

The Palestinian Strategic Report 2005



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Chapter Six

The Palestinian Demographic Indicators

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The Palestinian Demographic Indicators¹

Introduction:

The year 2005 concluded while, more than half of the Palestinians are still experiencing the bitterness of asylum and enforced life in the Diaspora, and 1 million & 600,000 of them are homeless, though they live within the historical borders of Palestine. So, the case of the Palestinian refugees is the oldest in the world.

Tens of international resolutions were passed in support of their right to return to their land. But Israel does not only deny this right and the legitimacy of the international resolutions themselves, but also actively strives to implant its own Judaic character on Palestine, and to impose a new scenario on the ground that will lead to the immigration of more Palestinians from their land.

However, the high birthrate among Palestinians, compared to the low Israeli one, is still a glimmer of hope for the Palestinians and, at the same, time, a great source of concern for the Israelis. It is expected that the Palestinians will outnumber the Jews in historical Palestine during the next few years. But, the mere increase in the number of Palestinians can not be relied upon to determine the end of the conflict and to restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

General Demographic Indicators:

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) estimates the number of Palestinians worldwide to be 10 million & 100,000 by the end of 2005. Only 4 million & 900,000 live in historical Palestine, of whom 2 million & 400,000 are in the West Bank (WB), 1 million & 400,000 in Gaza Strip (GS), and around 1 million & 100,000 inside Israel. However, around 3 million live in Jordan, who constitute the largest number of Palestinians in the Diaspora.²

The Palestinian people have a high fertility rate, 4.6 births per woman according to the census of 2003. Statistics showed that the general birthrate reached 37.3 births per 1,000 Palestinians. Life expectancy for the year 2005 is 71.7 for males, and 73.4 for females.³ According to some sources, the fertility rate per woman for 2005 was 4.4 births in the WB and 5.91 births in GS.⁴

Table 1/6: General Demographic Indicators for the Year 2005

Total number of Palestinians (in million)	Birthrate (for each 1,000)	Life expectancy (males)	Life expectancy (females)
10.1	37.3	71.7	73.4



The Palestinian society is distinguished by its youthfulness, with 52.8% under the age of 18, that is, 2 million out of the total number of the population in both the WB and GS. In the WB there are 605,360 males and 582,780 females under 18, while those in the same category in GS are 390,083 males and 384,500 females. There are 114,800 senior citizens (age 65 and above) who represent 3% of the total population; 49,300 males and 65,500 females.⁵

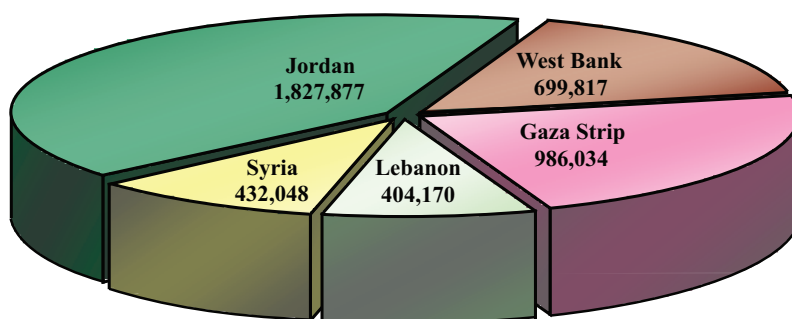
Palestinian Refugees : Some writers use the term: *Laji'un*, i.e., “refugees” to describe the Palestinians living in the Diaspora on the grounds that they left their homeland after the 1948 war. But this is incorrect as many of the 1948 refugees still live in the WB and GS. Some other writers include in the 1948 refugees those who were compelled to leave from the WB and GS; after the 1967 war, whom they call: *Nazihun*, i.e., immigrants. This is also in-accurate, since large numbers of Palestinians left the WB and GS during the period 1948 – 1967 for different reasons, especially those who left for the East Bank in Jordan or to the Gulf countries seeking livelihood. There are also young people who left the WB and GS since 1967 to study or work abroad. They are all now denied by the Zionist authorities their right to return to their homeland under various pretexts, such as the expiry of their exist permissions. Moreover, some Palestinians were driven out of their land because they resisted the occupation. Hence, a large number of Palestinians are homeless, though they live within the geographical borders of Palestine. Others live outside Palestine, but they are not necessarily refugees of the 1948 war.

The systematic Zionist invasion managed to establish Israel on 77% of historical Palestine, and to expel the inhabitants of 675 cities and villages. These refugees totaled 5 million & 250,000 in 2000, living in many camps and villages in what remained of Palestine and in some neighboring Arab countries, in addition to other Arab and foreign cities. A report from the PCBS showed that 42.5% of the Palestinians living in the WB and GS, by the end of 2005, were refugees from the land occupied by Israel in 1948.⁶ Those registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), are 700,000 in the WB and 986,000 in GS, totaling about 1 million & 686,000.⁷

**Table 2/6: Number of Refugees in Different Countries until 31/12/2005
Registered by UNRWA⁸**

Area	Number of individuals	Births	Families
West Bank	699,817	7,768	153,485
Gaza Strip	986,034	24,321	212,943
Lebanon	404,170	3,482	102,603
Syria	432,048	8,014	102,508
Jordan	1,827,877	25,863	351,991
Total Number	4,349,946	69,488	923,530

Number of Refugees in Different Countries until 31/12/2005 Registered by UNRWA

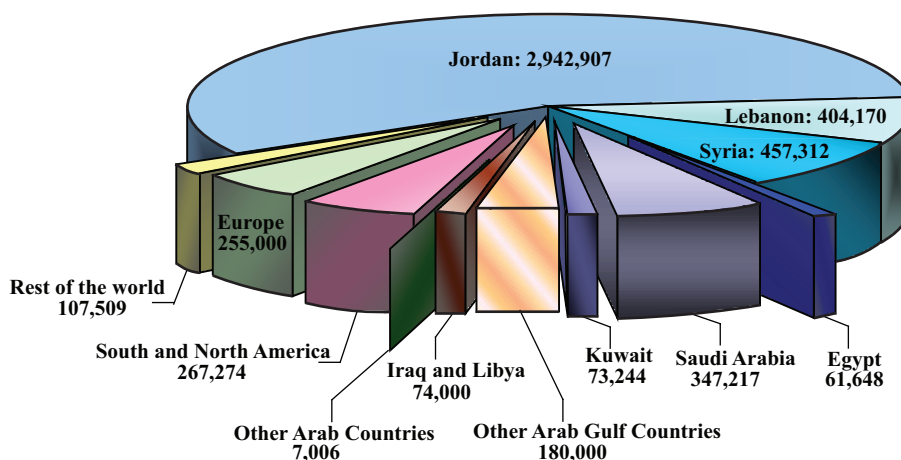


According to the PCBS, Palestinians living abroad at the end of 2005 amounted to 5 million & 200,000;⁹ in which 3 million are in Jordan, 432,000 in Syria, and 404,000 in Lebanon. However, the number of the Palestinian refugees living in Jordan in the records of UNRWA, 1 million & 827,877, is not correct because some are not registered with this Organization, because they did not need its services (see table 2/6).

It is difficult to estimate the number of Palestinians living abroad. Some may have got the nationalities of the countries of their residence, like Jordan. Other countries do not have a separate census for them, while thousands of Palestinians are being traveling to the Gulf countries, Europe, Canada, Australia and other countries. Having considered different tables and estimates, the annual 3.4 Palestinian population growth rate, in addition to Palestinian immigration from Lebanon and to the Gulf countries, Europe, Canada, and Australia, the following table 3/6 may give a reasonably accurate estimate of the Palestinians living in the Diaspora, though, admittedly, its figures require some revision. However, this table is almost in conformity with the estimates of the PCBS.

Table 3/6: Estimates of Palestinians Living in the Diaspora

Area	1998	2005
Jordan	2,328,803	2,942,907
Lebanon	357,559	404,170
Syria	361,884	457,312
Egypt	48,784	61,648
Saudi Arabia	274,762	347,217
Kuwait	57,960	73,244
Other Arab Gulf countries	105,578	180,000
Iraq and Libya	74,284	74,000
Other Arab Countries	5,544	7,006
South and North America	203,588	267,274
Europe	190,000	255,000
Rest of the world	69,248	107,509
Number of Palestinians abroad	4,077,994	5,177,287

Estimates of Palestinians Living in the Diaspora in 2005


There are some problems related to the estimates concerning the Palestinian refugees in Europe; who are estimated at 200,000, by the European Council, of whom 80,000 in Germany, 20,000 in Denmark, 15,000 in Britain, 9,000 in Sweden, and 3,000 in France. But other reports assert that the number of Palestinians in Germany exceeds 200,000 and 50,000 are in Britain, in addition to countries in which a good number of Palestinians live, but are not included in the estimates of the European Council, such as Holland, Italy, Austria, Spain and others.¹⁰ Dr. ‘Abbas Sheblaq, a researcher in the Refugees Studies Center at Oxford University in Britain, estimated the numbers of Palestinians living in the European Union at 250,000; around 25,000 of them live in Britain, which is the third largest European host country of the Palestinians.¹¹

The Israeli–Palestinian Demographic Conflict:

The deeply-rooted Zionist belief is occupying lands, crushing and expelling its people. This is known in international law as “ethnic cleansing”. It is a war crime that should not be ignored and neglected with the passing of time, but there must be some kind of retribution or compensation to the victims. However, this Zionist principle has remained unchanged, irrespective of the change in circumstances over the past decades.

During the British Mandate, which implemented the notorious Balfour Declaration, the mandatory government enacted laws that facilitated Zionist Jewish immigration to the land of Palestine, and the expulsion of its own people. These plans increased the rate of the land owned by the Zionists in the entire area of Palestine by 3%; that is, from 2% in the Ottoman period to 5% by the end of the Mandate. However, the real threat lay in the increasing number of immigrant Jews, who reached 30% by the end of the British Mandate. Most of those immigrants were in the military profession, of whom many had served in the Second World War. Actually, those immigrants did not come to Palestine as mere quiet refugees as they claim, but as invaders to expel its people.

This reminds us of the catastrophe of 1948 where the organized Zionist invasion managed to drive out the inhabitants of 675 cities and villages, who later became refugees, totaling in 2000, about 5 million & 250,000. This was the greatest organized crime of ethnic cleansing in modern history. Unlike other war crimes that occur only during the hostilities, and sometimes accidentally by the mob, the 1948 one is, indeed, unprecedented because it had been well planned, and is continuing on daily basis since 1948 and until the present day, though its means and ways may have changed under the guise of “open war”, “heated peace” or occupation.

The western powers, who provide the Zionists with arms, money, moral and political support, continue their support to this orchestrated Zionist crime to this very day. The ongoing and shameless crimes committed by the Zionists are very well known through the television and newspapers, of the countries that has no double standards and enjoy freedom of expression. The history of Zionism is indeed scandalized, since the last century, by their predetermined and ongoing atrocities against the Palestinians.

In 1967, the Zionists occupied all Palestine, and some territories in Egypt and Syria, to which they added Southern Lebanon in 1982. But the Lebanese

resistance forced the Zionists to evacuate Lebanon, and they also withdrew from Sinai in return for Egypt's agreement to end belligerency with Israel and to allow the United Nations troops to take up its positions there. Today, they are gradually appropriating the WB, and squeezing the Palestinians there behind the Separation Wall and in the enclaves. The Zionists' crime is not only confined to occupying land, but also involves well-organized plans of racial cleansing to get rid of the original inhabitants. In 1948, the Zionists murdered Palestinians in 70 massacres, and expelled a large number of those who remained alive under the false pretension that they left their land voluntarily, out of fear of the war or on the instruction of Arab countries.

Now, they want to expel the rest of the Palestinians under the pretext of the "demographic bomb"; an aggressive nomenclature which reveals the racist policies of the Zionists. How can the existence of a people on their own land be a bomb? In fact, this claim aims to uproot the Palestinian people, but the failure of this policy may well be a devastating bomb to the Zionist project itself.

Despite all the Zionist efforts, the Palestinian people refuse to succumb and be destroyed. They will overtime ultimately constitute the majority, whether in 1948 Palestine (Israel) or in historical Palestine. This is confirmed by many studies, which differ only on the time during which this will be achieved. Thus, Israel tries its best to get a written Palestinian commitment that gives Israel the right to expel the Palestinians if they exceed a certain number. This is indeed the upshot of racial fascism that does not care for its democratic principles. What will happen if the Palestinians in Israel reach 10%. Will they be treated as an oppressed minority? What if they became 20% or 30% of the total population? Will they experience an improvement and suffer less oppression? Does it all depend on Israel's wishes? These racist principles are against international law and human rights. They must be revealed to the whole world, and eradicated through serious boycotts and embargos as happened in South Africa during the Apartheid era.

Let us reflect on table 4/6 below which shows the increase in the population of Palestine, or parts of it, from 2000 to 2020. The estimates of 2000 in this table are actual, whereas the numbers of 2020 are quoted from the Israeli scheme for the year 2020¹² and from other sources.

**Table 4/6: The Expected Population Increase
(Jews and Palestinians) in Palestine (in thousand)**

2000			Expectations for 2020		
Place		Actual figure	Israeli scheme for 2020	Minimum ⁽⁴⁾	Maximum ⁽⁴⁾
Israel	Jews	5,180 ⁽¹⁾	5,832 ⁽³⁾	6,058 ⁽⁵⁾	7,431 ⁽⁵⁾
	Palestinian	1,188 ⁽²⁾	2,268	2,233	2,233
Total		6,368	8,100	8,291	9,664
Percentage of the Palestinians to the Jews%		23	39	37	30
West Bank & Gaza / Palestinians		3,115	6,000	6,500 ⁽⁷⁾	6,500 ⁽⁷⁾
Whole Palestine / Palestinians		4,303	8,268	8,733	8,733
Percentage of the Palestinians to the Jews%		83	142	144	118
The year when they become equal in number ⁽⁸⁾		2000	2012	2013	2014
The total number of population (Palestinians and Jews)		9,483	14,100	14,791	16,164
Total of Palestinians in the world		8,333 ⁽⁶⁾		16,748 ⁽⁶⁾	16,748 ⁽⁶⁾
<p>(1) Includes Jews in settlements, non-Jewish Russian immigrants (about half a million), and non-Jewish foreigners (about 250,000).</p> <p>(2) Includes Palestinians in Jerusalem.</p> <p>(3) Includes an expected annual increase of 1.3%.</p> <p>(4) The writer's estimations.</p> <p>(5) Includes the minimum and maximum of migration.</p> <p>(6) The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics estimations.</p> <p>(7) Numbers calculated based on natural annual growth of 3.75%. The recent researches run by Courbage (2005) indicate the decrease of this percentage to 3.26%, which decreases the expected number of population in 2020 to 5 million & 920,000.</p> <p>(8) This is the year when the Jews and non-Arabs become equal in number to the Arabs in historical Palestine. The recent researches run by Courbage (2005) state that they will be equal in number in 2018.</p>					

The above table shows that the ratio of Palestinians to Jews and non-Arabs in Israel will increase from 23% in 2000 to around 39% in 2020, if no mass Jewish emigration takes place. However, if such a migration occurs, this ratio will decrease to 30%.

During this period, the number of Palestinians will multiply by 100%, whereas the number of Jews and non-Arabs will increase by 12% if no migration takes place, or by 27% in case of minimum migration, and 42% in case of maximum migration. If we subtract the non-Jewish Russians, who constitute between 40 – 60% of the Russian immigrants, and the foreign workers, about a third of

a million (the total is 750,000 persons), then the ratio of the Palestinians to recognized Jews in 2020 will range between 45% in case of minimum migration, to 33% in case of maximum migration. This means that the worst scenario from a Palestinian point of view is that the ratio of Palestinians will not be less than 1:3 (one Palestinian to three Jews) in 2020, whereas it was 1:4 in 2000.

A report released by the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) stated that the ratio of the Jewish population growth was about 1.1% a year, compared to 2.7% for the Arabs. On the other hand, it is expected that the rate of the elderly (age 65 and above) among Jews will increase during the next 25 years. In 2000, it was estimated at 10% of the total Israeli population, and is expected to rise during the next 25 years, to about 13%. According to the report, the number of the elderly in the Zionist state will increase from 623,000 by the end of 2000 to 1 million & 200,000 in 2025.

The same report predicts that life expectancy among the Israelis will increase by 2.6 years; with an average of 79.8 years for males and 83.8 years for females. It also maintains that in return for this rise in life span, there will be a decrease in the birthrate, from 2.9 to 2.7 on average for each woman. As a result, the percentage of children in Israel will decrease from 28% to only 26%.¹³

The prominent demographic analyst, Youssef Courbage, expects that after a century from the foundation of Israel (in 2048), Palestinians living in Israel will constitute half of the population. Moreover, in 2025, the number of Palestinian members in the Knesset may be 23 out of 120 members, if they unite and vote collectively.¹⁴ This is, of course, apart from the Palestinians living in other parts of Palestine and in the Diaspora.

The Ongoing Ethnic Cleansing:

Zionist racism neither accepts the existence of the original inhabitants of the land occupied by Israel nor a democracy which entails equality between the Arabs and the Jews. Instead, it adopts the theory of “Judaization” of Israel, which has no legal or moral basis. The practical Israeli solution is the completion of ethnic cleansing by getting rid of the rest of the original inhabitants of Palestine.

During the abortive negotiations at Taba, the Israeli suggested that they should be given some areas in the WB that have plenty of water resources, and on which Israeli settlements were constructed, in exchange for an arid desert on the borders of Egypt, which had originally been occupied by Israel over and

above the lands given to them by the partition scheme. According to Israel, the Truce Line (1949), ironically named the Green Line, which separates the WB from GS on one side and Palestine (1948) on the other, is the new dividing line for Palestine, thus all territories beyond this Line “legally” belong to Israel. Hence, it is a bargain of an occupied Palestinian land for another appropriated one.

For propaganda purposes, the Israelis called their expulsion of the Palestinians from their land the “transfer”. They falsely justified this process by citing examples of the “inhabitants’ exchange” between India and Pakistan as well as between Turkey and Greece. But this “transfer”¹⁵ has been a consistent and fundamental principle of Zionism since 1937, that was applied broadly in Palestine in 1948, and is still active until now.

During the last decade of the 20th century, the issue of the “transfer” ceased to be restricted to private and closed circles, and became a hotly debated public concern that was openly discussed by several parties.¹⁶ The idea was a top agenda during the annual Conference held in Herzliya in January 2006, attended by a group of notable politicians, generals, businessmen, and academicians. This group is practically more important than the Knesset itself in terms of ideas that formulates the cabinet’s agenda. They came up with the following recommendations:¹⁷ to bring more Jewish immigrants, to cancel, or at least restrict, the Palestinians right of citizenship in Israel, and to encourage the Palestinian Authority (PA) to accept land exchange, including the transfer of the Arab areas in Israel to the WB, and the most important settlements there to Israel.

Along the same pattern, the participants endorsed Sharon’s plan of unilateral withdrawal from GS and to get rid of 1 million & 400,000 Palestinians, whereas the whole GS should remain under tight Israeli occupation by air, sea and around the borders. Israeli troops should, moreover, have a free hand to assassinate and demolish without any loss on their part.

On the other hand, an Israeli analyst concerned with the Arab and Jewish demography, Sergio Della Pergola, told the attendants that the number of Palestinians will be equal to that of the Jews in all Palestine by 2020, if not by 2010.

Arnon Sofer, the extremist racist demographer and the private counselor of Sharon who initiated the idea of the notorious Separation Wall, stated: “The destruction of the Jewish state is inevitable unless we take serious measures against the [threat] of the Palestinian population growth.”

The participants decided that the salvation of the Jewish state lies in capturing the main areas in the WB, the water resources, the Jordan Valley, as well as Jerusalem and the surrounding areas, hence railing off the Palestinians into a few cantons that have neither connection to GS nor supremacy on anything below or above the ground or within the cantons. Through the current ongoing air attacks, assassinations, and destruction in GS, Israel hopes to guarantee that this entity, even if it is called a state, would be in the middle of nowhere. The miserable Palestinian inhabitants will then leave their land voluntarily. And that is exactly what Israel hopes that they will do.

The Israelis concentrate particularly on expelling the Palestinians by force from Jerusalem. A study published by the PCBS stated that the Israeli policies on the rights of the Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem, that were actively pursued since 1948, led to a dramatic decrease in their numbers. 100,000 inhabitants of Jerusalem, including a great number of Christians, were expelled in 1948. Another procedure of the same kind happened again in 1967, resulting in the expulsion of 15,000 inhabitants of Jerusalem, including thousands of Christians.¹⁸ In addition, thousands of Jerusalem inhabitants lost their identity cards, which allow them to live in Jerusalem as a result of the racist Israeli policies that allow the Israelis to build houses in Jerusalem, while putting extreme restrictions on building houses for the Palestinians in East Jerusalem. So the Palestinians get annually less than one hundred permits for building such houses. Thus, most new Palestinian houses were unlicensed, and hence considered illegal by the Israeli authorities (although the occupying authorities have no right to impose their laws in the occupied lands, according to the Fourth Geneva Convention). These restrictions and the demolition of houses made these unexploited lands, which were, in fact, owned by the Palestinians, an easy target for the new settlers, or an extension to the previously built ones.¹⁹

This plan does not only include Jerusalem, as Zionist parties try to accomplish what they call “voluntary expulsion” that targets other Palestinian cities and villages. In al-Lud (Lydda) town, for example, the Rightist Israeli Party, Moledet, works hard to encourage Palestinians to migrate. It extends grants to the Arabs in the shape of guaranteed jobs and a better educational and financially stable life in Canada, Europe, South Africa, and Australia. Some Arab citizens admit that some Jewish agents offered them facilities to go to Iraq, claiming that the country has a pressing need for businessmen and educated people. In an address to the Jewish Agency, the director of Moledet Party in

Jerusalem, Arie King, called not to depend only on migration to maintaining the Jewish majority in Israel, but also to adopt his plan of “voluntary expulsion” for the 1948 Palestinians, otherwise they will constitute the majority in fifty years. He, moreover, expected the agreement of many Arabs to migrate because of the deteriorating political and social status that they experience inside Israel, and added that his Party has already begun, since the turn of 2005, implementing this plan in Acre and the cities of the WB as well.²⁰

The Apartheid Wall divides Palestine into enclaves, depriving many Palestinians from their livelihood by confiscating their land or separating them from their places of work. Two questionnaires, published by the Jerusalem Institution for Israeli Researches, stated that this Wall primarily affects work and employment. 52% of the people questioned confirmed either losing their jobs or facing difficulties in reaching their work, 39% referred to the Wall’s negative effect on their health, whereas 37% complained of its negative social impact.²¹

On the other hand, Israel controls the Palestinian economy in order to weaken and destroy it, thus increasing poverty and unemployment rates among Palestinians. The embargo on Palestinian employment in the 1948 occupied land, the extensive closures and the many checkpoints had all combined to lead to a terrible deterioration in living standards, paralyzed the movement of the Palestinians and forced them to migrate.²²

Authentic data on the Palestinian migration after *al-Aqsa Intifadah* is meager. However, according to some unconfirmed Israeli statistics and estimates, Palestinian migration from the WB and GS reached 34,700 during the period 2000 – 2003, (see table 5/6).²³ The Norwegian Demographic Research Institution estimated this wave of migration from the WB and GS during the period September 2000 to December 2002 to be 100,000, mostly from the middle class. Other estimated the migration of about 80,000 Palestinians from GS and the WB in 2002.²⁴

There is an undisclosed, but still underway, part of the Israeli immigration plan that has not been publicly debated, though it may be recorded in confidential files. Observers have noticed a sudden decrease in the fertility rate of Palestinian women living in Israel. The birthrate was estimated at six children per woman in the 1960s, but it decreased to less than four children per woman in 2001. As usual, this can be explained by the high standards of living and high levels of

education, which lead to family planning in an attempt to raise few children in a better way. But these very circumstances also reduce the mortality rate of children, which was one half of the birthrate during the Ottoman period.

Table 5/6: Israeli Estimates of the Palestinian Migration from the West Bank and Gaza Strip

Year	Total
1967 – 1969	74,900
1970 – 1974	27,100
1975 – 1979	81,800
1980 – 1984	68,700
1985 – 1989	45,300
1990 – 1994	29,400
1995 – 1999	52,900
2000 – 2003	34,700
Grand Total	414,800

Since the Palestinians always prefer large families, and health care lessens the mortality rate of children, the net natural growth rate should increase accordingly, or, at least, remains static. Here a question poses itself, namely, what then is the cause of this decrease?

Youssef Courbage analyzes in detail a similar phenomenon in the WB and GS as follows:

The Palestinian fertility in the WB and GS increased during the first *Intifadah* (1987 – 1993) as a result of early marriage and the restriction of movement. But this cannot account for everything since elementary educated Palestinian women (less than six years) have more children than their illiterate counterpart, an estimate of 7.18 children per woman compared to 6.66 children. The fertility of Palestinian women who receive intermediate and secondary education is admittedly less than that of the previous category, but it is still high (6.03 – 6.42), while university female graduates keep their fertility at a high level (4.09). This affirms the direct relationship between the political awareness of the Palestinian women and their instinctive desire to have more children. Indeed, this is contrary to the general trend in the world, even in similar Arab societies, where the number of children in a family decreases with the increase of the educational level of their parents.²⁵

However an acute decrease in fertility in Palestine has occurred since 1999. In 2000 the fertility rate decreased rapidly from 6.25 children per woman to 4.18. According to Youssef Courbage, “this is a very rare, striking and unprecedented phenomenon in Palestine.”

Neither the decrease of the marriage rate, especially in GS where it actually increased by 31%, nor the frequent use of contraceptives account for this sudden decrease. It should not also be wholly attributed to the difficult circumstances surrounding the *Intifadah*, assassinations, lack of security, and decrease of the individual's income as a result of the deterioration of the economic standards. Instead, Courbage affirms that this ambivalent decrease was noted before the *Intifadah* in 2000, but it could not be explained scientifically.

What then is the reason? It is obvious that Israel has a great vested interest in this decrease. So did it somehow plot to do it? Some press reports reported collective fainting and hysteric cases among female students. Many others were victims of some medically unknown poisonous gases released by the Israeli forces against demonstrators.²⁶ Reports released by the Palestinian Ministry of Public Health provided evidence of a disturbing and unprecedented prevalence of abortion and cancer cases in the Palestinian population.²⁷

Israeli use of biological weapons is very well known and documented.²⁸ It now possesses the greatest arsenal of biological weapons between Paris and Tokyo. Thus Israel has the motive as well as the means to commit such crimes. So did Israel dare to kill Palestinian babies before their birth, as it did after their birth?

The Israeli Demography:

Paradoxically, Zionism tries through various means to increase the fertility of Jewish women, including the provision, by private associations, of food, clothes, and delivery expenses to every Jewish woman who gives birth.²⁹ A Jewish-American millionaire encourages young Jewish men and women to pay a free of charge visit to Israel through a program named "Birth Right", which aims to acquaint them with Israel and encourage them to migrate to it.

The assumption that the fertility of the Jewish woman is much less than that of their Palestinian counterpart is ambiguous. According to Courbage,³⁰ the fertility rate among Jewish women differs greatly, as they are not a homogenous people, but they have the characteristics of the countries from which they migrated, specially two categories: Those of Afro-Asian origin and those of Euro-American origin. Besides, extremist religious Jews are more fertile than any other group in the world, except for the women of the Niger in Africa. Their fertility rate was registered at 7.6 children per woman in the late of 1990s; a

ratio which is four and a half times bigger than that of the Russian secularist Jews (1.7 children per woman). Strategic, not only religious, reasons are behind this phenomenon, particularly so, for religious groups live in great numbers inside the settlements. If the Jewish migration to the settlements is considered, then the Jewish demographic growth in the settlements clearly precedes that of the Palestinians. As Courbage says, this reminds us of the rapid increase of Jewish immigrants in Palestine during the Mandate period, which eventually led to occupying 77% of its land by force in 1948.

In spite of this demographic competition, the ratio of Palestinians will eventually be higher, both in Israel and in historical Palestine. All studies affirm this prediction, though they differ on the time span for its realization.

As previously mentioned, if genocide does not work, the Israeli solution for this eventuality is demographic elimination through evacuation by force, or due to the difficult living conditions resulting from Israeli policies, diplomatically called “voluntary expulsion”. Other means will be by re-dividing Palestine in way that gives Israel the most fertile lands as well as the water resources, and by getting rid of the remaining inhabitants via withdrawal from GS and the annexation of the Palestinian territories in Israel to the cantons in Palestine.

To justify this racist elimination, Israel propagated by the slogan of “the Jewish characteristic of Israel”, and described Israel as a democratic Jewish state. But this is a contradiction in terms, though this false humanistic claim had appealed to some uninformed writers and politicians in the pro-Israeli-West. It is a great deception for many obvious reasons. For, there is no legal, or even moral, rationale for establishing a Jewish state in Palestine. No text or definition in international law supports this.

The legality of declaring the establishment of Israel is based on the Partition Resolution 181 of the year 1947. But the United Nations could not establish a racist state, be it religious or ethnic. It is clear in this Resolution that the Palestinians represent half of the inhabitants of the suggested state for housing the Jews; and that they should be treated on equal terms, having all civil and political rights. Hence, according to international law, Israel should not be called “the Jewish state”.

Moreover, the so-called “Jewish characteristic of Israel” could not possibly be based on their presumed homogeneity and unique cultural traits, as they have come from 110 countries and speak 82 languages.

The real purpose behind the attempt to give some legitimacy to the Jewish

nature of Israel is to persuade the entire world (specially the Arabs and Muslims) to accept its racial laws that covers all aspects of life, and is applied by Israeli institutions “legally”, and is not a mere racial discrimination. But these laws are obviously a blatant practice of racism against all non-Jews (taking into consideration the dispute on “who is the Jew”) in citizenship, nationality, entry and exit from the state, possession and use of land, education, public services, and so on.

After the collapse of the racist regime in South Africa, Israel remains the only place in the world which practices the worst type of racism by the force of its own laws. There is no doubt that this terrible crime against humanity will come to an end, whether in the medium or long term.

The Palestinian Solution: Notwithstanding the different political opinions on the Palestinian solution, and the political status of Palestine after its implementation, there is a consensus among Muslims, Arabs, Palestinians and many other groups all over the world on the necessity of restoring the fixed legitimate and historic rights in Palestine

There is no space here to discuss this issue in details, but it should be mentioned here that the demographic and geographic facts supports the legitimacy of the right of return upon which all shades of political opinions agree. This right of return, which can be implemented on the ground, will reconnect the history of Palestine with its geography.

Besides achieving the right of return, this review proves the falsity of Zionist propaganda in the West that the aim behind the Palestinians’ return is to eradicate the Jewish immigrants in Palestine, and to force them to go back from where they came. But this is nothing except a “call of war” that they propagate in the West to justify Israeli crimes against the Palestinians.

Previous studies shows³¹ that about 80% of Jews in Israel still live in the same Jewish areas in which they lived during the Mandate, though they expanded to include nearly 15% of the entire area of Israel. The rest of the Jews, who represent 20%, live in Palestinian towns, and they include only 1.5% of the inhabitants of the Kibbutz and Mushav, who appropriated the land of the refugees in 85% of the area of Israel.

Practically, nothing prevents the refugees from returning except for the vast area of Tel-Aviv and Western Jerusalem. Neither the return of the inhabitants

of Galilee, who took refuge in Syria and Lebanon, nor that of the Southern Palestine inhabitants, who sought asylum in GS, represents any obstacle, since the total number of all these refugees is equal to that of the Russian immigrants who were accommodated by Israel in the 1990s without causing any undue overcrowdedness.

We conducted a detailed demographic study on the original homes of the Palestinians in Palestine, their numbers in each village, and their present positions in the five areas covered by the UNRWA. This study was followed by a similar one on present day Israeli villages and cities. We divided the original inhabitants of each village into categories: the remaining Palestinians, Russian Jews, the ancient Ashkenazi Jews, Arab Jews, inhabitants of the Kibbutz and Mushav, new Jews, and, finally, the non-Jewish newcomers, including workers, evangelists, and Christian Russians.

The logical conclusion is that it is possible for the Palestinian refugees to return to their home without undue difficulty, though the number of the Jews had multiplied ten times (from 600,000 in 1948) and that of the refugees six times (from 900,000 in 1948). Naturally there will be a problem of over crowdedness in the mixed cities or those which were purely Arab. But this problem and dispute over land ownership can be largely resolved, particularly after the experiment of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the United Nations' accreditation of the Pinheiro Principles, which regulate the re-ownership of the lands and properties that were taken by force, or through the oppressive policies of the military occupation, and by confiscation.

Conclusion:

In conclusion we note the following facts:

First: Zionism could not eliminate the Palestinian people in spite of its recurrent trials to achieve this, in different ways throughout a period of fifty years, though it succeeded to appropriate their lands and properties.

Second: The bet that the Palestinian people would be forgotten proved to be wrong. In spite of the expulsion of about half the Palestinians from their homes, they still possess a portion of their land, and will eventually constitute the majority, whether in historical Palestine or in Israel itself. Therefore, the bet is only on the duration of time needed for the realization of this in the future. However, the assumption that the simple majority of 50% is all that is needed

for the effective restoration of these rights is misleading, because an active and forceful minority can attain its rights, even if it represents less than 50%.

Third: The Zionist phobia concerning the Palestinian growth rate is racist and immoral, and is not dissimilar to many examples in history in which a group tried to eliminate another. The Zionist assassinations, terrorism, starvations, building the racial Separation Wall, and separation of many families may force a few thousands, or even tens of thousands, to leave. But the supremacy will be for the Palestinians, even though this takes a long time to be realized.

Fourth: In spite of the obvious prejudice of the West to Israel and the continuous crimes committed by Westerners, such as Saykes, Picot, Balfour, Ben-Gurion, and Sharon, the world will not continue to accept Israeli crimes and its racist regime, that has no equal in today's world.

The increasing pressure on Israel, through public awareness, resistance, boycott and the elevated influence of worldwide civil associations that call for human rights and rejection of racism, will undoubtedly lead to the collapse of this last place of blatant racism in the world. This battle will take a long time, and success requires the Palestinians to continue defending their legitimate rights steadily, efficiently, earnestly and persistently, while being prepared to sacrifice whatever it takes to achieve this success.

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The Palestinian Strategic Report 2005



This Palestinian Annual Strategic Report explains, discusses and analyses the events that took place during 2005, and pursues their developments. The primary objective of this Report is to assess the Palestinian situation on a regular basis through a rigorous study of its various aspects, i.e., internal political affairs, economic development, the educational system, demographic indicators, the Arab-Islamic and international positions and the Israeli attitudes and policies.

The chapters of this academic exercise were commissioned to distinguished meticulous specialists. These chapters were submitted to further scrutiny by another high caliber specialist in the Palestinian issue. Then, the two editors edited the texts and incorporated what may have been overlooked. Hence, it is important to note that this project is essentially a product of team work.



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