



Dome of the Rock

Al Aqsa



Al-Aqsa Mosque

Quarterly

Newsletter 4

May 2000

To Begin...

"Glorified is He Who took his servant by night journey from the Masjid al Haram (in Makkah) to the Masjid al Aqsa (in Jerusalem), the precincts of which we have Blessed..."

Holy Qur'an Al Isra 17: 1

...Allamah Ibn Katheer has narrated a hadith on the authority of Anas bin Malik [ra] that before the Prophet Muhammad [saas] proceeded on Me'raj, he [saas] led all the Messengers of Allah [as] in Salah.

This incidence besides further exalting the importance of al Masjidul Aqsa grounds, as the only known place on earth where all the Prophets performed Salah at one given time and place, it also signifies the honour of Prophet Muhammad [saas] as being both Imam ul Ambiya and Sayidul Ambiya.

This incident has further sanctified every centimetre of the al Masjidul Aqsa Haram Sharif. As we are of the belief that Allah has sent approximately 124, 000 Messengers to earth and they must have covered every centimetre of al Aqsa Haram Sharif with their blessed foreheads in sujud when performing Salah.

There is no place known on earth to man where such a blessed gathering of Allah's [swt] chosen people has taken place.

This sole reason is sufficient for the deep love and affection one needs to have for al Masjidul Aqsa.

Muslims in the present political situation must become pro-active with regard to al Masjidul Aqsa and stand firm against any dangers being imposed on it.

We need to stand resolute and affirm that not a single centimetre of the blessed grounds of al Masjidul Aqsa can be negotiated. Every pebble and grass strand is sacred to us and we need not only strive to preserve the buildings and grounds but also ensure it is accessible to all those who wish to go and pray therein.

Tears of loneliness

More than 2.6 million Muslims from throughout the world converged on the blessed city of Makkah for Haj this year. But as has been the recent 'fashion' after the Haj some went to the blessed city of Madinah and then returned home.

Not so long ago it was a recognised tradition within the Umah that either before or after Haj one visited the third Haram Sharif, the al Masjidul Aqsa. Unfortunately this year there were no significant Hajjis who made the Zia'ara of al Masjidul Aqsa.

Many lame reasons are proposed but to be honest one simply has forgotten the virtues and importance al Masjidul Aqsa. Our al Aqsa Haram Sharif where the Prophet of Allah [saas] encouraged Zia'ara, where the virtue of praying one Salah is rewarded by 1,000 times and the first qiblah of Muslims today lies empty and weeping.

The Umah has become a victim of Zionist propaganda and their mental capacity fogged of the need at this crucial moment to visit al Masjidul Aqsa.

Many Sahabas [ra] have given their lives to liberate al Masjidul Aqsa and great Muslim leaders like Nur al Din and Salah ud Din dedicated their whole lives to the cause of al Masjidul Aqsa.

What answer can the Umah of today give to the thousands if not hundred of thousands who shed their blood in order to liberate al Masjidul Aqsa for our benefit, yet we neglect it at our peril?

Muslims all over the world have become comfort seekers and decadent to be worried about the Zionist onslaught on al Masjidul Aqsa. The false Zionist claims to the city of al Quds appears not only to have been accepted by the West but it appears from our behaviour, many Muslims have also been brain washed and succumbed to their plot.

The need to visit al Masjidul Aqsa cannot be over emphasised at this stage, while the Zionist are on the march to Judaize Jerusalem and destroy the Muslim shrines and its population.

Just consider for a few moments if all those Hajjis could have visited al Masjidul Aqsa and all those who will perform Umrah take a trip via al Masjidul Aqsa then the balance of population in Jerusalem would change in favour of the Muslims.

Their love for al Masjidul Aqsa would be embedded in their hearts and when they returned home they would pass the message on to others and long once more to visit it.

The oppression suffered by our Palestinian brothers and sisters would be registered at first hand and no propaganda by the media would be able to sway a Muslim away from the truth, mainly the injustice meted out to the Palestinians.

The solidarity amongst the Muslims by a visit to al Masjidul Aqsa would be intensified and a global approach to assist in the liberation of our Haram Sharif and our brothers and sisters in faith could gain momentum. A call to all is made to wipe away the tears of our Haram Sharif - who is ready to heed the call- make Zia'arh of al Masjidul Aqsa!

In This Month...

- 02 May 1799:** End of the French expedition after Napoleon fails to conquer Akka.
- 16 May 1916:** Sikes-Picot agreement was signed by Britain and France to divide Palestine.
- 1-5 May 1921:** Jaffa rebellion broke out when the British supported the Jews against the Palestinians.
- 17 May 1939:** The British government issued the White Book in which they divided Palestine into three regions: Jewish, Arabic and International or Neutral.
- 10 May 1946:** The American Secretary of State Deputy Dean Etchison was sent to five Arab States to assure them that the USA would not take any decisions concerning the Anglo-American investigating committee without referring to both Arabs and Israelis.
- 28-29 May 1946:** A conference of Arab leaders in Anshasi, Egypt, to discuss the Palestinian question.
- 21 May 1947:** Al Hagana terrorists attacked a coffee shop at Faja near Btah Tekfa, killing a Palestinian and injuring 17 others; they also put explosives all over the area.
- 09 May 1948:** The Arabs adopted the Truce Treaty with the Israelis.
- 14 May 1948:** The Temporal State Council of Israel declared the new Israeli State.
- 15 May 1948:** The Arab armies, known as Rescue Army, entered Palestine.
- 15 May 1948:** The USA recognized the new Israeli State.
- 18 May 1948:** The USSR also recognized the new Israeli State.
- 11 May 1949:** Israel was accepted as a member of the United Nations.
- 12 May 1949:** Lozan Protocol was signed by Israel and some Arab States such as Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.
- 28 May 1964:** The first National Palestinian Council was held in Jerusalem to establish the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).
- 06 May 1974:** The Israeli forces began shelling the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.
- 22 May 1975:** Yasser Arafat announced that he had not had any hostility toward Israel, and he is keen on establishing a democratic State for both Arabs and Israelis.
- May 1977:** US State Dept releases Human Rights Report, charging Israel with the following crimes against Palestinians- illegal expulsion, detention without charge, destruction of properties and no judicial remedies for detainees.
- 20 May 1985:** The Israeli forces released 1,145 Palestinian captives for releasing three Israeli soldiers that had been confined by the members of the People's Front--the Headquarters, in Al Jaleel operation.
- 15 May 1989:** The Israeli forces arrested Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, accusing him of establishing the Islamic resistance movement "HAMAS".
- 04 May 1994:** Israel and the PLO signed in Cairo the Palestinian autonomy agreement in Gaza and Jericho.
- 18 May 1994:** The first troops of the Palestinian police entered Gaza and Jericho.
- 23 May 1994:** The first crime of murder committed by the Palestinian police forces against a Palestinian citizen.
- 29 May 1996:** Israeli Likud Party presided by Netanyahu took over authorities in Israel.
- 18 May 1997:** Israeli Defence Ministry state 500 more Palestinian homes have been targeted for demolition in the West Bank.
- 24 May 1997:** A report reveals that public funds of US \$326 million have been misused by PNA.

History of al Masjidul Aqsa

After Titus destroyed the Temple in 70 AD the Romans re named the city as Aelia and built a pagan temple on the spot dedicated to 'god' Jupiter.

In 324 Constantine, the leader of Byzantium converted to Christianity and many Churches, including the Holy Sepulchre were built. During this period Jews were only allowed entry into Jerusalem on specified days and were restricted from inhabiting within the walls of the city.

After 300 years of Christian rule, in 614 the Persians attacked Jerusalem and massacred the Christians.

It is estimated 90, 000 Christians were murdered, many by Jews who allied with the Persians. Theophanes a Roman historian states, 'Jews according to their means paid the Persians to hand over the Christians and then killed them.'

Persian rule did not last long. In 629, fifteen years later, Heraclius, the Roman leader defeated the Persians and once more Jerusalem came under Roman rule. This time the Romans not only banished all the Jews out of Jerusalem but they were not allowed to be within 3 miles of the city.

The Romans made plans to re-vitalise the territory after the Persian occupation and in particular Jerusalem. But Allah [swt] had made much more greater plans. Not too far away in Medina a great liberating force under the banner of Islam was emerging.

Zionist celebration at Brent Town Hall

The Zionist Federation in London will be celebrating the 52nd birthday of the Jewish state in Brent Town Hall on May 7th, 2000. We strongly object to the use of the Town Hall to rejoice over Israel's illegal activities and aggression against the Palestinian people and its neighbours. We urge support against this event.

At a time when the state of Israel continues to destroy the infrastructure of Lebanon and threatens its people with "blood for blood, soul for soul and child for child", we believe no self-respecting and civilized authority should support such activities.

At a time when Israel threatens to lay small nuclear landmines near the Golan Heights (Sunday Times, March 26, 2000), which it occupies against the will of the international community, we believe such celebrations would be an affront to the principles of human decency and international law.

At a time when the Jewish state continues to seize and occupy Palestinian land, imprison their youth, expel residents from Jerusalem, deny worshippers access to the Holy City, demolish homes throughout the length and breadth of the occupied territories, dump toxic waste into Palestinian agricultural land and fishing waters, and deny the return of 5 million refugees to their homes, we believe that such activities should be censured rather than celebrated.

Ours is not a religious campaign against Judaism. It is pure and simply an outcry against the violence perpetrated by the Zionist colonial settler regime that has long surpassed the Apartheid system in its inhumanity and injustice.

Please forward your concerns to the leader of Brent Council, Councillor Paul Daisley, London. [Press Release by PRC Visit <http://www.prc.org.uk/english/>]

Protest Against Children's Game Depicting Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel

The board game named Mystery Voyage produced by National Geographic Society and the California based University Games Cooperation has inaccurately depicted Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. According to international law Jerusalem is defined as occupied territory and the future status of Jerusalem is to be decided upon in final status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority due to be concluded by September 2000.

This is a very typical ploy of Israel to mental condition people into accepting their claims to the Holy City of Jerusalem.

We urge those concerned to write a letter of protest in a polite manner to the concerned parties demanding that the Mystery Voyage Game card is corrected.

Addresses: Mr. Jeff Pinsker, Email: jeffp@ugames.com Or
Ms. Mary Jeanne Jacobsen, Email: jacobsen@ngs.org

Remembering Jerusalem Neighbourhood – Deir Yassin

April 9th marks the 52nd anniversary of the Zionist massacre at the village of Deir Yassin. Many have described this as being one of the most significant events of the 20th-century in Palestinian and Israeli history as it was the beginning of a clearly calculated depopulation of over 400 Arab villages and cities which witnessed the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinian inhabitants to make room for Jews from the all over the world.

It was early in the morning of April 9, 1948 when commandos of the Irgun and the Stern Gang, which were headed by future Israeli Prime Ministers Menachim Begin and Yitzak Shamir, attacked Deir Yassin, a small Palestinian village with only 750 inhabitants. Deir Yassin had the reputation of being a peaceful village. It was located on high ground in the corridor between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. But although it was situated outside the area assigned to the Jewish State in the UN partition plan, it was slated for Zionist occupation under "Plan Dalet" This plan, which was kept secret until years afterwards, called for the destruction of the village and the residents to be evacuated in order to make way for a small airfield that would supply the Jewish residents of Jerusalem. It should also be noted that it was still several weeks before the end of the British Mandate.

Two hundred and fifty civilian men, women, and children were systematically murdered. In addition, fifty-three orphaned children were literally dumped along the wall of the Old City where they were found by Miss Hind Hussein and brought behind the American Colony Hotel to her home, which was to become the Dar El-Tifl El-Arabi orphanage.

The news of the massacre spread like wildfire throughout Palestine and which spread panic among the Palestinian Arabs leading to a widespread exodus numbering in the hundreds of thousands. This is the origin of the modern Palestinian refugee crisis.

Eyewitness accounts by the survivors described the brutality, which was inflicted on the villagers:

Mr. Fahimi Zeidan, 12,; "The Jews ordered all our family to line up against the wall and they started shooting us. I was hit in the side, but most of us children were saved because we hid behind our parents. The bullets hit my sister Kadri [four] in the head, my sister Sameh [eight] in the cheek, my brother Mohammed [seven] in the chest. But all the others with us against the wall were killed: my father, my mother, my grandfather and grandmother, my uncles and aunts and some of their children."

Ms. Haleem Eid, 30: "A man [shot] a bullet into the neck of my sister Salhiyah who was nine months pregnant. Then he cut her stomach open with a butcher's knife."

Ms. Naaneh Khalil, 16, saw a man: "take a kind of sword and slash my neighbour Jamil Hish from head to toe then do the same thing on the steps to my house to my cousin Fathi."

Ms. Safiyeh Attiyah, 41: "I screamed but around me other women were being raped too. Some of the men were so anxious to get our earrings they ripped our ears to pull them off faster."

The cemetery, where the dead were buried, was later

bulldozed. Like hundreds of other Palestinian villages to follow, Deir Yassin was wiped off the map. By September of that same year, Orthodox Jewish immigrants from Poland, Rumania, and Slovakia were settled there. The centre of the village was renamed Givat Shaul Bet. As Jerusalem expanded, the land of Deir Yassin became part of the city and is now simply known as the area between Givat Shaul and the settlement of Har Nof. Julian Borger in 1988 wrote:

"For all the sound and fury associated with its name, the old village of Deir Yassin is eerily quiet today. Most of the original Arab stone houses are still standing, but shaded now by 50-year-old pines and surrounded by wire fencing. The entrance is barred by a heavy metal gate, security guards and a signpost reading: Kfar Shaul Mental Health Centre.

Sadly, in the past few years the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has been waging a campaign in the United States attempting to re-write history and denying that a massacre ever took place. Under the direction of Morton Klein the ZOA published a study in 1998 entitled "Deir Yassin: History of a Lie," which denies the tragedy which happened at Deir Yassin. But many modern Israeli historians now acknowledge what the Arabs have always known, that Deir Yassin was but part of a larger Zionist strategy to terrorize Arabs so that they would leave their villages and make room for new Jewish immigrants and erase the Arab presence off the map.
<http://www.deiryassin.org>

The NEWSLETTER is published by Friends of Al Aqsa. For further copies or more information about its projects or contributions, contact:

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