearing that they have the know-how and the material to build at least a crude radiological device. This is naturally a matter of extreme concern. We cannot ignore this spectre of globalization of terror and its intersection with WMD.

We see worrying signs of a regrouping of Taliban elements in southern and southeastern Afghanistan. And this is only a segment of the international terrorist network. It will, therefore, be a long haul and its success would require a genuine commitment to its objectives by every member of the international coalition.

It is most unfortunate that some diversionary arguments are still preventing a consensus on important anti-terrorist conventions. An agreed definition of terrorism still eludes the international community. Distinctions sought to be made between freedom fighters and terrorists propagate a bizarre logic, which glorifies massacres of one set of innocent civilians, while condemning killings of others.

Another fallacy motivatedly propagated is that terrorism can only be eradicated by addressing its 'root causes'. This is nonsense. Terrorist attacks against innocents have no justification. Democratic societies, which address the 'root causes' of alienation and anger through pluralism and socio-economic justice, are precisely the targets of terrorism.

As the main targets of international terrorism, democratic countries should form a viable alliance against terrorism and develop the multi-lateral mechanisms to counter it. Such an alliance would have the political will and moral authority to take bold decisions in extreme cases of terrorist provocation. It would not get bogged down in definitional and causal arguments about terrorism. Blocking financial supplies, disrupting networks, sharing intelligence, simplifying extradition procedures - these are preventive measures which can only be effective through international cooperation based on trust and shared values.

A core, consisting of democratic societies, has therefore to gradually emerge from within our existing coalition, which can take on international terrorism in a holistic and focused manner. It would ensure that the global campaign against terrorism, is pursued to its logical conclusion, and does not run out of steam, because of other preoccupations. We owe this commitment to our future generations. Thank you.”

(<http://www.ajc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=ijITI2PHKoG&b=851361&ct=1118743>)

19 June 2003: Israel began construction of West Bank Security Wall/Fence

August 2003: The Representative Office of India to the Palestine National Authority was shifted from Gaza to Ramallah.

9-10 September 2003: Ariel Sharon, first Israeli prime minister came to India in an official visit. At that time BJP-led NDA government was in power in India. September 2003 Israeli Prime Dy. Prime Minister & Minister of Justice Joseph Lapid, Minister of Education Limor Livnat and Minister of Agriculture Israel Katz accompanied the Israeli PM.

25 September 2003: Edward Said died. He was a professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, a literary theorist and an eminent intellectual. Born a Palestinian Arab in the city of Jerusalem, he was an American citizen through his father. Said was an advocate for the political and the human rights of the Palestinian people.

October 2003: More than a year after Barrier construction begins, the Government of Israel publishes the first Cabinet-approved route of the Barrier.

The area between the Barrier and the Green Line in the northern West Bank is declared closed and a permit and gate regime is introduced for Palestinians residing in, and entering, this 'Seam Zone' area. (http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_barrier_report_july_2009_english_low_res.pdf)

21 October 2003: UN General Assembly adopted Resolution against illegal construction of the security wall by Israel in occupied Palestinian territory. It was approved by a recorded vote of 144 in favour to 4 against, with 12 abstentions. India also voted in favour of the resolution.

8 December 2003: The UN General Assembly in its tenth emergency special session adopted resolution ES-10/14, in which the Assembly requested the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to urgently render an advisory opinion on: "the legal consequences arising from the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, as described in the report of the Secretary-General, considering the rules and principles of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions".

22 March 2004: Sheikh Ahmed Yassin (born in 1937), founder of Hamas was killed when an Israeli helicopter gunship fired a missile at him as he was being wheeled from early morning prayers. 200,000 Palestinians attended his funeral procession.

Sheikh Yassin survived an assassination attempt on 6 September 2003 when Israeli F-16s fired missiles on a building in Gaza City. He was injured in his right arm.

17 April 2004: Abdel Aziz Rantisi, co-founder of the Hamas with Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, was killed in Gaza by the Israeli army after they fired Hellfire missiles from an AH-64 Apache helicopter at his car.

30 June 2004: The Israeli Supreme Court stated that the security fence was built for reasons of national security.

6 July 2004: A "Call for Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel" was issued by the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI). The PACBI was established in April 2004 in Ramallah by a small group of Palestinian academics and intellectuals and widely supported by leading civil society associations, unions and networks.

The full text of the 6 July 2004 Call is given below:

CALL FOR ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

Whereas Israel's colonial oppression of the Palestinian people, which is based on Zionist ideology, comprises the following:

Denial of its responsibility for the Nakba -- in particular the waves of ethnic cleansing and dispossession that created the Palestinian refugee problem -- and therefore refusal to accept the inalienable rights of the refugees and displaced stipulated in and protected by international law;

Military occupation and colonization of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza since 1967, in violation of international law and UN resolutions;

The entrenched system of racial discrimination and segregation against the Palestinian citizens of Israel, which resembles the defunct apartheid system in South Africa;

Since Israeli academic institutions (mostly state controlled) and the vast majority of Israeli intellectuals and academics have either contributed directly to maintaining, defending or otherwise justifying the above forms of oppression, or have been complicit in them through their silence,

Given that all forms of international intervention have until now failed to force Israel to comply with international law or to end its repression of the Palestinians, which has manifested itself in many forms, including siege, indiscriminate killing, wanton destruction and the racist colonial wall,

In view of the fact that people of conscience in the international community of scholars and intellectuals have historically shouldered the moral responsibility to fight injustice, as exemplified in their struggle to abolish apartheid in South Africa through diverse forms of boycott,

Recognizing that the growing international boycott movement against Israel has expressed the need for a Palestinian frame of reference outlining guiding principles,

In the spirit of international solidarity, moral consistency and resistance to injustice and oppression,

We, Palestinian academics and intellectuals, call upon our colleagues in the international community to comprehensively and consistently boycott all Israeli academic and cultural institutions as a contribution to the struggle to end Israel's occupation, colonization and system of apartheid, by applying the following:

Refrain from participation in any form of academic and cultural cooperation, collaboration or joint projects with Israeli institutions;

Advocate a comprehensive boycott of Israeli institutions at the national and international levels, including suspension of all forms of funding and subsidies to these institutions;

Promote divestment and disinvestment from Israel by international academic institutions;

Work toward the condemnation of Israeli policies by pressing for resolutions to be adopted by academic, professional and cultural associations and organizations;

Support Palestinian academic and cultural institutions directly without requiring them to partner with Israeli counterparts as an explicit or implicit condition for such support.

Endorsed by:

Palestinian Federation of Unions of University Professors and Employees; Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions; Palestinian NGO Network, West Bank; Teachers' Federation; Palestinian Writers' Federation; Palestinian League of Artists; Palestinian Journalists' Federation; General Union of Palestinian Women; Palestinian Lawyers' Association; and tens of other Palestinian federations, associations, and civil society organizations.

(http://www.pacbi.org/etemplate.php?id=1291#_edn16)

17 May 2004: The UN General Assembly affirmed that the status of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, remained one of military occupation, and affirmed that the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination and to sovereignty over their territory.

9 July 2004: International Court of Justice's historic advisory opinion on the illegality of Israel's Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories--- “ Settlements by Israel in breach of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories - Construction of the wall and its associated régime create a ‘fait accompli’ on the ground that could well become permanent -Risk of situation tantamount to de facto annexation - Construction of the wall severely impedes the exercise by the Palestinian people of its right to self determination and is therefore a breach of Israel's obligation to respect that right.” (<http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/131/1671.pdf>)

The judges called on Israel to dismantle the structure and pay reparations for damage caused.

Today, around two thirds of the planned 708 km route of the Separation Wall is completed. The vast majority is built inside Palestinian territory, and 9.4 percent of West Bank land is thus de facto annexed to Israel. Cross-barrier traffic is channelled through checkpoints regulated by Israel. The wall cut 25,000 Palestinians off from the West Bank or East Jerusalem.



The Separation Wall has fragmented Palestinian territory physically and politically. It has a disastrous impact on Palestinian economic and social development and undermines prospects for Palestinian independence. The wall has furthered Israeli deafness to the Palestinian struggle, a struggle more concealed than ever and now encircled with barbed wire.

(<http://www.alternativenews.org/english/index.php/features/up-close/6722-icj-condemnation-of-separation-wall-nine-years-on-6722>)

20 July 2004: The UN General Assembly in Resolution ES-10/15 overwhelmingly reaffirmed the ICJ Advisory Opinion and demanded that Israel comply with the ICJ opinion.

29 October 2004: Seriously ill while under Israeli military siege in his presidential compound in Ramallah in the West Bank, Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian National Authority was flown to a hospital near Paris.

11 November 2004: Yasser Arafat died at the age of 75 in a Paris hospital. Mahmoud Abbas became new Chairman of the PLO.



11 November 2004-15 January 2005: Rawhi Fattuh, former Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, served as the interim President of the Palestinian Authority, following the death of Yasser Arafat. Under Palestinian law, he was to hold the post for 60 days until an election is held.

9 January 2005: The 2005 Palestinian presidential election — the first after 1996 — took place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. PLO chairman Mahmoud Abbas was elected to a four-year term as the new President of the Palestinian National Authority. Seven candidates contested the election. Abbas won over 62% of the votes cast, with independent Mustafa Barghouti coming second, on just under 20%, and the remaining candidates far behind.

The election was boycotted by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Mahmoud Abbas was sworn in as the President on 15 January 2005. No Palestinian presidential elections have taken place since 2005, and Abbas has been continuing in office.

8 February 2005: Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, and Ariel Sharon, prime minister of Israel, held summit talks at this Egyptian resort -- the highest-level meeting between the sides in four years -- and declared a truce in hostilities.

14 February 2005: Rafic Hariri, the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, was killed, when explosives were detonated as his motorcade in Beirut. He was 60.

8 May 2005: Mahmoud Abbas was chosen as the acting President of State of Palestine. The post was vacant after the death of Arafat. On 23 November 2008, Abbas was chosen as the President of the State of Palestine by the Palestine Liberation Organization's Central Council.

29 May -- 5 June 2005: Parliamentary elections in Lebanon. The elections gave a majority (72 out of 128 seats) to a large, anti-Syrian bloc known as the March 14 Movement, headed by Saad Hariri, a son of the late prime minister.

June 2005: The Palestinian Legislative Council passed a new law increasing the number of members from 88 to 132, stipulating that half be elected under a system of proportional representation and half by plurality-at-large voting in traditional constituencies. New parliamentary polls took place on 25 January 2006.

9 July 2005: Palestinian Civil Society called for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with International Law and Universal Principles of Human Rights. The joint statement issued by them:

“One year after the historic Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) which found Israel’s Wall built on occupied Palestinian territory to be illegal; Israel continues its construction of the colonial Wall with total disregard to the Court’s decision. Thirty eight years into Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian West Bank (including East Jerusalem), Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan Heights, Israel continues to expand Jewish colonies. It has unilaterally annexed occupied East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights and is now de facto annexing large parts of the West Bank by means of the Wall. Israel is also preparing – in the shadow of its lanned redeployment from the Gaza Strip – to build and expand colonies in the West Bank. Fifty seven years after the state of Israel was built mainly on land ethnically cleansed of its Palestinian owners, a majority of Palestinians are refugees, most of whom are stateless. Moreover, Israel’s entrenched system of racial discrimination against its own Arab-Palestinian citizens remains intact.

In light of Israel’s persistent violations of international law; and

Given that, since 1948, hundreds of UN resolutions have condemned Israel’s colonial and discriminatory policies as illegal and called for immediate, adequate and effective remedies; and

Given that all forms of international intervention and peace-making have until now failed to convince or force Israel to comply with humanitarian law, to respect fundamental human rights and to end its occupation and oppression of the people of Palestine; and

In view of the fact that people of conscience in the international community have historically shouldered the moral responsibility to fight injustice, as exemplified in the struggle to abolish apartheid in South Africa through diverse forms of boycott, divestment and sanctions; and

Inspired by the struggle of South Africans against apartheid and in the spirit of international solidarity, moral consistency and resistance to injustice and oppression;

We, representatives of Palestinian civil society, call upon international civil society organizations and people of conscience all over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era. We appeal to you to pressure your respective states to impose embargoes and sanctions against Israel. We also invite conscientious Israelis to support this Call, for the sake of justice and genuine peace.

These non-violent punitive measures should be maintained until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with the precepts of international law by:

1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall;
2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and
3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.” (<http://www.bdsmovement.net/call>)

15 August-12 September 2005: The Israeli government “implemented and completed” a unilateral disengagement plan from the Gaza Strip. The Israeli cabinet formally declared an end to Israeli military occupation of the Gaza Strip. However, the claim of the Israeli government was not accepted by the UN. The Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories is still unchanged. Israel actually wanted to hoodwink the global opinion.

23 August 2005: Israel's unilateral disengagement plan: The evacuation of some Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and West Bank was declared complete.

14 October 2005: Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora announced Lebanon would be the last Arab country to have any peace with Israel.

15-16 November 2005 Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak participated in the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit in Delhi and lectured on “The Middle East- risks and opportunities for a stable world”.

21 November 2005: Israeli PM Ariel Sharon resigned as leader of the ruling Likud party saying that it was unfit to run the country. He announced the launch of a new party, National Responsibility [Kadima], to compete in the general election in March 2006. On 20 December 2005, Sharon's longtime rival Benjamin Netanyahu was elected his successor as leader of Likud. Ehud Olmert replaced Sharon as Kadima's leader, for the nearing general elections.

1 December 2005: Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi said that the West Bank separation barrier was likely to approximate Israel's border with a future Palestinian state.

(<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/1504571/>)

1 December 2005: The UN General Assembly in resolution 60/37 requested the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights, as part of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November, to continue to organize an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the UN.

December 2005: The Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem publishes a report which concludes that the expansion of settlements was a primary consideration of the routing of the Barrier. Title of the report: "Under the Guise of Security : Routing the Separation Barrier to Enable Israeli Settlement Expansion in the West Bank". (http://www.btselem.org/publications/summaries/200512_under_the_guise_of_security)

2005: Ma'an News Agency (MNA) was launched. It is an integral part of Ma'an Network, a non-profit media organization founded in 2002 to strengthen professional independent media in Palestine, build links between local, regional and international media, and consolidate freedom of expression and media pluralism as keys to promoting democracy and human rights. Ma'an Network is a partnership between independent journalists throughout Palestine, including nine local television stations and nine local radio stations. (<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx>)

4 January 2006: Ehud Olmert assumed charge as acting Prime Minister of Israel after Ariel Sharon suffered a stroke on 4 January 2006. Ehud Olmert was Confirmed on 14 April 2006. He remained PM till 31 March 2009.

Ariel Sharon has been in coma since suffering a stroke on 4 January 2006

25 January 2006: The elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), the legislature of the Palestinian National Authority were held. Final results show that Hamas won the election, with 72 seats, providing Hamas with the majority of the 132 available seats and the ability to form a majority government on their own. Of the Electoral Lists, Hamas received 44.45% and Fatah 41.43% and of the Electoral Districts, Hamas party candidates received 41.73% and Fatah party candidates received 36.96%.

Many members of Hamas, ministers and PLC members were arrested by Israel and held as political prisoners.

The Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei, resigned, but at the request of President Mahmoud Abbas, remained as interim Prime Minister until Hamas leader Ismail Haniya formed the new government.

19 February 2006: Hamas leader Ismail Haniya formed the new government.

13 June 2006: Israel killed 11 Palestinians in a missile strike on a van driving through a densely civilian populated area in Gaza. Nine among those killed were civilians.

27 July 2006: The Committee Against Israeli Aggression organised a demonstration at the Israeli embassy, New Delhi, India to protest against Israel's brutal aggression on Lebanon. Hundreds of people participated in the demonstration, which was led by CPI(M) general secretary Prakash Karat and CPI secretary D Raja. Besides activists of the Left parties, the participants also included several well-known intellectuals, artists and prominent personalities.

This protest meeting was addressed by Prakash Karat, D Raja and Phul Singh (RSP). Vijender Sharma, former DUTA president presided over the meeting. Prakash Karat in his speech demanded the Indian government to immediately sever all military ties with Israel. "India is the largest customer of the Israeli arms today. So, it is the responsibility of our government to stop buying arms from a nation which is devastating both Lebanon and Palestine", he asserted.

12 July-14 August 2006: The Second Lebanon War, which began as a military operation in response to the abduction of two Israeli reserve soldiers by the Hezbollah, and gradually grew to a wider conflict. The conflict started on 12 July 2006, and continued until a United Nations-brokered ceasefire went into effect in the morning on 14 August 2006, though it formally ended on 8 September 2006 when Israel lifted its naval blockade of Lebanon.

8 November 2006: Amidst ongoing rocket fire, Israel shells Beit Hanoun, killing 19 Palestinian civilians (seven children, four women) during the Gaza operations. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert apologized, saying the incident had been an accidental “technical failure” by the Israeli military.

November 2006: Simon and Schuster published the book titled “Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid” written by Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States (1977–1981) and winner of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize. Excerpts: “When Israel does occupy this territory deep within the West Bank, and connects the 200-or-so settlements with each other, with a road, and then prohibits the Palestinians from using that road, or in many cases even crossing the road, this perpetrates even worse instances of apartness, or apartheid, than we witnessed even in South Africa.”

15 December 2006: Fighting broke out in the West Bank between PLO and Hamas activists.

25 November 2006: An agreement was reached between Ehud Olmert and Mahmoud Abbas to establish a mutual ceasefire in Gaza.

30 December 2006: Deposed President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein was executed by the US-controlled Iraqi regime.

2007-2013

January 2007: Palestinian security forces seized assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades during a raid of the Islamic University of Gaza.

8 February 2007: The Mecca Agreement was signed between Fatah and Hamas in the city of Mecca after eight days of talks, agreeing to stop the military clashes in the Gaza Strip and form a government of national unity. Representatives from the Fatah side included the President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas and parliament member Mohammed Dahlan. The Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya and Khaled Mashal represented Hamas.

2-4 June 2007: Communist Party of Israel and People’s Party of Palestine held a three day programme called ‘Jerusalem Initiative’ at Jerusalem on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Israeli occupation of Jerusalem after the six- day war of 1967.

Attended by representatives from 12 countries, it was held with the objective of ‘Just Peace’ on the basis of two States: Israel and Palestine. The statement of the Initiative called for ending the Israeli occupation; the complete dismantling of all settlements; removing the separation wall; establishing the June 4, 1967 boundaries as a peaceful border between the State of Israel and the Palestine State; the co-existence of the capitals of Israel and Palestine in Jerusalem; and a solution to the refugee problem in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions.

Sitaram Yechury, Polit Bureau member of CPI(M) and V J K Nair vice president of CITU participated in the meeting. The other participants included representatives from Communist Party of USA, CP of Britian, CP of Italy, CP of Portugal, CP of Greece, CP of France, Socialist Left Party, Norway, Red-Green Alliance Denmark, The Left Party, Germany, AKEL Cyprus, RJD India, women’s organisations from Greece, Cyprus and European parliament. Of the 27 foreign delegates, eleven were women. (http://pd.cpim.org/2007/0624/06242007_jerusalem.htm)

7 June 2007: Battle of Gaza began, resulting in Hamas taking control of the Gaza Strip from Fatah.

10-15 June 2007: The Fatah– Hamas military conflict between Fatah and Hamas that took place in the Gaza Strip. The battle resulted in the dissolution of the unity government and the de facto division of the Palestinian territories into two entities, the West Bank governed by the Palestinian National Authority, and Gaza controlled by Hamas.

14 June 2007: President Abbas dismissed Prime Minister Haniya, a Hamas nominee, and appointed Dr. Salam Fayyad as new Prime Minister next day.

Salam Fayyad's appointment as Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority was not confirmed by the Palestinian Legislative Council. Haniya did not acknowledge the decree and continues to exercise prime ministerial authority in the Gaza Strip.

Salam Fayyad led the foundation of a small centrist Palestinian political party, Third Way in December 2005. He was reappointed on 19 May 2009.

15 July 2007: Shimon Peres, former prime minister and defense minister, assumed office as the ninth President of Israel.

25 July 2007: The Jordanian foreign minister Abdul Ilah Khatib and Egyptian foreign minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit - appointed by the Arab League as its representatives - met with Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert, foreign minister Tzipi Livni, and defense minister Ehud Barak in Jerusalem. This was the first time that an Israeli government received an official delegation from the Arab League.

16 August 2007: United States-Israel The 10-Year Military Aid Agreement. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by then U.S. Under Secretary of State R. Nicholas Burns and Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General Aaron Abramovich.

The Bush Administration and the Israeli government agreed to a 10-year, \$30 billion military aid package. Under the terms of the agreement, Israel will still be able to spend up to 26.3% of U.S. assistance on Israeli-manufactured equipment. (<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33222.pdf>)

19 September 2007: The Israeli Security Cabinet has designated the Gaza Strip as a "hostile territory". While Israel remains committed to averting any humanitarian crisis, it does not feel required to provide any supplies which go beyond that.

16 November 2007: American newspaper, *Chicago Tribune* published a report by Jim Tankersley of Washington Bureau that the U.S. government authorized almost \$1 million in foreign aid to the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) with links to Hamas and to the Muslim Brotherhood even after multiple vetting of the school for ties to terrorism.

The audit, obtained by the Tribune, is dated Nov. 6 and marked "sensitive but unclassified." It has not been released to the public. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) asked USAID officials to conduct it earlier this year, following a news report that the agency gave \$140,000 to a university linked to Hamas, the Palestinian group labeled a terrorist organization by the U.S.

(http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2007-11-16/news/0711160366_1_usaid-terrorist-foreign-aid)

22 November 2007: The first Palestinian BDS (Boycott Divestment and Sanctions) Conference held in Ramallah, West Bank. Out of this conference emerged the BDS National Committee (BNC) as the Palestinian coordinating body for the BDS campaign worldwide.

The BNC's mandate and role is:

- To strengthen and spread the culture of boycott as a central form of civil resistance to Israeli occupation, colonialism and apartheid;
- To formulate strategies and programs of action in accordance with the 9 July 2005 Palestinian Civil Society BDS Call;
- To serve as the Palestinian reference point for BDS campaigns in the region and worldwide;
- To serve as the national reference point for anti-normalization campaigns within Palestine;
- To facilitate coordination and provide support & encouragement to the various BDS campaign efforts in all locations.

The BNC's main activities include:

- Campaigning with BDS activists locally and worldwide by preparing and disseminating BNC statements; public speaking; organizing the annual Global BDS Action Day on 30 March (Palestinian Land Day);
- Advocacy by briefing and lobbying policy makers;
- Monitoring & Rapid Response by means of BNC calls for action against projects and initiatives which amount to recognition of or cooperation with Israel's regime of apartheid, colonialism and occupation (i.e., normalization);
- Media Outreach in Palestine and abroad, based on a professional media strategy;
- Coordination with BDS activists locally and worldwide, including preparation of regional and international organizing meetings and conferences;
- Awareness Raising & Training activists and organizations about BNC analysis, standards and BDS campaign work; through workshops, BNC information materials and the BDS campaign website (www.bdsmovement.net)
- Developing the BDS Campaign in Arab countries;
- Research and BDS Strategy Development.
(<http://www.bdsmovement.net/call>)

27 November 2007: Annapolis Conference, a peace conference marked the first time a two-state solution was articulated as the mutually agreed-upon outline for addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The conference ended with the issuing of a joint statement from all parties.

26 January 2008: George Habash (1926 –2008) , founder of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine died in Jordan after a massive heart attack. Habash served as Secretary-General of the Palestine Front until 2000.

23 March 2008: Fatah and Hamas signed an agreement in Sana'a, Yemen that called for a return of the Gaza Strip to the pre-June 2007 situation, though this was not materialized.

21 May 2008: In Lebanon, Hezbollah reached a deal (the Doha agreement) with the government under which its power of veto was recognised.

In accordance with the agreement, General Michel Suleiman, was elected president on 25 May 2008. He chose Prime Minister Fouad Siniora to continue as the head of the government. Disagreements over the assignment of ministry positions in the cabinet delayed the formation of a unity government until 11 July 2008. In the new government, Hezbollah and the opposition gained a blocking minority (one-third plus one) of cabinet seats. Eleven ministerial portfolios went to the opposition, including one to Hezbollah itself—the Ministry of Labor.

15 June 2008: Sixty years of Nakba, Occupation and Resistance in Palestine was remembered in New Delhi jointly by the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO) and the Committee for Independent Foreign Policy (CIFP). A meeting was held, which was addressed by by Issam Makhoul, Polit Bureau member, Israeli Communist Party, former member of Knesset and an important voice on the national rights of the Palestinian people, Prakash Karat, CPI(M) General Secretary, A B Bardhan, CPI General Secretary, D P Tripathi, Secretary, Nationalist Congress Party and journalist-activist Sema Mustafa.

19 June 2008: Israel and Hamas concluded a “lull” or Tahdiya agreement that was brokered by Egypt. Hamas, but not Israel, declared that this truce was for a period of six months. Rocket fire from Gaza was reduced but not stopped.

9 August 2008: The Palestinian national poet, Mahmoud Darwish, died at the age of 67, three days after heart surgery at a hospital in Houston, Texas.

9 September 2008: The AIPSO West Bengal State Unit observed the day as the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

In West Bengal, the day was observed with full seriousness. A meeting was organized on the day in front of Metro Channel, Kolkata. A mass deputation and signature campaign was held from 4 PM to 8 PM. People from all walks including scientists, educationists, film & TV personalities, musicians, sports people, youth and students’ activists took part in this programme. AIPSO decided to send a letter to the Prime Minister of India demanding to cancel the Indo-Israel Treaty. More than 30 thousand people have signed the appeal. Rabin Deb, Convener, AIPSO, West Bengal chaired the meeting.

14 October 2008: Lebanon and Syria established formal diplomatic ties for the first time since the two countries gained independence sixty years ago.

8 November 2008: Palestinian reconciliation talks due to be held in Cairo were called off after Hamas announced a boycott in protest at the detention of hundreds of its members by President Mahmud Abbas's security forces.

23 November 2008: Mahmoud Abbas was elected the President of the State of Palestine by the PLO Central Council, a job he had held unofficially since 8 May 2005.

4 November 2008: Israeli troops made a raid on Gaza, they killed six members of Hamas. Hamas responded with rocket attacks on southern Israel.

27 December 2008: Israel launched Operation Cast Lead against the Hamas controlled Gaza Strip, a full-scale invasion of the territory. Operation Cast Lead continued until 18 January 2009.

28 December 2008: Israeli warplanes bombed the Islamic University in the Gaza Strip.

6 January 2009: Israeli ordinance struck a UN school housing displaced persons in the Jabaliya refugee camp, killing between thirty and forty people. Israel said that it had come under mortar fire from inside the school.

6 January 2009: Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez expelled Israel’s ambassador from Caracas in protest over Gaza genocide.

10 January 2009: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met Egyptian President Mubarak in Cairo. Egypt said it would not accept foreign troops on its side of the border with Gaza to stop arms smuggling.

15 January 2009: Israeli tanks entered Gaza City and UNRWA was hit by Israeli shells.

16 January 2009: Israeli tanks redeployed to the periphery of Gaza City.

17 January 2009: Israel declared a unilateral ceasefire.

20 January 2009: The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon visited Gaza and said the UN would work with any united Palestinian government to rebuild.

10 February 2009: Parliamentary elections took place in Israel.

31 March 2009: Benjamin Netanyahu, the Chairman of the Likud party, became Prime Minister of Israel. He served as PM first time from 1996 to 1999. In Israel, the Labour party joined the government coalition led by Benjamin Netanyahu.

3 April 2009: The Human Rights Council announced the appointment of Richard Goldstone to lead the fact-finding mission to investigate human rights and humanitarian law violations related to the recent conflict in Gaza.

4 June 2009: President Obama called for “a new beginning” in his speech at the Cairo University. Obama supported Two-State Solution and opposed settlements in Cairo speech. “Israelis must acknowledge that just as Israel's right to exist cannot be denied, neither can Palestine's.”

June 2009: A pro-Western alliance, led by 39-year-old leader of the Sunni majority Saad Hariri, won a majority of seats in the June parliamentary election in Lebanon, defeating the Iranian-backed Shia militant group Hezbollah. Saad Hariri is the son of Rafik Hariri - Lebanon's former prime minister who was killed in Beirut in 2005.

14 June 2009: Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu in his speech at Bar-Ilan University at Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, on the topic of the Middle East peace process, endorsed for the first time the notion of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

23 August 2009: Palestinian PM Fayyad came out with a detailed working plan for the 13th Government of the Palestinian Authority for establishing the fundamental infrastructures of a Palestinian State, called “Palestine — Ending the Occupation, Establishing the State”, in which he detailed a two year working plan for reinforcing the institutions of the future Palestinian State.

15 September 2009: The UN released its report on the Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (the Goldstone Report). 5 November 2009

The General Assembly endorsed the Goldstone Report in resolution 64/10 and requested the Secretary-General to report on implementation of the resolution “with a view to considering further action...including [by] the Security Council.”

22 September 2009: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas attended a tri-lateral meeting with US President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

9 November 2009: In Lebanon, Saad Hariri, leader of the 14 March alliance, formed a national unity government.

May 2010: Israel barred Noam Chomsky from entering the West Bank, where he was to deliver a lecture. He finally broadcast his speech by video link from Jordan.

31 May 2010: The military operation by Israeli naval forces against six ships of the “Gaza Freedom Flotilla” in international waters of the Mediterranean Sea, some 80 nautical miles from the coast of the Gaza Strip. The flotilla, organized by the Free Gaza Movement and the Turkish Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (İHH), was carrying humanitarian aid and construction materials, with the intention of breaking the Israeli-Egyptian blockade of the Gaza Strip. A confrontation resulted in 9 civilian deaths, all Turkish nationals including one dual US-Turkish national.

(The Gaza Blockade, Operation Cast Lead, Freedom Flotilla Massacre & Ongoing Occupation: The Case for the Suspension of Israel from the Euro-Med Agreement/ Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC) Briefing Document for the Joint Committee on European Affairs - 21/06/2010/ Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Unit 5, 64 Dame Street, Dublin 2, Ireland; Website: www.ipsc.ie)

20 July 2010: The United States State Department has upgraded the Palestinian Liberation Organization's mission in Washington, giving the PLO Mission to the U.S. the status of 'Delegation General'.

22-23 September 2010: A two day conference on “A Just Peace for Palestine” held at New Delhi. The Conference was jointly organised by the Committee for Solidarity with Palestine, Palestine BDS National Committee, All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation and other like-minded organisations. All the speakers emphasised that until the Israeli oppression of Palestine people ended, the much sought after ‘two-state solution’ would never get realised. The Conference gave a united call for academic and cultural boycott of Israel.

Among the speakers were: Father Miguel Brockmann, former President of the UN General Assembly, Jamal Zahalka, a member of the Israeli Knesset (parliament), Professor Aijaz Ahmed, Professor Richard Falk of Princeton University, Professor Upendra Baxi , Prof. Achin Vanaik of Delhi University, Mustafa Barghouti , a candidate for the Presidency of the Palestinian Authority, Walden Bello , Co-Founder of Focus on Global South, Ilan Pape, professor of history in the University of Exeter, Ms. Lisa Taraki a sociologist at Birzeit University of Palestine, Dr. Mordecai Briemberg, Thomas Sommer- Houdeville, Seema Mustafa. President of the Jatiya Samaj Kranti Dal and member of parliament of Bangladesh, Moinuddin Khan, Prakash Karat, general secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), veteran trade union leader from Bangladesh Rashed Menon, chairman of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Manzurul Khan, Mani Shankar Aiyar, member of parliament of the Rajya Sabha, Jamal Juma, co-ordinator of Stop the Wall campaign, D.P.Tripathi, general secretary of the Nationalist Congress Party, A.B.Bardhan, general secretary of the Communist Party of India, Jamal Zahalka, member of the Knesset representing the Balad party.

15 October 2010: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met the leading Communist Party of Israel (CPI) members in Ramallah.

3 December 2010: HARMONY INDIA, an association promoting communal harmony, secularism and human solidarity, organised a well-attended meeting in Chennai on December 3 to express solidarity with the long-suffering people of Palestine. Nine other organisations, representing a broad spectrum of society, co-sponsored the meeting which expressed support to the courageous uprising of the Palestinian people in what has been termed the second Intifada. The meeting urged the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government not to deviate from the long-standing Indian position in support of the cause of Palestine. Among the speakers were Sitaram Yechury, Polit Bureau member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), C.V. Narasimhan, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, Mythily Sivaraman,

all-India vice-president of the AIDWA, Rev. Raju Thomas, Professor, Madras Theological Seminary and College of the ECI, representing Bishop Ezra Sargunam, Moulana Qari Hafiz, Mohammed Qasim Ansari, the Imam of the Periamet mosque in Chennai, N. Ram, the president of Harmony India and Editor of Frontline, and Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, the secretary-general of Harmony India and the Prince of Arcot, among others. (<http://www.frontline.in/static/html/fl1726/17260600.htm>)

17 December 2010: Tarek al-Tayeb Mohamed Bouazizi, a 26 year old Tunisian street vendor set himself on fire in protest of the confiscation of his wares and the harassment and humiliation that he reported was inflicted on him by a municipal official and her aides. His act became a catalyst for the popular uprising in Tunisia and the wider Arab Spring, inciting demonstrations and riots throughout Tunisia in protest of social and political issues in the country. The violence intensified following Bouazizi's death, leading President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to step down on 14 January 2011, after 23 years in power.

12 January 2011: Lebanon's unity government collapsed when Hezbollah and its allies quit the cabinet after the Prime Minister, Saad Hariri, leader of the March 14 Alliance, refused to convene an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss how to deal with the naming of suspects in the killing of his father.

The move is a significant escalation in months of tension in Lebanon over the issuing of indictments by a UN-backed tribunal, which are expected to implicate at least three members of Hezbollah. Following the 2009 parliamentary elections, Saad Hariri formed a national unity government on 9 November 2009.

25 January 2011: Thousands of protesters in Egypt gathered in Tahrir Square, Cairo. They demanded the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak. On 11 February, the President of Egypt Hosni Mubarak resigned, and transferred his powers to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces.

27 April 2011: Fatah's Azzam al-Ahmad announced the party's signing of a memorandum of understanding with Hamas' leadership, a major step towards reconciliation effectively paving the way for a unity government.

4 May 2011: At a ceremony in Cairo the agreement was formally signed by the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal.

The accord provided for forming a "transitional" government of technocrats to prepare for legislative and presidential elections to the Palestinian Authority in one year and to take step to decide on future security arrangements.

In June 2011, following the unity accord, negotiations proceeded regarding the formation of a unity government. Hamas had initially indicated that it wished to remain out of governance to focus on the more social work it conducted prior to its 2006 ascendancy, but it later retracted this statement.

13 June 2011: In Lebanon, a pro-Hezbollah government led by Prime Minister Najib Mikati was formed. Najib Mikati is a Sunni while Hezbollah is Shia. He's a business tycoon, the richest man in the country. Najib Mikati announced his resignation on 22 March 2013.

18-22 September 2011: The World Federation of Democratic Youth and the World Peace Council carried out a Solidarity Mission to Palestine. 20 delegates from 14 countries participated. The International mission took place upon invitation of the Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity (PCPS), met representatives of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), PLO, the Palestinian Legislative Council, the political parties (FATAH, PPP, PFLP, DFLP), youth Organisations and movements. The two international Organisations also met representatives of the Peace Movement in Israel as well as with the Communist Party of Israel and the Front for Peace and Equality (Hadash) of the Knesset.

23 September 2011: Palestine Authority moved a resolution in UN for recognition of Palestine statehood.

11 October 2011: Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas met Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez in the presidential palace Miraflores in Caracas. They signed nine agreements, including one to construct health facilities in Palestine. Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez reiterated his country's support for Palestine's petition for statehood currently under discussion in the UN. Venezuela and the Palestinian Authority established formal diplomatic relations in April 2009.

20 October 2011: Libyan president Muammar Gaddafi was captured and brutally killed by NATO forces.

31 October 2011: UNESCO's General Conference voted to admit Palestine as 195th member of the Organization. The United States, Canada, Germany and Holland voted against Palestinian membership. Brazil, Russia, China, India, South Africa and France voted in favor. Britain and Italy abstained. Obama administration threatened to cut funding to UNESCO over the vote. Israel's ambassador to UNESCO Nimrod Barkan said, "This resolution is a tragedy for UNESCO..."

9-10 January 2012: Indian External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna visited Israel against the backdrop of 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Krishna met President Peres, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Finance.

March 2012: The United Nations Human Rights Council created an independent "International Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" to "investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, with a mandate ending on submission of a report to the Council."

The mission was composed of Christine Chanet from France (Chair of the Mission), Asma Jahangir from Pakistan, and Unity Dow from Botswana.

May 2012: The 27 ministers of foreign affairs of the European Union published a report strongly denouncing policies of the State of Israel in the West Bank and finding that settlements in the West Bank are illegal: "settlements remain illegal under international law, irrespective of recent decisions by the government of Israel. The EU reiterates that it will not recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties."

24 June 2012: Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammed Morsi won Egypt's presidential runoff. Morsi won by a narrow margin over Ahmed Shafiq, the last prime minister under deposed leader Hosni Mubarak.

10 July 2012: Palestinian Cabinet issued a decision to hold local elections in all West Bank districts on 20 October 2012. 272 out of a total of 353 localities participated in said elections. However, the Cabinet issued another decision to hold complementary elections on 22 December 2012 where 81 localities took part. Hamas refused to participate in these elections.

5 August 2012: A meeting of a 12-member Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) committee to support a Palestinian bid for upgraded U N membership was cancelled at the last minute after Israel refused to allow representatives of five country (Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cuba and Malaysia) to enter Ramallah, West Bank.

Besides India, ministers and officials from Egypt, Algeria, South Africa, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Cuba and Colombia were expected to attend the meeting. The representatives were to be flown by helicopter from a Jordanian airport to Ramallah.

30-31 August 2012: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas attended the 16th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Tehran, Iran.

18-21 October 2012: Prof. Noam Chomsky visited Hamas-ruled Gaza. He took part in the 1st International Conference on Applied Linguistics and Literature at the Islamic University of Gaza on 20 October 2012. The Islamic University conferred Honorary Doctorate on Prof. Chomsky at an official ceremony on 21 October 2012.

Prof Chomsky also met a number of civil society leaders and government officials, including Hamas “Prime Minister” Ismail Haniya.

22-23 October 2012: The Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani visited Gaza, the first head of state to visit since Hamas took over Gaza in 2007.

14–21 November 2012: The so-called “Operation Pillar of Defense”. The Israeli army killed Ahmed Jabari, second-in-command of the military wing of Hamas, Izzad-Din al-Qassam Brigades. Israel struck 1500 sites in Gaza, including rocket launchpads, weapon depots, government facilities and apartment blocks.

29 November 2012: The UN General Assembly accorded Palestine non-Member Observer State status in the United Nations, despite intense opposition from the United States and Israel.

The resolution elevated their status from “non-member observer entity” to “non-member observer state,” the same category as the Vatican.

The vote was 138 delegates in favor, 9 (Canada, Czech Republic, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Panama, Palau, United States) against and 41 abstentions, including Germany. India co-sponsored the resolution and voted in favour of it.

17 December 2012: UN Chief of Protocol Yeocheol Yoon announced that “the designation of ‘State of Palestine’ would be used by the Secretariat in all official UN documents.”

4 January 2013: The Palestinian National Authority was officially transformed into the State of Palestine.

22 January 2013: General elections in Israel.

25 January 2013: Massive protests against Mohamed Morsi developed all over Egypt on the second anniversary of the 2011 revolution, including in Tahrir Square, where thousands of protesters gathered.

18 March 2013: Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in as the Prime Minister of the Coalition government in Israel. In the new cabinet the ultra-anti-Palestinian Zionist forces dominate.

It is evident from political profiles of some of the ministers inducted. Here are some examples-

Naftali Bennett (Trade and Economics) has stated that “there is not going to be a Palestinian state within the tiny land of Israel,” referring to the whole of Mandate Palestine. He supports the annexation of 60 percent of the West Bank.

Yair Lapid (Finance) delivered an election trail speech in major West Bank colony Ariel, declaring that Israel will retain illegal settlement blocs. He has said that he wants to “be rid of” Palestinians in the West Bank and to “put a tall fence between us and them.”

Tzipi Livni, Justice Minister, once said: “I am a lawyer ... But I am against law — international law in particular. Law in general.”

Moshe Ya’alon (Defense) too has had to alter his travel plans to avoid an arrest warrant for war crimes, and has described “the Palestinian threat” as “harbor[ing] cancer-like attributes” — a racist statement he later reiterated in an interview with Haaretz. He has also expressed support for the West Bank settlements that are illegal even under Israeli law.

Yisrael Katz (Transport) has previously pressed for a change in road signs so that Arabic names would be a direct transliteration of the Hebrew, commenting: “This government, and certainly this minister, will not allow anyone to turn Jewish Jerusalem to Palestinian al-Quds.”

Gideon Sa’ar, Interior Minister, made his mark as the previous Education Minister by targeting freedom of speech and political dissent.

Gilad Erdan (Communications and Home Front Protection) has previously introduced a bill to give the courts power to revoke Israeli citizenship based on “disloyalty to the state.”

Uri Ariel, Housing Minister, himself helped found illegal settlements, and has already rejected the idea of a so-called construction “freeze.”

Uri Orbach (Minister for Senior Citizens Affairs) wrote in 2008: “We, the Jews, have no intention to commit suicide and lose our Jewish State in the name of our democratic values.”

Uzi Landau (Tourism) is another supporter of the more extreme Jewish settlers, and has attacked Palestinian community leaders as “an anti-Semitic group that seeks to undermine our right to exist here.”

Yair Shamir (Agriculture) opposes the creation of a Palestinian state, and regarding the occupied West Bank, commented: “The Arabs there who call themselves Palestinian, they’ll stay or go, but we’ll definitely stay. We need to keep building in the land.”

Limor Livnat (Culture and Sports) once urged Israeli filmmakers to exercise self-censorship in order to avoid presenting a bad image of the country abroad.

Yuval Steinitz (International, Intelligence and Strategic Affairs) supported the denial of citizenship to Palestinians marrying Israeli citizens in order to protect “demographic balance.”

(Inputs from: “Meet Israel’s new government: a justice minister against law, a housing minister who led settlers”, submitted by Ben White /<http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ben-white/meet-israels-new-government-justice-minister-against-law-housing-minister-who-led>)

18 March 2013: The final report of the independent “*International Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*” was presented at a Human Rights Council session in Geneva by Christine Chanet and Unity Dow. The report chronicles a multitude of human rights abuses against the Palestinian people by the Israeli ruling clique.

21 March 2013: US President Barack Obama visited Ramallah and met President Mahmoud Abbas. They also attended a joint press conference in Ramallah.

22 March 2013: In Lebanon, pro-Hezbollah government led by Prime Minister Najib Miqati resigned. The government was formed on 13 June 2011.

On 6 April 2013, Tammam Salam, former Minister of Culture, became the Prime Minister. The 14 March Alliance officially nominated Salam as prime minister.

13 April 2013: Palestinian National Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad submitted his resignation. He took charge as PM on 15 June 2007.

2 June 2013: Rami Hamdallah, president of An-Najah University in Nablus, was named new Prime Minister by the President Mahmoud Abbas. Hamdallah also served as secretary-general of the Palestinian Central Elections Commission.

5 June 2013: President Mahmoud Abbas said that the Palestinian people will never give up their right to Jerusalem as the capital of their state in spite of all the Israeli measures intended to alter the character of the occupied city.

Abbas was speaking at the fourth annual conference on Jerusalem, which is held in Ramallah.

12 June 2013: B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories released a new report titled "Acting the Landlord: Israel's Policy in Area C, the West Bank". The latter presents Israel's policy as implemented in Area C, primarily by the Civil Administration, and explores the policy's implications for the population of the West Bank as a whole. (<http://www.btselem.org>)

13 June 2013: The 24-member interim government, headed by Rami Hamdallah, was sworn in before President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah.

18-19 June 2013: United Nations International Meeting in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace "Reviving the collective international engagement towards a two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict" held in Beijing, China.

3 July 2013: Mohamed Morsi was deposed as President of Egypt.

22 July 2013: European Union took decision to blacklist Lebanese Hezbollah as a terrorist outfit.

26 July 2013: The Egyptian government got a court order to detain ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi for questioning over charges of colluding with Palestinian Hamas.

28 July 2013: Naftali Bennett, Israel's economy minister and Jewish Home party head made a statement during the cabinet meeting dated 28 July 2013 while arguing with National Security Adviser Ya'akov Amidror about the prisoner release.

Bennett: "If you catch terrorists, you have to simply kill them."

Amidror: "Listen, that's not legal."

Bennett: "I've killed lots of Arabs in my life – and there's no problem with that."

This was reported by the Hebrew-language newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth in its print edition on 29 July 2013. However, Bennett later said that his quote was taken "out of context".

(http://972mag.com/nstt_feeditem/naftali-bennett-ive-killed-lots-of-arabs-in-my-life-without-any-problem)

29 July 2013: The Middle East peace talks between the Israeli and Palestinian officials resumed.

19 September 2013: The 16th Palestinian government headed by Rami Hamdallah was sworn in Ramallah.

20 September 2013: Danny Danon, Israel's deputy defense minister the Cabinet of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, demanded that Israel Should Annul the Oslo Accords. In an opinion piece in the New York Times he said: " The government of Israel must admit that we made a mistake and declare that the Oslo process has failed. Only by officially annulling the Oslo Accords will we have the opportunity to rethink the existing paradigm and hopefully lay the foundations for a more realistic modus vivendi between the Jews and Arabs of this region."

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/21/opinion/israel-should-annul-the-oslo-accords.html>)

26 September 2013: The Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's first U.N. address as the President of the state of Palestine. The goal of Middle East peace talks should be "an end to all conflict with Israel", he said.



Abbas

3 October 2013: Israeli housing minister, Uri Ariel said, "West Bank will be Under Israeli Control Forever". Ariel was addressing settlers near the Shilafim settlement in the occupied West Bank. "All the area located to the west of the Jordan River is owned by Israel and it will continue to be under Israeli control forever," he said.

17 October 2013: President Mahomud Abbas met Pope Francis, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, in Rome's Vatican City and extended an invitation for the pope to visit Palestine.

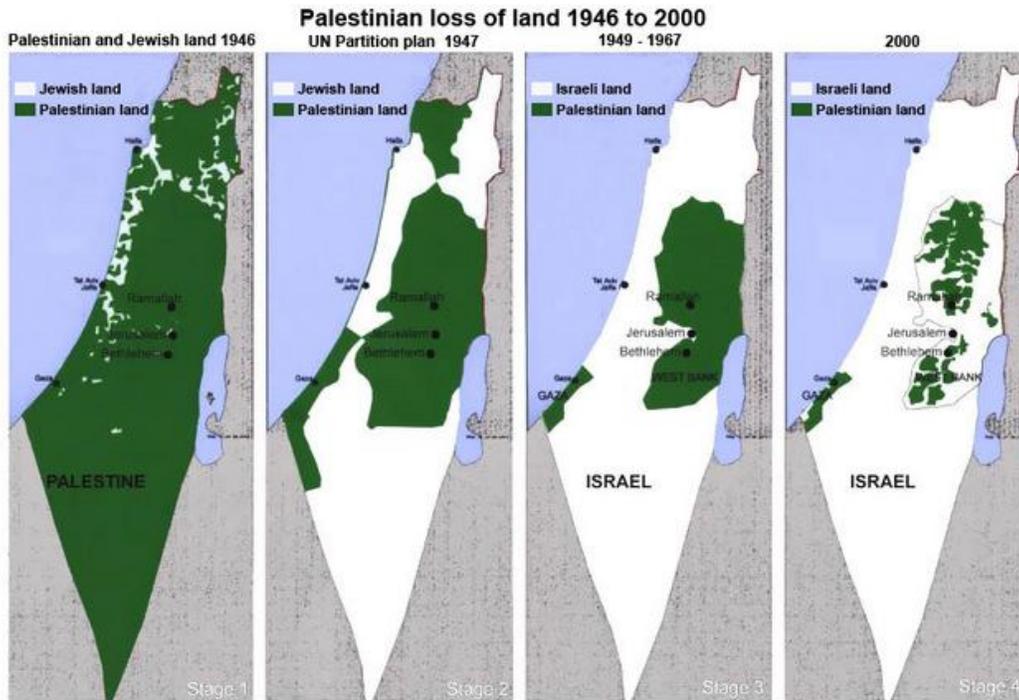
22 October 2013: Municipality election in occupied Jerusalem illegally organized by Israel. PLO boycotted the elections.

=====

ALL INDIA PEACE & SOLIDARITY ORGANISATION (AIPSO) DEMANDS

- i) the end to the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine
- ii) establishing an independent Palestinian state within the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital
- iii) realization of peaceful coexistence of Palestine and Israel according to the "two-state solution"
- iv) the dismantling of the Apartheid Wall and all illegal settlements
- v) the Right of Return for all Palestinian refugees on the basis of UN Resolution 194
- vi) immediate release of Palestinian political prisoners from Israeli jails
- vii) the end of US support for Zionist policies of Israel
- viii) the Indian government must sever military and security ties with Israel and extend genuine support to the Palestinian cause

=====



NOTE: The timeline is NOT based on any original research work. However, we tried our best to crosscheck and verify the facts and information referred hereto. The purpose of this compilation is nothing but to help the peace and solidarity activists. Relevant information are collected primarily from various online sources, including the following. We are thankful to the people and organization who run those websites. We will be happy if this timeline encourages its readers to study the topic more deeply. Please feel free to suggest any correction and any other input for its improvement.

- <http://972mag.com>
- <http://anc.org.za>
- <http://articles.chicagotribune.com>
- <http://cpim.org/pd>
- <http://edition.cnn.com>
- <http://eeas.europa.eu>
- <http://electronicintifada.net>
- <http://embassies.gov.il/delhi>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org>
- <http://english.pnn.ps>
- <http://english.wafa.ps>
- <http://fpc.state.gov>
- <http://frontpagemag.com>
- <http://globalmbreport.org>
- <http://globalresearch.ca>
- <http://henrymakow.com>
- <http://israelipalestinian.procon.org>
- <http://maki.org.il>
- <http://mondediplo.com>
- <http://nad-plo.org/userfiles>
- <http://original.antiwar.com>
- <http://twocircles.net>
- <http://unispal.un.org>
- <http://venezuelanalysis.com>
- <http://wariscrime.com>
- <http://whatreallyhappened.com>
- <http://www.ajc.org>
- <http://www.alternativenews.org>
- <http://www.alternativenews.org>
- <http://www.amnesty.org>
- <http://www.bdsmovement.net>

<http://www.birzeit.edu>
<http://www.btselem.org>
<http://www.cartercenter.org>
<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org>
<http://www.countercurrents.org>
<http://www.fmep.org>
<http://www.frontline.in>
<http://www.globalpolicy.org>
<http://www.haaretz.com>
<http://www.icf.org.il>
<http://www.icj-cij.org>
<http://www.ifamericansknew.org>
<http://www.indembassy.co.il>
<http://www.indianexpress.com>
<http://www.israeli-occupation.org>
<http://www.itisapartheid.org>
<http://www.itnsource.com>
<http://www.maannews.net>
<http://www.meforum.org>
<http://www.mfa.gov.il>
<http://www.mideastweb.org>
<http://www.minfo.ps>
<http://www.nytimes.com>
<http://www.ochaopt.org>
<http://www.ochaopt.org>
<http://www.pacbi.org>
<http://www.palestineembassy.org>
<http://www.passia.org>
<http://www.pij.org>
<http://www.policyalmanac.org>
<http://www.seamac.org>
<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org>
<http://www.solvingthemiddle-east.com>
<http://www.stophewall.org>
<http://www.un.int>
<http://www.un.int>
<http://www.upi.com>
<http://www.elections.ps>

ARTICLES

RECOGNITION OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION (PLO) : AN APPRAISAL OF INDIA'S POLICY Author(s): B.N. MEHRISH Source: The Indian Journal of Political Science, Vol. 36, No. 2 (APRIL-JUNE 1975), pp. 137-160 Published by: Indian Political Science Association Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41854662> .

Hamas: A Historical and Political Background Author(s): Ziad Abu-Amr Source: Journal of Palestine Studies, Vol. 22, No. 4 (Summer, 1993), pp. 5-19 Published by: University of California Press on behalf of the Institute for Palestine Studies Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2538077>

The Evolution of India's Palestine Policy: A Fall from the Heights? Author(s): Shamir Hasan Source: Social Scientist, Vol. 36, No. 1/2 (Jan. - Feb., 2008), pp. 79-93 Published by: Social Scientist, Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27644262> .

RECOGNITION OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION (PLO) : AN APPRAISAL OF INDIA'S POLICY Author(s): B.N. MEHRISH Source: The Indian Journal of Political Science, Vol. 36, No. 2 (APRIL-JUNE 1975), pp. 137-160 Published by: Indian Political Science Association, Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41854662> .

