

PNC BULLETIN

Palestine National Council Bulletin

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BALFOUR
APOLOGY CAMPAIGN

1917 ————— A *100* Year Suffering ————— 2017

Here down the memoranda sent “The Balfour Declaration UK complicity in Israel’s Crimes against the Palestinian People” and the activities carried out by the Palestine National Council, on the occasion of the centennial of the inauspicious Balfour Declaration memoranda in English language have been sent to all world parliaments in addition to 12 regional and international parliamentary unions and assemblies.

A special letter sent to both the speaker of the House of Common and the Lord Speaker of UK Parliaments .

Two letters of gratitude sent to :

- 1.The Speaker the British Labour Party.*
- 2.Head of the Friends in the British Labour Party .*

PNC members who lives in Jordan held a meeting in the PNC headquarter and issued a press statement included it their demands .

The Balfour Declaration UK Complicity in Israel's Crimes Against the Palestinian People

On November 2, 1917, a century ago, Arthur James Balfour, the British foreign secretary issued a pledge in a public letter to one of leaders of Zionist movement in Britain, Lord Walter Rothschild.

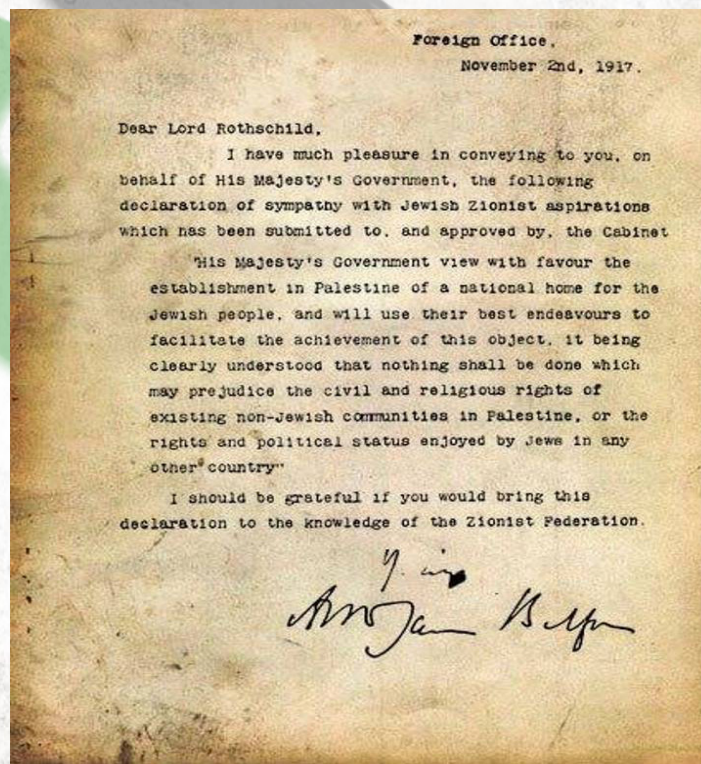
With the defeat of the Central Powers in 1918, the Conquerors divided up and redistributed among themselves the colonial possessions of the conquered powers. At the time, the league of Nations established a mandate system to be applied to those former colonial possessions that had been stripped away from Germany and Turkey in the aftermath of the first World War.

The mandates for Palestine was awarded by the league of Nations to Great Britain in 1922. The league mandate were divided in accordance with the of the respective peopment concerning their al independence. Ar-Covenant provided that formerly belonging to Palestine“ have reached where their existence can be provisionally the rendering of ad-assistance by a Mandathey are able to stand these communities.” “ must be a principal lection of the manda-

The British mandate principles stipulated in nant, nor did the man-the pledges of indepen-to the Arabsby the Al-Britain has violated in-under the Covenant of

tions, and committed gross violations of the rights of the Palestinian people . The thing that imposes a duty of its accountability and load requirements and provisions of international responsibility. The British government issued the Balfour Declaration promising Jews a national homeland in Palestine, despite the fact that Palestine was among the most progressive and prosperous countries, and should not have been colonized or placed under the mandate of a great power.

Notwithstanding Israeli claims for legitimacy on the basis of the Balfour Declaration, Britain herself acknowledged in 1939 what an authority stated in a statement before the General Assembly on the question of



ed into three categories league's determination ples' stages of develop-preparations for nation-ticle 22(4) of the league certain communities the Turkish Empire, like a stage of development as independent nations recognized subject to ministrative advice and tory until such time as alone. The wishes of The Covenant stressed, consideration in the se-tory”.

failed to recognize the Article 22 of the cove-date take into account dence made previously lies. Quite the contrary , ternational obligations the League of the Na-

Palestine in 27.11.1979 “...by itself the Declaration was legally impotent. For Great Britain had no sovereign rights over Palestine, it had no proprietary interest, it had no authority to dispose of the land. The Declaration was merely a statement of British intentions and no more”.

The Zionist movement and its leaders considered that promise a legal document which supported the demands for establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine.

Having occupied Palestine in late 1917 and proclaimed it mandated territory in June 1920, the Palestinians constituted 97% of the population of

Palestine, the total of Jews being only 3% of the population. The Palestinians owned almost 94% of the lands, while Jews owned no more 1% of the total land.

To achieve the ultimate Zionist goal-the creation of a Jewish state- it was necessary to increase to the maximum the size of the Jewish community. All this happened with help and protectionism of the British colonialists. During 28 years of mandate, Britain turned colonial Zionist dreams into reality on the land of Palestine. Britain translated that through plans, actions, laws, creation of institutions, political structures, banks and economic institutions, and opened the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration, shared the Jewish Agency in the management of Palestine, as well as, helped in establishing and consolidating Jewish settler gangs for confiscation of Palestinian lands for Jewish colonists arriving in particular from Europe, as well as arming and consolidating the Zionist presence, facilitating the access to Palestine the military and financial aid and fighters trained in Western armies, particularly British one which participated in the Second World War.

Such British policies, particularly, allowing the Zionists to organize the mass entry of Jews into Palestine, as well as helping them in reinforcing their positions in all political and economic spheres, through the enacting of a land Transfer Ordinance, which became effective as of October 1, 1920, permitting unrestricted land purchase and sale. Which led to seizing lands, which for ages had belonged to the Palestinians. Moreover, intensive immigration led to substantial changes in the composition of pop-



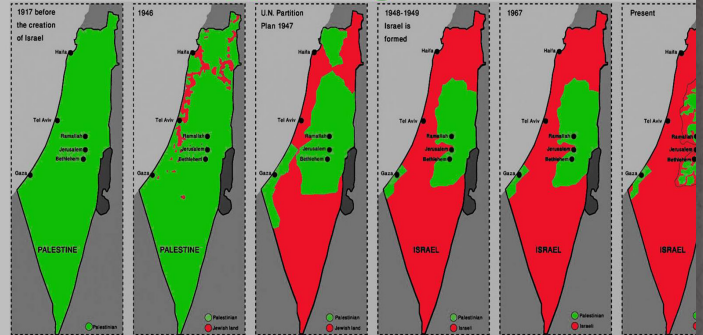
Balfour Declaration: Britain's Shame



"His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people **nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine..**"

Lord Arthur James Balfour, British Foreign Secretary **2 November 1917**

1917 Disappearing Palestine 201



Britain must accept its responsibility and end its complicity in the colonisation of Palestine

ulation. Thus in 1948 the number of Jews-immigrants reaching something like 650 thousand. Such policies are, in reality, a crime unequalled in history against the Palestinian people, and it is not subject to prescription, the thing that necessitates accountability and prosecution of Britain.

The Palestine National Council recalls the speech of the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the U.N. General Assembly saying that the Palestinian people had suffered greatly because of the Balfour Declaration. " we ask Great Britain, as we approach 100 years since this infamous declaration, to draw the necessary lessons and to bear its historic, legal, political, material and moral responsibility for the consequences of this declaration, including an apology to the Palestinian people for the catastrophes, misery and injustice this declaration created and to act to rectify these disasters and remedy its consequences, including by the recognition of the state of Palestine". Abbas said : "This is the least Great Britain can do "

While President Abbas demanded that Britain apologize for its issue and cancel the celebrations of its centenary. Britain promptly refused to apologize. Moreover, Prime Minister Theresa May said she was proud of Britain's role in the document and wanted the British people to take pride in their country's contribution to Israel's statehood. She even invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to come to England to join the celebrations.

In a recent letter to the Jewish National Fund UK, the British PM stated " I am proud to be a friend of Israel and proud of Britain's vital role in creating a homeland for the Jewish people".

The Palestine National Council stresses that Britain cannot shirk its responsibility even after 100 years, that is why, it should recognize the suffering of the Palestinian people, the repercussions of the Balfour Declaration, the Palestinians' right to self-determination and the recognition of the Palestinian State within 1967 borders. Britain should face its historic responsibility and atone for the big crime had committed against the Palestinian people.

The British government has steadfastly rejected Palestinian demands that Britain apologize for the declaration . Quite the opposite, May said " The declaration was one of the most important letters in history, we are proud of our role in creating the state of Israel. While not apologizing , the Foreign Office statement did admit and acknowledge that the document " should have called for the protection of political rights of the non-Jewish communities in Palestine, particularly their right to self-determination". It was only in Palestine that the declaration with its inherent injustices and contradictions deprived the Palestinians of their independence, provisionally recognized in the Covenant, and created the conflict which had afflicted, and continues to afflict the Middle East and the entire world,



The Palestine National Council reaffirms that the British government bears full responsibility. First, for its issuing the declaration which was opposed to the wishes of the great majority of the people of Palestine, and second, as a mandatory entrusted with a “sacred trust” which compels the UK as the former Mandatory power, acting through the United Nation to ensure that there is no consistent pattern of human rights violations in the mandated territory. The International Court of Justice has stressed that the concept of “sacred trust” must be interpreted as requiring effect to be given to the principle of self-determination leading to independence. Sadly, Britain has failed to take serious action to protect the human rights of the Palestinian people or to advance their independence. Moreover, Britain overtly infringed on the interests of the Palestinian people, and acting contrary to its mandate and pledge of assistance in obtaining independence.

The internationally wrongful act of a state entails its international responsibility that exists when conduct consisting of one act or omission is attributable to a state and constitutes a breach of an international obligation owed by that state.

The Palestine National Council asserts that the internationally wrongful acts of terrorism, ethnic cleansing, expulsion, confiscation of land, destruction of villages without military necessity and pillaging that were committed against Palestinian civilians and their possessions in the wake of the exodus of Palestinian refugees, which were conducted before the creation of Israel are attributed to Great Britain in its capacity as the mandate for Palestine, on the one hand, and Israel, on the other, under the intertemporal customary international law of state responsibility. The National Council further asserts on the responsibility of Israel for acts committed during and after the establishment of Israel. The state of Palestine demands that Israel provide full reparation i.e restitution, compensation and satisfaction and demands that Great Britain furnish reparation in the form of compensation and satisfaction in line with customary provisions of intertemporal international law.

On the basis of the above-mentioned facts, The parliamentarians of the Palestine National Council appeal to you to actively participate and strongly back our attempts and efforts to :

- Circulate this memorandum to all member states.
- Demand British parliamentarians of the Houses of Commons and Lords to turn their government away from organizing British –Israeli celebrations to mark the centenary of the Balfour Declaration with its disastrous consequences to our people.

•Demand British parliamentarians to call upon British government to bear its historic, moral and internationally legal responsibility for the consequences of this declaration for our Palestinian people who have suffered greatly because of the declaration.

•Appeal to the British government to rectify the grave injustice it inflicted upon the Palestinian people, correct the historical injustice inflicted upon the Palestinian people when it issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917, apologize to the Palestinian people and compensate them, as well as recognize the State of Palestine on the 4 June 1967 borders.

- Actively pursue efforts to bring an end to the Israeli occupation of the State of Palestine within a set timeframe. It is no longer enough to issue generic, endless statements calling for an end to the occupation and the achievement of peace without a deadline. Efforts must be made to implement the Arab Peace Initiative, including a just solution for the Palestine refugee question in accordance with resolution 194.

- Urge those states that have not recognized the State of Palestine yet to do so, in fulfillment of the principle of equality, which can enhance the chances of peace. It is not understood how recognizing the State of Palestine harms the chances of peace, especially since we the Palestinians have recognized Israel on the 1967 borders.

Speaker Za'anoon Demands UK Apology, Recognition of the State of Palestine

On November 1 the Palestine National Council (PNC) hosted a conference for PNC members residing in Amman to commemorate and explain the repercussions of the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration , the conference also seeks to highlight Britain's historical and political responsibility for the declaration and its consequence for Palestine.

PNC Speaker Mr. SalimZa'anoon, during his address to PNC members “ demand the British parliament, both houses of commons and lords to pressure its government bear its historic and legal responsibility towards our people's Catastrophe “ the Council speaker said in a statement.

100 years have passed since the notorious Balfour Declaration, by which Britain gave without any right, authority or consent from anyone, the land of Palestine to another people. This paved the read for the Nakba of the Palestinian people and their dispossession and displacement from their land. As if this were not enough, the British Mandate interpreted this Declaration into policies and measures that contributed to the perpetration of the most



heinous crimes against a peaceful people in their own land.

We, the Parliamentarians, ask the British parliament and government to draw the necessary lessons and bear their historic, legal political, material and moral responsibilities for the consequences of this Declaration, including an apology to the Palestinian people for the catastrophes, miseries and injustices that it created, and to act to rectify this historic catastrophe, remedy its consequences, compensate the Palestinian people politically, and morally, and atone for its sins in Palestine includ-

ing by recognition of the State of Palestine, based on 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital. The statement continued

Speaker Za'anoon saluted the labor leader Jeremy Corbyn who refused to attend a dinner to mark the centenary of Balfour Declaration, with visiting Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, as well as saluted a British delegation who walked across Europe to Palestine to protest the centennial of the Balfour Declaration.

The Council's members condemned- the rejection of the British government to apologize for the Declaration. Instead May said " The declaration was one of the most important letters in history, we are proud of our role in creating the state of Israel."

The Palestinian parliamentarians demand British parliament and government to bear its historic, moral and internationally legal responsibility for the consequences of this Declaration for our people who have suffered greatly of the Declaration. Britain cannot shirk its responsibility even after 100 years, that is why, it should recognize the suffering of the Palestinian people, the repercussions of the Balfour Declaration, the Palestinians' right to self-determination and the recognition of the Palestinian State with 1967 borders. Britain should face its historic responsibility and atone for the big crime had committed against the Palestinian people. The statement concluded.