

Palestinian-Israeli Timeline, 1947-1998

- 1947, 29 November: The UN General Assembly adopts the Palestine partition plan by a two-thirds majority.
- 1948, 9-10 April: Massacre by Irgun troops in the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin.
- 1948, 14 May: Proclamation of the State of Israel. The Arab states reject the partition plan and their armies enter Palestine (15th).
- 1948-49, War in Palestine, ending in Israeli victory. Armistice agreements signed between Israel and the neighbouring Arab states.
- 1949, 11 May: Israel becomes a member of the UN.
- 1949, 11 December: Adoption of UN Resolution 194, proclaiming the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes.
- 1950, 24 April: The West Bank annexed by Transjordan. Egypt establishes its control of Gaza.
- 1951, October: Israel rejects UN peace plan, accepted by Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.
- 1955, February: Baghdad Pact signed (24th). Israel attacks Gaza (28th).
- 1956, October-November: Israel, France and Britain attack Egypt, in response to Nasser's nationalisation of the Suez Canal on 26 July.
- 1958, 1 February: Egypt and Syria form the United Arab Republic (UAR).
- 1959, October: Founding congress of Fatah in Kuwait.
- 1964, 13-17 January: First Arab League summit held in Cairo.
- 1964, 29 May: Creation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).
- 1965, 1 January: First Fatah military action against Israel.
- 1967, 5 June: Israel attacks Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Following a six-day lightning war Israel occupies Sinai, the Golan, the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. Settlement begins in the summer.
- 1967, 22 November: The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 242.
- 1969, 1-4 February: Fifth session of the Palestine National Council. Yasser Arafat becomes chairman of the PLO's executive committee.
- 1970, July: President Nasser of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan accept the Rogers Plan, a set of US proposals involving implementation of Resolution 242.
- 1970, September: Clashes between the PLO and the Jordanian army ("Black September"). A year later the PLO is expelled from Jordan and the leadership of the Palestinian resistance moves to Lebanon.
- 1972, 5-6 September: Attack at the Munich Olympic Games by a group belonging to the Palestinian organisation "Black September". Eleven Israeli athletes and coaches killed.
- 1973, August: Palestinian National Front formed in the occupied territories.
- 1973, 6 October: Egyptian and Syrian armies launch attack to recover the territories occupied by Israel. Start of the Yom Kippur war.
- 1973, 22 October: Adoption of Security Council Resolution 338. Fighting stops a few days later.
- 1973, 26-28 November: Arab League summit in Algiers. Resolution passed recognising the PLO recognised as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people". Jordan abstains.
- 1974, 1-9 June: The PLO accepts the idea of national authority over any liberated part of Palestine.
- 1974, 13 November: Arafat addresses the UN General Assembly. The UN recognises the right of the Palestinians to independence and self-determination. The PLO obtains observer status.
- 1975, April: Start of the civil war in Lebanon.
- 1976, 30 March: Land Day demonstrations in Galilee, organised by the Israeli Palestinians, are violently repressed (six deaths).
- 1976, 13 April: Municipal election in the occupied West Bank. Clear victory for candidates sympathetic to PLO.
- 1976, June: Large-scale intervention by Syrian troops in Lebanon against the PLO and the Lebanese National Movement.
- 1976, 6 September: The PLO is admitted to the Arab League as a full member.
- 1977, 12-20 March: Thirteenth session of the Palestine National Council in Cairo. Acceptance of the idea of an independent Palestinian state in part of Palestine.

1977, 17 May: The right wins the Israeli elections for the first time. Its leader, Menahem Begin, becomes prime minister.

1977, 1 October: US-Soviet declaration on peace in the Middle East, supported by the PLO.

1977, 19-21 November: President Anwar Sadat of Egypt goes to Jerusalem.

1978, 14 March: Israel invades South Lebanon.

1978, 17 September: Camp David accords signed by Egypt, Israel and the United States, condemned in November by the Arab League summit in Baghdad.

1981, July: Israeli-Palestinian war on the Lebanese border. Israelis bomb Beirut.

1981, 6 October: President Sadat assassinated.

1982, March-April: Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. Elected mayors deposed.

1982, 25 April: Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai.

1982, 6 June: Start of Israeli invasion of Lebanon, followed by siege of Beirut. The PLO begins to withdraw from Beirut in September, under the protection of the Multinational Force.

1982, 9 September: Adoption of the final resolution of the Arab League summit in Fez, calling for the creation of an independent Palestinian state, recognising the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the right of "all the states of the region" to live in peace.

1982, 14-18 September: New Lebanese president Beshir Gemayel assassinated. Israelis enter West Beirut. Massacre in the Palestinian camps Sabra and Shatilah.

1983, 17 May: Israel-Lebanon peace agreement.

1983, August-September: Resumption of civil war in Lebanon. Begin resigns as Israeli prime minister and is succeeded by Yitzhak Shamir.

1984, 23 July: Elections in Israel. National unity government formed.

1985, Spring: More massacres at Sabra, Shatilah and other Palestinian camps in Lebanon, this time perpetrated by the Shi'ite Amal militia.

1985, June: Israel completes withdrawal from Lebanon, except for a strip along the southern border controlled by the South Lebanon Army.

1985, 1 October: Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunisia (70 killed).

1987, December: The Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories known as the intifada begins in Gaza and then in the West Bank.

1988, 16 April: PLO second-in-command Abu Jihad assassinated by an Israeli commando group in Tunis.

1988, 31 July: King Hussein of Jordan announces on television the severance of his country's "legal and administrative ties" with the West Bank, annexed by his grandfather Abdallah in 1950 and occupied by Israel since 1967.

1988, 12-15 November: At its nineteenth session, held in Algiers, the Palestine National Council proclaims the State of Palestine, recognises Resolutions 181, 242 and 338, and confirms its condemnation of terrorism.

1988, 13 December: Arafat addresses the UN General Assembly in Geneva (the United States having refused to issue the PLO leader with a visa) and repeats the statements made by the Palestine National Council in November. The following day he condemns terrorism in any form. Washington then agrees to open a "substantive dialogue" with the PLO.

1989, 6 April: Shamir puts forward a four-point plan centred on the holding of elections in the occupied territories.

1990, January: Sudden acceleration in the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. The monthly number of arrivals continues to rise right through to December (34,000), making a total of almost 200,000 for the year.

1990, 20 June: Following the attempt by a Palestinian commando group to land in Israel, President Bush announces the suspension of the US-Palestinian dialogue.

1990, 2 August: Iraqi forces cross the border into Kuwait. Security Council Resolution 660 demands "that Iraq withdraw immediately and unconditionally all its forces". Unlike the majority of Arab countries, the PLO supports Saddam Hussein.

1990, 8 October: Massacre at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem (18 killed, 150 wounded). Israel refuses to cooperate with the UN commission of inquiry.

1991, 15 January: Assassination in Tunis of PLO second-in-command Abu Iyad (Salah Khalaf), his advisor Abu Muhammad (Fakhri al-Omari), and PLO security chief Abu al-Hol (Hayel Abdel Hamid).

1991, 11 March: First trip to Jerusalem by US Secretary of State James Baker since the Gulf War. Followed by many more, until Israel accepts the principle of a peace conference on 2 August.

1992, 24 February: US Secretary of State James Baker make the grant of bank guarantees for a \$10 billion loan to Israel conditional upon a halt to Jewish settlement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

1992, 23 June: Yitzhak Rabin wins the Israeli election.

1992, 10 September: Rabin envisages a 'limited withdrawal' from the Golan in exchange for "total peace with Syria".

1992, 16 December: Following the kidnapping and murder of a border guard by Hamas, the Rabin government deports 415 Palestinians suspected of pro-Islamist sympathies to South Lebanon. Condemned by the Security Council, this decision blocks the peace process for several months.

1993, 9-10 September: Mutual recognition by Israel and the PLO.

1993, 13 September: The PLO and the Government of Israel, in the presence of Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat, sign the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government at the White House.

1994, 25 February: Settler Baruch Goldstein kills 29 Palestinians in the Hebron mosque massacre.

1994, 29 February: Israel and the PLO sign protocol on economic relations in Paris.

1994, 4 May: Cairo agreement between Rabin and Arafat on arrangements for implementing the Israel-Palestinian Declaration of Principles.

1994, 1 July: Arafat returns to Gaza.

1994, 14 October: Arafat, Rabin and Peres co-recipients of the Nobel peace prize.

1994, 26 October: Peace treaty signed between Israel and Jordan.

1995, January: The occupied territories are sealed off by Israel following a suicide bombing by the Islamic Jihad in Beit Lid in which 19 Israelis were killed.

1995, April: Arafat orders the arrest of 170 Hamas members or sympathisers, following three attacks claimed by the Islamists.

1995, 28 September: Despite a further attack in Jerusalem on 21 August, Arafat and Rabin sign in Washington, in the presence of President Clinton, President Mubarak and King Hussein, the Oslo II agreement providing for the extension of autonomy to the West Bank.

1995, 4 November: Yitzhak Rabin assassinated by rightwing extremist student Yigal Amir. Succeeded by Shimon Peres.

1995, November-December: Israel completes its withdrawal from the Palestinian towns, except Hebron.

1996, 20 January: Yasser Arafat is elected president of the Palestinian Authority and his supporters win two thirds of the 80 seats in the Legislative Council.

1996, February-March: In reprisal for the murder of its master bombmaker, Yehia Ayache, by the Israeli secret services, Hamas carries out a series of bloody terrorist attacks in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Ashkelon.

1996, April: Shimon Peres gives the go-ahead for Operation "Grapes of Wrath" against Lebanon.

1996, 18 April: 98 civilian refugees in the UN camp at Cana in South Lebanon die in Israeli shelling. A ceasefire is agreed on the 27th.

1996, 24 April: Meeting in Gaza, at its first session to be held in Palestine, the Palestine National Council removes from its Charter all the articles incompatible with Israel's right to exist.

1996, 29 May: The Israeli elections are won by a coalition of rightwing, far-right and religious parties led by Binyamin Netanyahu, who becomes prime minister.

1996, 27-29 September: The Jewish municipality of Jerusalem opens a tunnel under the Mosque Esplanade, provoking an outburst of violence, the most serious since the intifada, that spreads to all the occupied territories (76 deaths).

1996, 8 October: Yasser Arafat's first official visit to Israel, in response to an invitation to Caesaria from the head of state, Ezer Weizman.

- 1997, 25 February: The Israeli government announces its decision to build a Jewish settlement at Har Homa, in the occupied Arab part of Jerusalem. Despite this violation of the Oslo accords, the United States vetoes a UN Security Council resolution calling upon Israel to abandon the project.
- 1997, 25 September: The Palestinian police close six offices and associations connected with Hamas. On the same day Mossad attempts to assassinate Khaled Meshaal, the head of Hamas' political bureau, in Jordan.
- 1997, 1 October: Under pressure from Jordan, Israel frees Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, who is given a hero's welcome in Gaza on 6 October. Jordan releases two Mossad agents in exchange for 35 Palestinian prisoners.
- 1998, 14 May: During the Palestinian commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel and the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, serious clashes with the Israeli army leave 9 dead and 1,200 wounded.