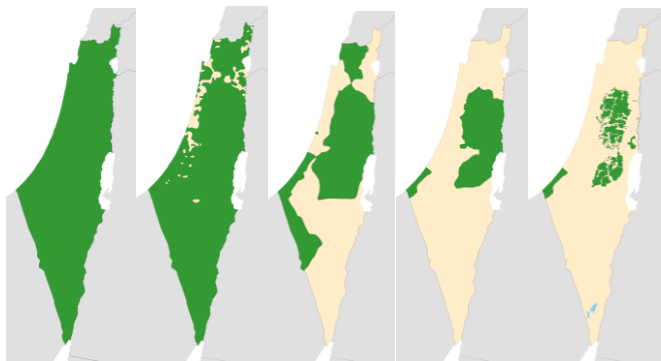




# Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign

*Building effective solidarity with the Palestinian people*

## Israel/Palestine: Introduction



## **Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign**

was founded in September 2000 in response to Israel's brutality against the Palestinian uprising, *Intifada*, when Israel fired over 1 million bullets at Palestinians during the first week. Palestinians were resisting military occupation, dispossession and state-enforced racism, i.e. apartheid.

We invite you to join a local branch, as a member at large or in a network in various parts of Scotland. SPSC is a wholly volunteer organisation; we have no paid employees and rely entirely on donations from supporters to finance our activities.

### **We stand for:**

- the right of all Palestinian refugees to return to their homes or the areas from which they were driven, in line with UN Resolution 194
- an end to the Zionist project of ethnic cleansing of Palestinians
- self-determination for Palestinians
- equal rights for Palestinians living in Israel
- an end to all British arms trade with Israel

Israel enjoys political, economic, military and diplomatic support but popular opinion across Scotland, the UK, Europe and most of the world is deeply hostile to Israeli crimes.

## British Complicity

In the infamous Balfour Declaration, Britain encouraged and protected European colonisation of Palestine by Zionist Jews from 1917 onwards.

Sir Ronald Storrs was clear about the realpolitik involved. Support for Zionist settler-colonisation and dispossession of the native Palestinians, "the present aborigines", would secure "for England a loyal little Jewish Ulster in a sea of potentially hostile Arabism".

The British mobilised Zionist Jewish loyalist forces in 1936 to crush a Palestinian uprising against British control and Zionist colonisation.

Britain armed, trained and gave political and economic privileges to Jewish colonists over the native Palestinians in an alliance that endured from 1918 until after World War II when the embryo Zionist state felt strong enough to dispense with British imperial protection and expel



*Palestine 1917*

the mass of the Palestinian population from the areas it conquered in the 1948.

## Zionism

Faced with rising antisemitism in Europe from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the great bulk of European Jews repudiated Zionism as a political response which accepted many of the tenets of the antisemites. When the organisers tried to hold the first Zionist Congress in Munich in 1897 local rabbis and the Jewish community drove them out. The Congress had to be held in Basel, Switzerland.

Repudiating Zionist accommodation with the antisemites, most European Jews supported liberal or left parties who fought antisemitism in alliance with other political forces in their native lands. Hertzl notoriously sought alliances with those who organised massacres of Jews in Russia. He said: *"The antisemites will become our*



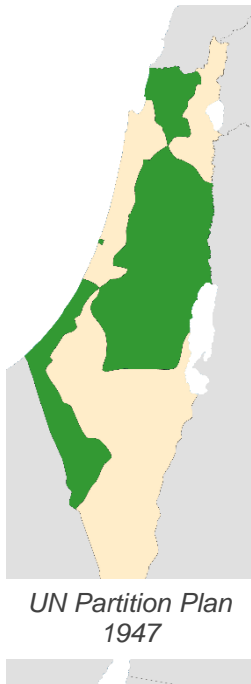
*most dependable friends, the antisemitic countries our allies."*

## **Settlers throw off the British**

Following World War II, the Zionist movement transferred its allegiance from Britain to the US and launched a military campaign in Palestine to simultaneously drive out the British and crush the native Palestinians.

In 1947 when the United Nations awarded 57% of Palestine to the minority Jewish community, including over 80% of the best agricultural land, Zionist militias launched a pre-emptive wave of ethnic cleansing of Palestinians before any military forces from neighbouring Arab countries could come to the aid of the Palestinians.

When the fighting was over, Palestinians had been driven into just over one-fifth of Palestine and Zionist militias declared the independence of the State of Israel. The leaders of the Zionist

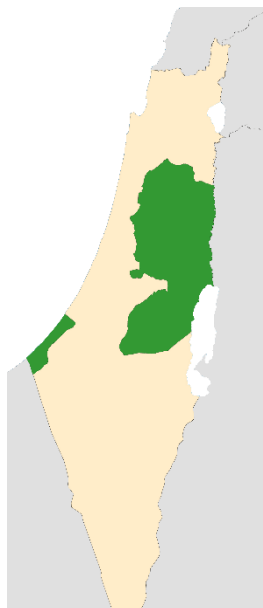


movement saw the 78% they had conquered as a temporary compromise. Their appetites went beyond Palestine:

*“The acceptance of partition does not commit us to renounce Transjordan; one does not demand from anybody to give up his vision. We shall accept a state in the boundaries fixed today. But the boundaries of Zionist aspirations are the concern of the Jewish people and no external factor will be able to limit them.”*

**David Ben-Gurion (1936)**

*Founder of the State of Israel and the first Prime Minister of Israel*



1948

## **The Nakba**

By December 1947 Zionist militia attacks were terrorising the “undesirable” Palestinian population and the process of ethnic cleansing began. During April-June 1948 hundreds of Palestinian villages were occupied or destroyed and their inhabitants expelled. Palestinians across the world now commemorate the violent seizure of their homes and lands in

1948, known as the *Nakba* or the Catastrophe, and reaffirm their determination to return. Many Palestinians retain the title deeds to their land and even the keys to those homes.

In all, 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their land and homes, and 531 villages were destroyed.

Today there are some 7 million Palestinian refugees across the world, all demanding the right to return to their land – a right enshrined in international law.

## **The 1967 Occupation**

In June 1967 the Israeli military launched a surprise ‘Pearl Harbour’ type attack on neighbouring Arab States and, in a lightning *Blitzkrieg*, defeated the armies of Egypt, Syria and Jordan. In the years immediately following, US military aid to Israel increased exponentially.

*“In June 1967, we again had a choice. The Egyptian Army concentrations in the Sinai do not prove that Nasser was really about to attack us. We must be honest with ourselves. We decided to attack him.”*

**Menachem Begin** (1982) *Prime Minister of Israel*

Israel has built large numbers of exclusively Jewish colonies in the areas conquered in 1967, imposed separate legal systems for native Palestinians and Jewish settlers, and built roads exclusively for settlers.

## **Ongoing Nakba**

Israel's brutal occupation of the West Bank is even exceeded by its periodic massacres of Palestinians in Gaza. Amnesty International and the Scottish government have called for an arms embargo on Israel because of its continuous war crimes and crimes against humanity. The UNHCR found Israel guilty of massacres of Palestinian children, "knowing them to be children".

In the West Bank, Israeli soldiers and settlers abuse and even kill Palestinians with impunity. The construction of Jewish-only colonies proceeds alongside the demolition of Palestinian homes, the burning of olive trees and general mayhem inflicted on the Palestinian people to encourage them to leave and make way for more incoming Zionist Jewish settlers.

Palestinians are jailed in large numbers for long periods, processed by a military system with a 99.7% conviction rate for Palestinians, alongside a civil system for Jewish settlers. Farmers, workers,



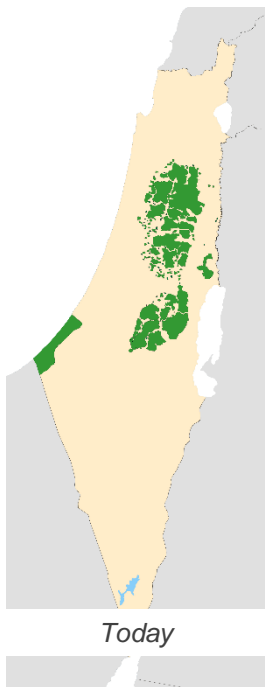
students and children are routinely harassed by soldiers and attacked by settlers. Palestinian citizens of the State of Israel, almost 25% of the population, are denied political, economic, social and residential rights afforded to Jewish citizens.

## It's not complicated

Israel is a state and society based on Jewish privilege over the other populations the state controls, whether they are citizens or not. The Israeli authorities use full-spectrum oppression, including mass murder, to crush Palestinian opposition to their settler-colonial project. They hope to drive Palestinians out of Palestine.

This has to end and we ask you to join **Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign** to hasten that goal.

Palestinians resist their dispossession and dehumanisation, the British government arms and supports the army that violates them and a



movement around the world is committed to building effective solidarity with the Palestinian people.

By joining the campaign in Scotland you can make a real difference.



# What next?

SPSC is committed to building support for the Palestinian call for **Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions** against the State of Israel until it ends its crimes against the Palestinian people. In Scotland, as around most of the world, we are strong and Israel is exceedingly weak.

By many accounts, the Israeli authorities are well aware of the strength of the BDS movement worldwide, which is why they are fighting back by trying to smear supporters of Palestine as antisemitic. We reject these smears with contempt. For SPSC, real antisemitism is a contemptible racism. Opposition to the pernicious ideology of Zionism and all its crimes is a duty for all anti-racists and decent people around the world.

**Join:** [www.scottishpsc.org.uk/join](http://www.scottishpsc.org.uk/join)

**Donate:** [www.scottishpsc.org.uk/donate](http://www.scottishpsc.org.uk/donate)

*A fully referenced version of this booklet can be accessed on our website: [www.scottishpsc.org.uk](http://www.scottishpsc.org.uk)*

# **Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign**

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Scottish PSC is an extension to the Palestinian struggle for freedom against Israel's programme of ethnic cleansing and genocide in Palestine. SPSC exists to channel public opposition to the Zionist settler-colonial project into an effective and dynamic Scottish component of the global campaign that sends a powerful message of solidarity with the Palestinian people and a warning to Israel that its crimes must end.



**Email: [campaign@scottishpsc.org.uk](mailto:campaign@scottishpsc.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.scottishpsc.org.uk](http://www.scottishpsc.org.uk)**

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**0131 208 1948**

**0141 416 1948**