



Palestine Solidarity Campaign is organising a series of events commemorating the Nakba, from Saturday 7th May to Sunday 15th May. We aim to build a wide range of alliances in creating a series of events and inspiring actions that will engage the British public, on both a local and national level, in a critical understanding of the history of the Nakba and its relevance today. Reaching out beyond our existing support base will be essential, as our objective is to help arrive at the stage where the annual commemoration of the Nakba in the UK is all-inclusive.

The aim is for each branch to hold at least one event, including talks, films, concerts; actions such as boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaigns, protests and stalls; online actions and campaigns, and much more...

We'd like to hear your ideas! We will announce the Nakba Week of Action to the public on Monday 4th April 2016.

Manal Tamimi, a popular resistance activist who lives under occupation in Nabi Saleh in the West Bank, will be giving a speaking tour around the UK during Nakba Week, including a meeting at Parliament on Wednesday 11th May and a conference at London's Mander Hall on Saturday 14th May. Other speakers available for speaking events across the country include Riya Hassan of the BDS national committee; Ben White, journalist and author; Mahmoud Zwhare of the Al-Ma'sara popular resistance committee; Ahmed Masoud, Palestinian author from Gaza; and many others.

Join us to commemorate the Nakba around the country and say 'no more'.

Manal Tamimi speaking tour:

TUE 3	NEWCASTLE	BROADACRE HOUSE
WED 4	NOTTINGHAM	Venue TBC
THU 5	LIVERPOOL	Venue TBC
FRI 6	CARDIFF	TEMPLE OF PEACE
SAT 7	BIRMINGHAM	Venue TBC
TUE 10	OXFORD	OXFORD TOWN HALL
WED 11	PARLIAMENT	Room TBC
THU 12	BRIGHTON	COMMUNITY BASE
FRI 13	UNITE MEETING	UNITE HQ
SAT 14	LONDON	MANDER HALL

Other speakers available:

Riya Hassan – BDS national committee

Haya al Farra – Palestinian Mission

Ahmed Masoud – Author from Gaza

Mahmoud Zwhare – Al-Mas'ara popular resistance committee

Ben White – journalist and author

More speakers are available, along with their details on availability. Please contact samir.eskanda@palestinecampaign.org for more information and booking requests.

Background

Every year Palestinians mark the Nakba – “catastrophe” in English – when in 1948 around 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes during the creation of the state of Israel. 500 villages were destroyed, and their inhabitants never allowed to return. Zionist militias, who later became the “IDF”, committed massacres in Deir Yassin, Lydda, Tantura and many other Palestinian communities.

A critical understanding of the Nakba is essential as it continues to shape Palestinians’ experience. Palestinian society was all but destroyed, with refugees scattered around neighbouring states and across the world. The ethnic cleansing continues today, with hundreds of Palestinians losing their homes due to Israel’s demolition policies in 2015, and the Palestinian Bedouin suffering repeated dispossession and displacement in the Naqab/Negev desert in Israel, to give a few examples.

Israel continues to deny Palestinians their fundamental rights, including, crucially, the right of return. While Israel’s Law of Return entitles automatic citizenship to Jews born anywhere in the world, Palestinian refugees are denied the right to return to their homes and land, from which they were expelled.

Millions of Palestinians live in refugee camps in Israel’s neighbouring countries, and the occupied Palestinian territories, with many having been made refugees two or more times by continued Israeli assaults. Many Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip are refugees from the ethnic cleansing of 1948. Palestinian citizens of Israel (those who remained steadfast on their land, surviving the ethnic cleansing) are today subjected to dozens of discriminatory laws and other forms of systematic racism.

Well over half a million Jewish settlers continue to colonise Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank, with settlement expansion rising dramatically under the Netanyahu government. These illegal settlements displace Palestinians, cutting them off from their land, monopolising scarce water resources and subjecting them to frequent attacks from armed settlers, who are escorted by regular Israeli forces.

The centrality of the Nakba to the Palestinian struggle was underlined recently by a Pew poll, which found that almost half of Jewish Israelis believe Palestinian citizens of Israel should be expelled. Israel continues to deny the historical facts of the Nakba through every legal, cultural and political means possible.

Media strategy and activist toolkit document to follow, containing resources for your Nakba Week activities, eg:

- Details of speakers
- Lists of films for screenings
- Infographics, gifs, images and videos featuring Palestinian voices
- Comprehensive factsheets with information on the historical and political framework of the Nakba
- Strategy for amplifying awareness of your events: before, during and after they take place
- Press releases and other materials

www.palestinecampaign.org/nakbaweek