

**The Owners of the Inalienable Rights of  
the Palestinian People, declare**



**“The Balfour Declaration is  
Totally Null and Void”**



**I issue this statement as a member of the human family who unequivocally upholds justice, equality and peace, endorses the right of every woman and man on earth to live with dignity, and rejects every form of injustice, occupation, dispossession, prejudice, exclusion and discrimination.**

I write this statement as a person who devoted much of his life to bolstering international cooperation, supporting development, and quenching the thirst for knowledge worldwide.

I write it as a Palestinian who was directly harmed, together with my family and my entire people, by the Balfour Declaration and other related measures of aggression against my homeland.

In this statement, in addition to articulating my own conviction, I voice the conviction of all Palestinians particularly those who were forcefully expelled from the land of their forefathers, as well as those who remained and were forced to live under occupation.



**In examining the substance of the Balfour declaration against the facts of history, we will be struck by its lack of any legal, political, humanitarian or ethical grounds.**

The wording of the declaration is as follows:

*His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.*

To state the obvious, neither the British Government, nor any British official, had the legal capacity to cede an inhabited country to another people. Likewise, neither the head of the British Zionist Federation, nor the Zionist groups who flooded into Palestine, had any capacity or entitlement in relation to Palestine.

It goes without saying that Palestine was not a terra nullius. It was not a land without a people to be donated for a people without a land as the propaganda of the Zionist Movement suggested. Palestine was inhabited by its native Palestinian people which was comprised of Muslims Christians and Jews.

During the preceding centuries, like many other nations in the region, Palestine was an Arab country that was administratively governed by the Ottoman Empire while enjoying significant autonomy especially in steering internal affairs.



**The decades and years that preceded the announcement of the Balfour Declaration bore witness to a specific development which was similar to developments taking place in other countries in the region.**

With the acceleration of the decline of the Ottoman Empire, the Palestinian consciousness continued to grow a conception about itself as an integrated nation on the threshold of completing the process of building its own state which would steer its own affairs.

Simultaneously, regarding relations with the narrow and wide geographic orbit, the Palestinian consciousness held an unambiguous conception of belonging to the Arab World, and of being an integral part of the Arab Nation.

This vivid reality was noted by many well-established scholars and experts during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Within the context of living the aforementioned conceptions of nationhood and statehood, the Palestinian People embarked on a process of transforming their frameworks of political representation within the context of building a distinct national entity but still as part of the envisaged independent united Arab state. It was a phase of spontaneous self-determination.

However, as of the British invasion in October 1917, the British influence launched a multi-dimensional, campaign to abort all those efforts in order to prevent the rise of an independent Palestinian State.

**Whereas the Balfour Declaration, sought the establishment of a national home for the Jews “in” Palestine, not in all Palestine, and the preservation of civil and religious rights of Palestinians, both provisions were, in reality, gravely breached from day one.**

As of the date of the Balfour Declaration, within the context of enabling the Zionist occupation, the British occupation set in motion a well-engineered process of systematic illicit confiscation of property including lands and houses, unwarranted detention, demolition of homes, genocide and offering the Zionists the support needed to build settlements.

Subsequently, Western governments began to collectively arm the Zionist gangs who themselves began to administer the process of taking over the entire Palestine.

Thus, the Zionists designed and implemented policies of confiscation of property including land and houses, individual eviction, ethnic cleansing, demolition of houses, detention, beating demonstrators and breaking their bones, torture, assassination, building of settlements, uprooting trees, construction of barriers and fences, stealing water and appropriation of collective intellectual property which belongs to the Palestinian People.

The Zionists widened the scope of these atrocities decade after decade. Ultimately, virtually all of Palestine was seized by the Zionists with the blessing of the so-called international community.



**Digging deeper, we discern that the Balfour declaration was only one of the many instruments of a shrewdly woven conspiracy against the Palestinian People, the Arab world, peace and against humanity at large.**

Essentially, as an instrument to “legalize” the Zionist occupation. The latter was hoped to serve as an advanced base of a hegemonic pursuit which aimed at achieving global political and economic dominance.

The perversion of the Balfour Declaration was verified by numerous serious studies produced by competent and esteemed jurists and researchers.

All the more, numerous UN resolutions demanding Justice for the Palestinian people, and recognition of their right to return, revealed how the Declaration was diametrically opposed to the spirit of human rights and international law.

Yet, policies of double standards, the scandalous absence of international will in enforcing UN resolutions, in addition to the failure of the Arab countries to achieve unity and adopt a unified policy which entails real pressure on the Zionist occupation and its supporters, have all contributed to the continuation of the “fragile” occupation, and to the consolidation of the Palestinian tragedy and injustice leaving the Palestinian people alone to struggle for their rights.

That being the case, it is an oversimplification to argue that ‘Israel’ is the product of the Balfour Declaration alone.



**Despite all the above, the historic resolve of the Palestinian People prevented the realization of the aspiration of the designers of the Balfour declaration and the wider conspiracy, namely “the final consolidation of occupation”.**

Despite the continued occupation and the immense Palestinian suffering, the unprecedented earnestness of the entirety of the Palestinian people, women and men, young and old, proved that the expectation that the Palestinians would disappear was totally unreal.

Likewise, the continuous sacrifices of every new Palestinian generation represented an eloquent testimony to the invalidity of the notion that “the old will die and the young will forget”.

Contrary to the wishful thinking of the aggressors, the Arab Palestinians in historic Palestine today outnumber the Zionists. Their population growth rates are much higher. And make no mistake, they don’t have plans for leaving despite all the oppressive measures or temptation tactics.!

Correspondingly, the Millions of Palestinians in diaspora, now over 25 million altogether, insist on returning home as well as on recovering their full rights. This includes the second and third born abroad generations.

Despite suffering, destitution, and the extreme Palestinian conditions, the great people of Palestine have managed to make record contributions to human civilization, in kind and in number of such contributions; in the most prominent universities, science institutions, finance, research, medicine, culture, literature, and more. The number of Palestinian innovators, and patent owners in accordance with a survey we conducted, has exceeded ten thousand.

Many of them have been granted international awards as an outstanding innovators occupying distinguished positions in their respective fields worldwide.

The innovative Palestinian people, who bravely confronted the challenges of injustice, suffering, and oppression is offering legendary success stories in international entrepreneurship, do deserve to live in peace and dignity. They will liberate their land from occupation. As Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish once said: “On this land live those who deserve to live”.



**Based on all the above**

**As a proud Palestinian, I reiterate that the Balfour Declaration is null and void, that all related measures of legalizing the aggression against my homeland are null and void, and that I will continue to uphold the just cause of my people until the occupation is dismantled and until the Palestinians recover all their stolen rights including building their own independent state on their national soil in Palestine.**

As a rightful holder of my rights in my country Palestine, and as a victim of this flagrant aggression on my country, my town, my house, my garden, my property, my memory, my history, I renew my condemnation and rejection of the Balfour Declaration with all its implications and consequences.

I do not allow anyone to occupy my house under any pretext. I would never cede my right to my house in Jaffa.

I resolutely disdain and scorn all dictation-based formulas in the name of peace. I will never accept settlement processes leading to subjugation and then calling it peace. I do not accept to bargain on my inalienable rights.

I, and my valiant people, firmly believe in the justice of our cause, and we are unequivocally committed to the liberation of our country from Zionist occupation.

I will struggle for the recovery of my right and so will my children and grand children, generation after generation until justice is finally served to the fullest. I believe that all Palestinians, females and males, are equally committed to the same goal as I am.

Yes, the Palestinians will continue their resistance, which is fully sanctioned under international law, until justice is served and their rights are restored, regardless of the conspiracies, the betrayals and the failings.

As a Palestinian and a holder of my inalienable right to my homeland, I demand that all Palestinians who were forcefully expelled from their homes and country be enabled to recover all their usurped rights. I demand full compensation for all the damage caused to me as a Palestinian having been forced to live away from his home all those years and decades, during which Palestinians had to live in exile noting that all the treasure of this world is no match to even one moment of breathing the aroma of my homeland.

The abnormal condition which has lasted for more than a century in Palestine and which was created by coercion, genocide, conspiracy, UN failure and deception, will not last.

The injustice imposed on Palestine will be fully terminated.

The dynamics of history are already working towards that end, and all indicators point in the direction of one prospect, namely .... the liberation of Palestine.



*On November 4<sup>th</sup> 2017, **Talal Tawfiq Abu Ghazaleh**, of Jaffa, Palestine, issued this statement on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the announcement of the Balfour Declaration, in Damascus, the Syrian Arab Republic.*



**A Palestinian-and I know this- is not only capable to withstand and resist but also ready to endure until the end.**

**Talal Abu-Ghazaleh**



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**I, and every Palestinian woman and man, will continue to attach to the walls of our homes the "Key of Return" which we have received from our mothers and fathers. We will hand the "Key of Return" over to our children, and our children will hand it over to our grandchildren until we all return with our bodies and our souls to our homes from which we have been evicted and attach it to their walls.**

**Talal Abu-Ghazaleh**