

Palestine History Timeline and Campaigns Calendar

The History Timeline lays out major events in Palestinian history which student groups can choose to build educational events around, or commemorate in other ways, to build the knowledge base of their group and wider university student body. We would be available for advice on possible speakers and would love to hear what events you choose to commemorate and educate on - please let us know!

We are planning to hold Palestinian historical / political webinars during the year where broad topics can be delved into and discussed more fully with experts, so keep an eye out for those!

The Campaigns Calendar maps out existing international days of solidarity with Palestine. There will be events happening around the globe as thousands of people of conscience express their support for the Palestinian people on these days. By being aware of global solidarity actions we can build on integrating youth solidarity for Palestine here in the UK with its global counterparts. You might want to plan an action for your divestment campaign or maybe post a message on social media. Again, let us know what you're planning and we can spread the word to inspire others.

Over 100 Years of Palestinian History and Resistance

Palestine and the Colonial Predicament, 1917-1947

Signing of the Balfour Declaration - 2 November 1917

British Mandate – 29 September 1923 – 14 May 1948

Palestinian 'Great Revolt' - 19 April 1936-39

UN decides to partition Palestine – 29 November 1947

'From Refugees to Revolutionaries', 1948-1982

The Nakba – 15 May 1948

Launch of the Palestinian Revolution (Intilqa) – 1 January 1965

The Naksa / The Six-Day War – 5 June 1967

Battle of Karamah – 21 March 1968

Land Day – 30 March 1976

Sabra and Shatila massacres - 16 September 1982

First Intifada – 9 December 1987 – 13 September 1993

'A Palestinian Versailles?', 1993-2020

Signing of the Oslo Accords – 13 September 1993

Second Intifada – 28 September 2000 – 8 February 2005

Palestinian Legislative Elections - January 25 2006

Siege on Gaza – 2007

Operation Cast Lead – December 27 2008 – 18 January 2009

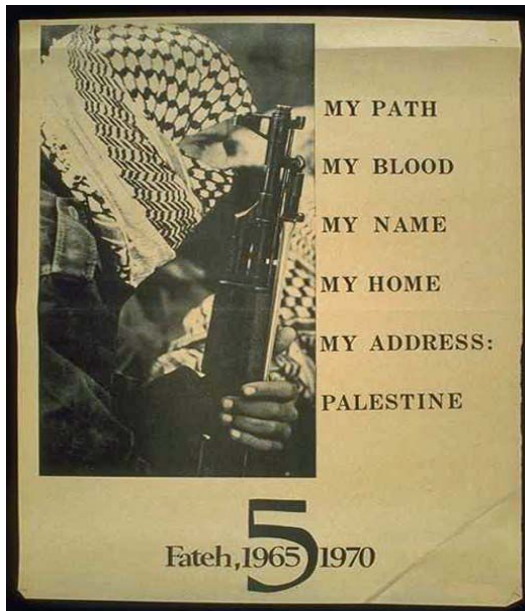
Operation Pillar of Cloud – 14 November 2012 – 21 November 2012

Operation Protective Edge – July 8 2014 – 26 August 2014

March of Return – 30 March 2018 (started) note: this is also Land Day

Solidarity Campaigning Calendar

1 January - Anniversary of the Launch of the Palestinian Revolution (*al-intilqa* [Arabic: the launching])



The beginning of the Palestinian revolution is usually traced to the publication of Fateh's first military communiqué on 1 January 1965, although the significance of this at the time was in no way apparent. This is now celebrated as the starting date of a decades long revolutionary movement in which Palestinian national liberation emerged as an iconic anticolonial struggle on the global stage.

Poster by Hani Jawharieh, Fateh, 1970.

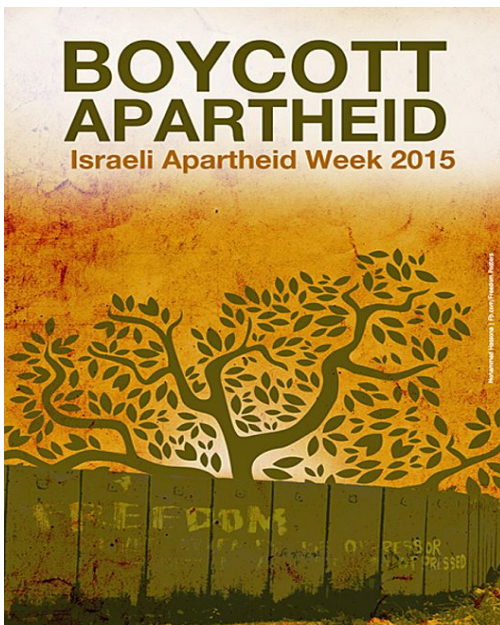
Recommended Reading: [Military Communiqué No.1](#), Fateh, 1965.

Israeli Apartheid Week - February or March Every Year

Israeli Apartheid Week has taken place for the last 14 years in over 200 universities and cities around the world. It aims to raise public awareness and build campaigns against Israel's regime of apartheid and settler-colonialism because of racial domination, colonization of occupied Palestinian land, and the legalization of the systematic oppression of the Palestinian people by Israel's laws. Creative actions, panels, film screenings and more are organised to build support for the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Poster by Mohammed Hassona, 2015 - 'Israeli Apartheid Week - 2015'

Recommended Reading: *Israeli Apartheid - a beginner's guide*, Ben White, Pluto Press: London, New York (2009)



8 March - International Women's Day and Day of Solidarity with Palestinian Women

The history of women's resistance in Palestine is a long one. In 1929 a Women's Conference was held in Jerusalem in protest of the Zionist colonisation program, which was followed by a delegation of women who went to the British High Commissioner and called for the revocation of the Balfour Declaration. On International Women's Day we stand in solidarity with Palestinian women and their role in the struggle for justice. *Poster by PLO Department of Information and Culture, 1985*

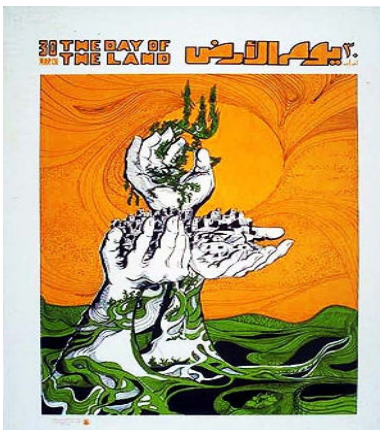
Recommended Reading: 'International Women's Day Statement', Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, Palestine, 8 March 2015 (pp. 646-648), in *Feminist Manifestos: A Global Documentary Reader*, Ed. Penny A. Weiss with Megan Brueske (2018).



21 March - Karameh Day

The 21 March 1968 battle of Karameh was seen as a turning point in the Palestinian struggle. It was the first major Israeli invasion into Arab territories since the 1967 war. The news of vastly outnumbered and outgunned *fedayeen* standing and fighting instead of retreating led to a massive upsurge in (regional and international) publicity and support for the Palestinian resistance movement. *Poster by Socialist Youth Alliance, 1972.*

Recommended Reading: *The Palestinian 1968: struggles for dignity and solidarity*, Omar Jabary Salamanca, Rekto Verso (2018)



30 March - Land Day

On 30 March 1976, Israeli police shot and killed six Palestinian citizens of Israel as they were protesting the Israeli government's expropriation of thousands of donums of Palestinian land. Since then, March 30 has been known as Land Day. It has become a major commemorative date in the Palestinian political calendar and an important event in the Palestinian

collective narrative - one that emphasises Palestinian resistance to Israeli colonisation and sumud (steadfastness)

Poster by Fateh (Palestinian National Liberation Movement), 1985.

April 17 - Palestinian Prisoners Day

April 17 is Palestinian Prisoners Day – a day of solidarity with Palestinian political prisoners in their struggle for justice and freedom. Israel holds thousands of Palestinians as political prisoners - political repression is central to Israel's military occupation. Normal activities like attending community events, and posting on social media or belonging to student associations are criminalised according to the military rule Israel wields over the Palestinians. Needless to say none of these rules apply to Israeli citizens. Israel is increasingly targeting students. Some 250 students are imprisoned, including 80 from Birzeit University. On this day we echo the demands of Palestinian political prisoners for freedom and justice, in solidarity with their struggle for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.



Poster by Nabil Anani, 1980 - 'Prisoner's Day - 2'

Recommended Reading: *Palestinian Political Prisoners*, Esmail Nashif, Routledge: 2008

19 April - Beginning of 'The Great Revolt' (1936-1939)

In 1936, widespread Palestinian dissatisfaction with Britain's governance erupted into open rebellion. The Great Palestinian Rebellion, or the Great Arab Revolt, as this uprising came to be known, lasted for three years. A mass strike was launched on the 19 April that unified the Palestinian resistance, but the combined impact of Britain's military and diplomatic efforts brought the rebellion to an end in the late summer of 1939. Over the revolt's three years, some 5,000 Palestinians had been killed and nearly 15,000 wounded, and the Palestinian leadership had been exiled, assassinated, and imprisoned.

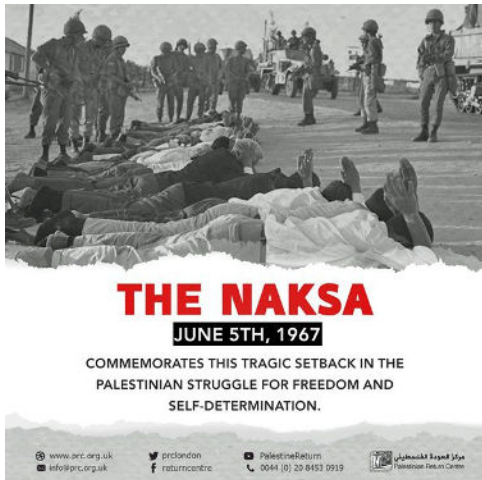
Recommended Reading: Kanafani, Ghassan. *The 1936–39 Revolt in Palestine* (1972)

15 May - Nakba Day

On this day, we remember the Nakba, the theft of Palestinian land and the dispossession of the Palestinian people. At the same time, we celebrate, affirm and pledge to continue our solidarity with the Palestinian liberation and return. For decades, the Palestinian people's movement has commemorated 15 May and the week that follows as a week of solidarity, resistance and struggle.

Poster by Fateh, 1976.

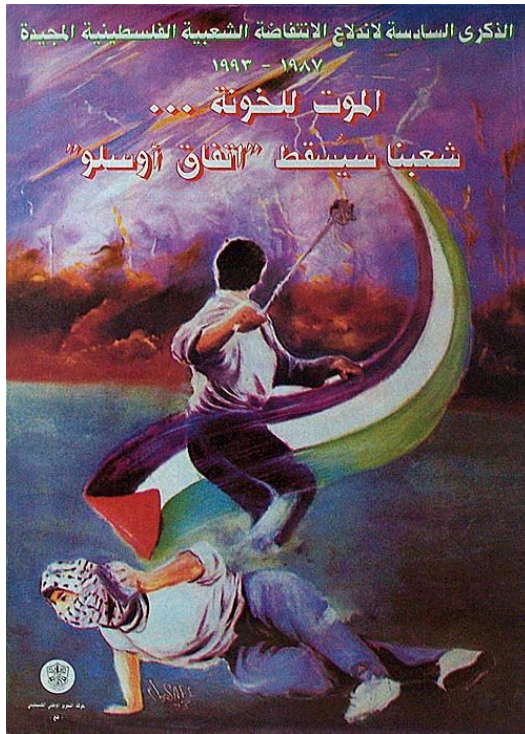
Recommended Reading: *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*, Ilan Pappé, Oneworld: Oxford (2006)



5 June - Naksa Day

June 5th marks Naksa Day, otherwise known as 'the setback'. This day marks the defeat of Arab nations during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War and the beginning of the military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Israel's military occupation is now one of the longest occupations in modern history. The Naksa saw over 300,000 Palestinians expelled from their homes, further exacerbating the Palestinian refugee crisis. *Poster by Palestine Return Centre, 2020*

13 September - Signing of the Oslo Accords



The 13 September agreement signed on the White House lawn and the famous handshake of Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat was falsely billed as a promise of peace and hope for Palestinians, but was in reality a program for continued and intensified colonization and the suppression of the Palestinian liberation struggle. The number of illegal Israeli settlers in the occupied Palestinian West Bank has quadrupled since the signing of the Oslo accords, while war after war have been waged against the undefeated and resisting Palestinian people in besieged Gaza. On the anniversary of the Oslo project, we reaffirm our solidarity with the Palestinian people whose freedom remains far outside the framework of the Oslo Accords.

Poster by Mohammed Safi, Al-Asifah, 1993 - 'Our people reject the Oslo Accords'

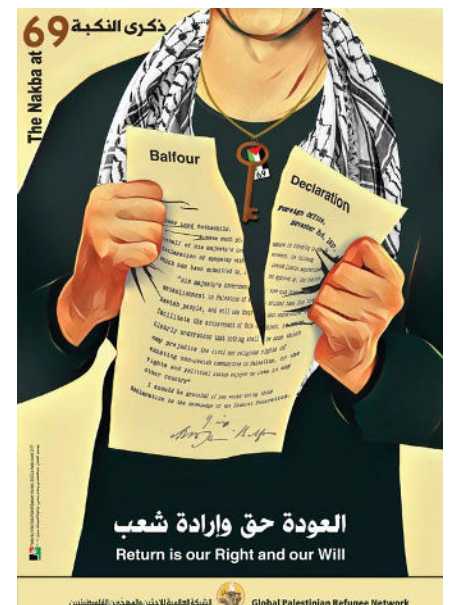
Recommended Reading: Edward Said, 'The Morning After', *London Review of Books*, 1993.

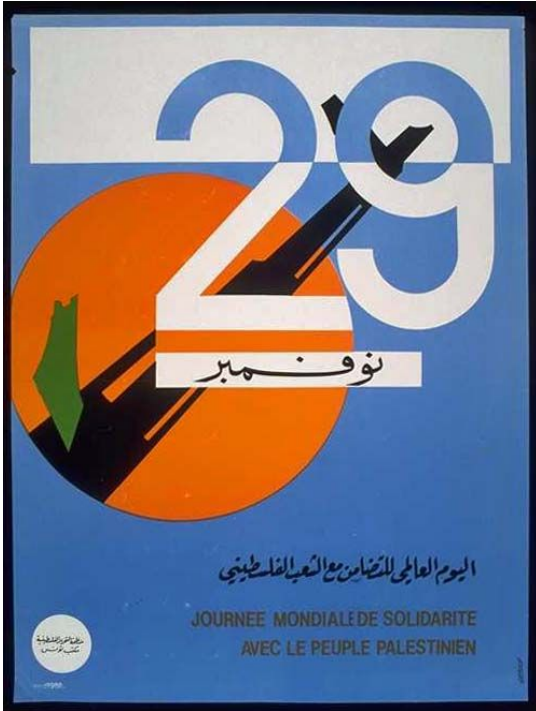
2 November - Signing of Balfour Declaration

On 2 November 1917, the British government, represented by Foreign Minister Arthur Balfour, declared it was in favour of "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." This short note would become one of the most controversial documents of modern history. The document paved the way for the creation of Israel and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians that went with it. The anniversary of this date underlines the extent of British responsibility for Palestinian dispossession and how important it therefore is that we in the UK work to undo the unjust situation Britain helped create.

Poster by BADIL Resource Centre, 2017.

Recommended Reading: Bernard Regan, *The Balfour Declaration: Empire, the Mandate and Resistance in Palestine*, 2017.





29 November - International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

29 November marks the annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, pursuant to United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977. On the same day, 29 November in 1947, the General Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine (resolution 181 (II)). It constitutes a somber watershed in Palestinian history and collective memory as their fate as perennial oppressed, dispossessed and exiled people was subsequently sealed.

Poster by PLO Office (Tunis), 1980.

All posters from The Palestine Poster Project Archives, Dan Walsh, Liberation Graphics.

<https://www.palestineposterproject.org/>

<http://learnpalestine.politics.ox.ac.uk> - This is a useful resource for learning AND teaching about Palestine