



## **Just Vision Visionaries' Timeline Entries on 1948\***

\*The following entries are part of Just Vision's collective historical timeline at [www.justvision.org/timeline](http://www.justvision.org/timeline). Please see the bottom of the list for a definition of 1948 from the Just Vision Glossary ([www.justvision.org/glossary](http://www.justvision.org/glossary)).

### **1948 War**

Caused the Palestinians to become refugees. My parents became refugees in Lebanon and the Meghazi refugee camp in Gaza. I lived their suffering through their stories and that had an impact on me as a child. Being a refugee in Lebanon myself made me feel different than the others.

--Ihsan Turkiyyeh, Palestinian

### **Establishment of the State of Israel**

I was a toddler, but I grew up feeling joy, wonder, and great expectations from the new State of the Jews.

--Gila Svirsky, Jewish Israeli

### **Nakba (Disaster)**

I am from a family that was uprooted from our village in 1948. From my point of view it all started from the Nakba, not earlier. I don't care what happened before that. Usually people start from the Holocaust and the Balfour Declaration, which became a demanding necessity especially after the Holocaust. However, I don't start there, I start with the Nakba in '48. Holocaust or no Holocaust, I don't care about why they came here, but about what happened when they did.

--Yoaad Shbita, Palestinian citizen of Israel

### **Establishment of the State of Israel**

It was both the beginning of the conflict and independence for Israel. Those are two parallel events. On the one hand it established the State of Israel for the Jewish people, and on the other, it banished hundreds of thousands of

Palestinians. A disaster for one people and a celebration for the other.

--Shwanesh Maniov, Jewish Israeli

### **The State of Israel Was Created**

When the State of Israel was created, the Palestinian people were displaced. My family is originally from a village west of Jerusalem that was displaced and later settled in the Bethlehem area. Whole families were totally dispersed overnight and dispossessed of all their belongings. The result was a dangerous twist in the situation.

--Nader Khatib, Palestinian

### **My Family and I Arrive in Israel**

As long as the British governed Palestine, immigration was impossible except for the elderly. After independence, we could, at long last, sail to the shores of our country. Our long journey came to an end on December 7th, 1948.

--Kitty O. Cohen, Jewish Israeli

### **Creation of the Israeli State and the Destruction, Massacres and Killing that Followed**

This was the beginning of the occupation and the source of the refugee problem. The Israeli state was created on the ruins of Palestinian villages and Arab land. This is occupation. Regardless of the solution we seek, this is how we view our history.

--Ali Abu Awwad, Palestinian

### **The War of Independence and the 'Eruption' of the State**

We defeated all our enemies even though they had an advantage of arms and outnumbered us. The state was declared despite all of its problems.

--Tzvika Shahak, Jewish Israeli

## **Just Vision Glossary Definition of 1948**

The year 1948 is often referenced on account of a series of historical events that have impacted both Palestinians and Israelis. Notably, the war between Israel and Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan (known as Transjordan at the time). 1948 is remembered in Israel as the year of Independence and in the Arab world as Al-Nakba, the catastrophe. 1948 saw the establishment of the State of Israel and the continued flight and expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians (most estimates fall between 700,000 and 800,000) from the territory previously known as the British mandate of Palestine. See also War of 1948, Al-Nakba, and Haatzmaut/Independence Day.