

International Conference on
**World War I Impact
on Palestine**

**A Hundred
Year** Legacy



SAT & SUN 8th - 9th November 2014 - London, United Kingdom, Thistle Hotel, Hyde Park Room



About the Organisers

Al Jazeera Centre for Studies (AJCS)



Established in 2006, the Al Jazeera Centre for Studies conducts in-depth analysis of current affairs at both regional and global levels. Its research agenda focuses primarily on geo-politics and strategic developments in the Arab world and surrounding regions.

Based in the heart of the Middle East, and operating from within the socio-political and cultural fabric of the Arab world, Al Jazeera Centre for Studies seeks to contribute to knowledge sharing and present a better understanding of the complexity of the region. With an extensive network of distinguished researchers, and a wide range array of experts from across the globe, the center aims to promote dialogue and build bridges of mutual understanding and cooperation between cultures, civilizations, and religions. As a think-tank extension of the Al Jazeera Network, the centre endeavours to conduct research and build relevant, insightful, and in-depth knowledge for the entire organisation.

For more information, please visit www.aljazeera.net/studies.

About the Organisers

Palestine Return Centre (PRC)



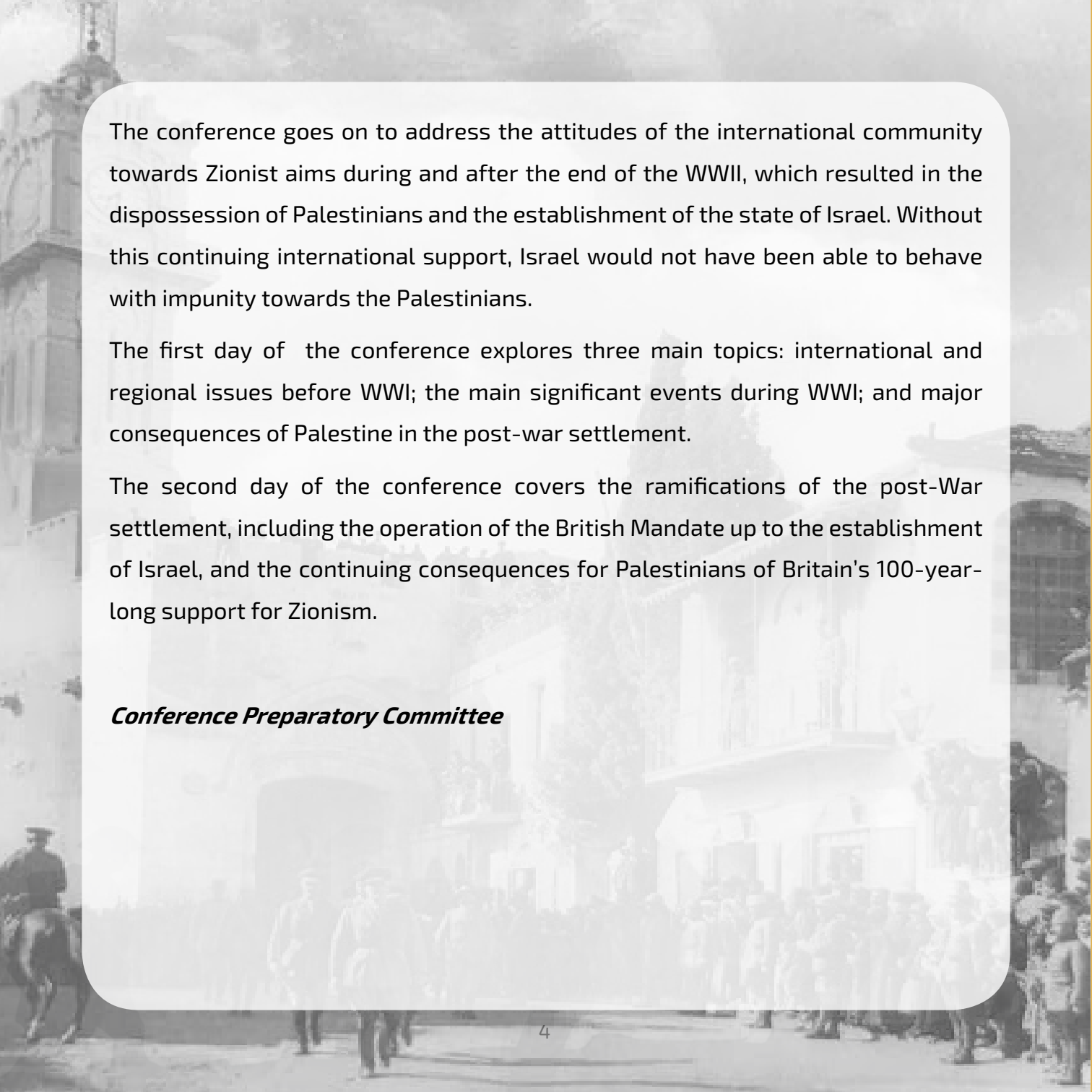
The Palestinian Return Centre is an independent consultancy focusing on the historical, political and legal aspects of the Palestinian Refugees. The organization which was established in 1996, offers expert advice to various actors and agencies on the question of Palestinian Refugees within the context of the Nakba - The catastrophe following the forced displacement of Palestinians in 1948 - and serves as an information repository on other related aspects of the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It specializes in the research, analysis, and monitor of issues pertaining to the dispersed Palestinians and their internationally recognized legal right to return. The centre aims to highlight the issue of the right of return both as a humanitarian and political concern. It also strives to establish historical accounts of the plight of the refugees and offer realistic strategic solutions in addressing their plight. Additionally, the Palestinian identity is at the core of our work so we preserve it and resist attempts to resettle the dispersed Palestinians in their places of refuge.

For more information, please visit www.prc.org.uk

About the Conference

Al-Jazeera Centre for Studies (AJCS) and the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC) are pleased to host this unique joint conference in London. The conference coincides with the centenary of the First World War. It was during the War that the British government became instrumental in the Zionist project in Palestine by issuing the Balfour Declaration, which will be the background to many of the discussions at the Conference. Although these events took place up to a hundred years ago, an analysis of their consequences and significance can give rise to useful conclusions and recommendations in grappling with the Palestinian question as it exists today. This conference examines the impact of World War I on Palestine, starting with the role of the Ottoman Empire and the Zionist Movement.

It scrutinizes the various political agreements between different parties with an interest in the area, including the Sykes-Picot Agreement, the McMahon-Hussein Correspondence and the Balfour Declaration. Speakers explore the terms of the Peace Treaty as applied to Palestine, drawn up at the San Remo Conference and enshrined in the British Mandate, and analyse how British government support for Zionist aims, leading to the perception of a betrayal of the Palestinian right to self-determination, led to the emergence of a Palestine national movement in the 1920s and '30s, culminating in the Arab Revolt of 1936-9.



The conference goes on to address the attitudes of the international community towards Zionist aims during and after the end of the WWII, which resulted in the dispossession of Palestinians and the establishment of the state of Israel. Without this continuing international support, Israel would not have been able to behave with impunity towards the Palestinians.

The first day of the conference explores three main topics: international and regional issues before WWI; the main significant events during WWI; and major consequences of Palestine in the post-war settlement.

The second day of the conference covers the ramifications of the post-War settlement, including the operation of the British Mandate up to the establishment of Israel, and the continuing consequences for Palestinians of Britain's 100-year-long support for Zionism.

Conference Preparatory Committee

Conference Programme

Day One

- ▶ **Opening Session**
- ▶ **Session 1** : Palestine before World War I
- ▶ **Session 2** : Palestine during World War I
- ▶ **Session 3** : Palestine after World War I

Conference Programme

Day 1

9:00 –9:45 Registration and Tea/Coffee reception

Opening Session

9:45 to 10:30

Conference Chair: Mr. Nasim Ahmed

Speakers:

- » Dr. Salah Eddin Elzein,
Director of the Al Jazeera Centre For Studies.
- » Dr.Yasin Aktay,
Professor of Applied Sociology.
- » HE Dr. Manuel Hassassian,
Palestinian Ambassador to the UK.
- » Mr. Majed Al Zeer,
Chairman, Palestinian Return Centre, Palestinians in Europe Conference.

Day 1

Session 1

10:40 to 12:00

Palestine before World War I

Chair: Dr. Roxane Farmanfarmaian, POLIS - University of Cambridge.

10:40 -11:00

Topic 1: Palestine in the Legacy of Ottoman Empire.

Speaker: Yasin Aktay, Professor of Applied Sociology.

11:00 -11:20

Topic 2: The Zionist Movement and its relations with the parties to the conflict.
(Germany, the Ottoman Empire and the Allies).

Speaker: Dr. Jafar Hadi Hassan, Academic in Semitic Languages and Jewish Studies

11:20 -11:40

Topic 3: Palestine and the Eastern Question.

Speaker: Dr. Mahmoud O. Al Haddad, Professor of Modern Arab & Islamic History
at the University of Balamand.

11:40 -12:00

Q & A

12:00 – 12:10 Tea Break

Day 1

Session 2

12:15 to 13:35

Palestine during World War I

Chair: Dr. Basheer Nafi, Senior Researcher at Al Jazeera Centre for Studies.

12:15 - 12: 35

Topic 1: The strategic importance of Palestine for parties to the conflict.

Speaker: Mr. John Keay, Author of the 'Sowing the Wind: the Seeds of Conflict in the Middle East'.

12:35 - 12: 55

Topic 2: Promises to Palestine: from Sykes-Picot to Balfour.

Speaker: Mr. Karl Sabbagh, British-Palestinian academic and author.

12:55 - 13:15

Topic 3: How WWI led to the Balfour Declaration.

Speaker: Dr Anthony Gorman, Senior lecturer in modern Middle Eastern history, University of Edinburgh.

13:15 - 13:35

Q & A

13:35 – 14:35 Lunch Break

Day 1

Session 3

14:40 to 16:00

Palestine after World War I

Chair: Tim Lewellyn, Journalist & former BBC presenter of Panorama.

14:40 - 15:00

Topic 1: Palestine from the San Remo Conference (1920) to the Mandate.

Speaker: Dr. Ghada Karmi, Academic and author.

15:00 - 15:20

Topic 2: The Role of the Mandate in empowering the Zionist Project for a Jewish State.

Speaker: Mr. Afif Safieh, Roving Palestinian Ambassador.

15:20 - 15:40

Topic 3: Struggling to Maintain the Mandate's Iron Cage, 1930 – 1947

Speaker: Dr. Peter A Shambrook, Independent Historian and Author.

15:40 - 16:00

Q & A

16:00 – 16:10 Tea Break

16:15 – 17:30 Closing Session

Conclusion and Recommendations

Speakers will be invited to the concluding panel for an open discussion with audience.



Conference Programme

Day Two

- ▶ **Session 1** : Palestine and International Law Post WWI and WWII.
- ▶ **Session 2** : The Future of Palestine after One hundred years of WWI.
- ▶ **Session 3** : Palestine Retold Using the Latest Technology. (Project Launch)

9:00 –10:15: Registration and Tea/Coffee reception.

Session 1

10:15 to 11:35

Palestine and International Law Post WWI and WWII

Chair: Ms. Anjum Layla Dean, Human rights activist, founder of Basic Human Rights

10:15 - 10:35

Topic 1: World War I and the Internationalization of the Palestinian Question

Speaker: Dr. Malath Al Agha, PhD in EU-Russia foreign policy towards the Middle East and the Palestinian question – Exeter University

10:35 - 10:55

Topic 2: The establishment of Israel, and Palestinian refugees' struggle for protection and recognition under international law

Speaker: Jeff Handmaker, LL.M, PhD, senior lecturer in law, human rights and development, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University (EUR)

10:55 - 11:15

Topic 3: How the outcomes of WWI & WWII gave immunity to Israel.

Speaker: Professor Gilbert Achcar, Professor of Development Studies and International Relations, SOAS

11:15 - 11:35

Q & A

11:35 – 11:45 Tea Break

Day 2

Session 2

11:50 - 13:10

The Future of Palestine 100 years after WWI

Chair: Ms. Shivani Jegarajah, International human rights expert and activist on the genocide of Tamils within Sri Lanka.

11:50 -12:10

Topic 1: The developing stages of an International Community stance on Palestine.

Speaker: Mr. Oliver Miles, Former British Ambassador to Libya, Middle East Expert.

12:10 -12:30

Topic 2: A future Western stance on Palestine.

Speaker: Mark McDonald, Barrister at Chambers of Michael Mansfield Q.C, and Labour Friends of Palestine co-founder

12:30 -12:50

Topic 3: A Hundred Years of Palestinian Struggle: Lessons for Charting the Future of Palestine.

Speaker: Dr. Salman Abu Sitta, Historian and Academic, Author of Palestine Atlas.

12:50 - 13:10

Q & A

13:10 - 14:10 Lunch Break

Session 3

14:10 - 14:55

Palestine Retold Using the Latest Technology and Online Interactive Visual Content across All Platforms - 2014 Al Jazeera Network Initiative.

Chair: Mr. Sameh Habeeb, Head of Media & Public Relation Department at the Palestinian Return Centre.

14:10 - 14:25

Speaker: Dr. Salah Eddin Elzein, Director of the Al Jazeera Centre For Studies.

Dr. Arafat Shoukri

Manager of Corporate Relations & Communications Aljazeera Media Network.

14:25 - 14:45

Rawan Damen, Senior Producer and Director, Al Jazeera Network.

14:45 - 14:55

Q & A

15:00 - 16:00

Conclusion and Recommendations.

Speakers will be invited to the concluding panel for an open discussion with audience.

Speakers & Chairs



Salah Eddin Elzein Mohamed, PhD

Director of Aljazeera Centre for Studies

Before assuming his current post, Dr. Salah was involved in academic research and teaching at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. His research and teaching was focused on citizenship and development challenges in South Africa, Brazil and Sudan. His research activities included publications, commissioned research and studies, participation in seminars, workshops, and research networks.

Dr. Salah also had a long history of youth leadership and activism, involvement in non-governmental organizations, and participation in policy-making and legislation processes in Sudan.



Mr. Majed Al Zeer

Chairman of the Palestinian Return Centre

President of the Palestinians in Europe Conference

Mr. Majed Al Zeer, He holds MA degree in Palestinian Refugees studies from University of East London and BSc in Civil Engineering from Kuwait. He is the chairman and Co-founder of the Palestinian Return Centre and president of the Palestinians in Europe Conference.

Mr. Al Zeer is a leading Palestinian activist in Europe and co-founder of the Palestinians in Europe Conference. Mr. Majed is a researcher and journalist specialised in the Palestinian cause and its many aspects. He contributed to founding more than 15 projects in service of the Palestinian refugees and their right of return in the Diaspora camps and across the globe.



Prof. Dr YASIN AKTAY

Professor of Applied Sociology

Deputy Chairman, the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party

Aktay was born in 1966 in Siirt (a Southeastern Anatolian town). He got his Bachelor's Degree in 1990, Master's Degree in 1993 and PhD in 1997 from METU Department of Sociology. In 1999 he became Associate Professor in the field of Applied Sociology and in 2005 he became Professor in the field of Sociology of Institutions. He is still teaching at Selsuk University (Konya) where he was admitted as a research assistant in 1992. Aktay, teaching and researching at different universities in the US between 200-2004 edited the Tezkire Journal that he founded with a group of his friends in 1991 and the Sivil Toplum Journal founded in 2002. Between 2008 February- 2011 February he made a TV program titled Tersive Yuzu with Frhat Kentel on Mehtap TV. Currently, he is the Deputy Chairman of the ruling Justice and Development Party in Turkey.



Dr. Manuel Sarkis Hassassian

Palestinian Ambassador to the UK

Dr. Manuel Hassassian (born 28 December 1953 in Jerusalem) is a Palestinian professor who since late 2005 has been the Palestinian Authority's diplomatic representative to the United Kingdom after being appointed to the position by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. Professor Manuel Hassassian left his homeland for brief periods after his high school years to pursue his higher education, earning his BA in Political Science from the American University of Beirut in 1975, his MA in International Relations from Toledo University, Ohio, U.S.A. in 1976 and his PhD in Comparative Politics from University of Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A. in 1986. Among his academic awards and honors, Professor Hassassian was awarded an Honorary Doctorate (Docteur Honoris Causa) by the University of Reims, France, and nominated by the Center of International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland, for the Gleitzman Middle East Award.



Dr Jafar Hadi Hassan

Dr. Jafar Hadi Hassan specialises in Semitic Languages (Arabic, Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac and Phoenician) and Jewish Studies with BA (Hons), MA and PhD from the University of Manchester, UK. He is also a specialist in Arabic Language and Literature with BA and MA from Iraq. Dr. Hassan has taught at various universities including Basra, King Abdul-Aziz, Manchester, Salford, McGill, International Islamic University and Islamic College for Advanced Studies, London. He has authored several books on Jewish Studies, and published hundreds of articles in English and Arabic on the same and similar subjects.



Dr. Mahmoud Haddad

Dr. Mahmoud Haddad is a Professor of Modern Arab & Islamic History at the University of Balamand, formerly an Assistant and Associate Professor at the History Department, Columbia University, New York.

His writings cover numerous topics among them: "Can Modernity coexist with the Millet System in Lebanon? "Islamic Modernism in the 19th & 20th Century: An Attempt to fuse Religion and Society"; "The Ideas of Amir Shakib Arslan: Before and After the Collapse of the Ottoman Empire"; " Syrian Muslims' Attitudes Toward Foreign Missionaries in the late Nineteenth and Twentieth Century," "Arab Religious Nationalism in the Era of Colonialism: Rereading Rashid Rida's Ideas on the Caliphate"; "The Rise of Arab Nationalism Reconsidered";



Dr. Basheer Nafi

Dr. Basheer M. Nafi is a senior research fellow at Aljazeera Centre for Studies. He taught Islamic history and Islamic Studies at the Muslim College, and Birkbeck College, University of London. He has published extensively (in Arabic and English) on the history of Arab nationalism and the Palestinian Question, as well as modern Islam and Islamic intellectual history, including the history of Salafiyya, in various academic journals. His books include, *Arabism, Islamism and the Palestine Question: 1908-1941* (1998); *The Rise and Decline of the Arab-Islamic Reform Movement* (2000); *Islamic Thought in the Twentieth Century*, co-editor, (2005); *Iraq: Contexts of Unity and Disintegration*, in Arabic (2006); *The Islamists*, in Arabic (2010; 2014).



Mr. John Keay

Foremost Asianist John Keay is the author of the acclaimed 'Sowing the Wind: the Seeds of Conflict in the Middle East' (2003). Among his other works are studies of colonial disengagement in South and South-east Asia and standard histories of both India and China.



Mr. Karl Sabbagh

Mr. Karl Sabbagh is a writer, and documentary maker. He worked for the BBC for many years and then became an independent producer, before taking up full time writing and publishing. He is a member of King's College, Cambridge.



Dr Anthony Gorman

After graduating with a BA (Hons) in Ancient History from the University of Sydney in 1982, Dr Antony Gorman took a break from study and travelled the world for some time, including two years in the Middle East. Since 2006 Dr Gorman has taught in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Edinburgh. From 2003 to 2005 he was an AHRB Research Fellow working on the 'Cultures of Confinement' project, an examination of the history of the prison in Asia, Africa and Latin America, also at SOAS. In 2000/01 he taught in the Department of Political Science at the American University in Cairo, and then moved to the Department of History at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.



Dr. Ghada Karmi

Dr. Ghada Karmi is a leading Palestinian activist, academic and writer. She is a research fellow at the Institute of Arab and Islamic studies at the university of Exeter and is also vice-chair of the Council for Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) Her major area of work has been on the Palestine/Israel conflict and she has published widely on this subject.



Mr. Afif Safieh

Mr. Mr. Afif Safieh is a roving Palestinian (ambassador) diplomat. He was most recently the Palestinian ambassador to the Russian Federation. He also served as the Palestinian ambassador to the UK and the US. Safieh was born in Jerusalem in 1950 to a Christian family. As a child, he attended school in Jerusalem's College Des Freres. In 1972, he obtained a degree in Political Science and International Relations from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. He continued his education at the Paris Institute of Political Studies in Paris, graduating in 1974. Safieh became president of the Belgian section of the General Union of Palestinian Students from 1969 until 1971, then President of the French branch in 1974-1975.



Dr. Peter Shambrook

Peter Shambrook spent a decade as Programme Director of British-Arab Exchanges, before completing his PhD in Modern Middle Eastern History at Cambridge. His current research focuses on French and British colonial legislation regarding the transfer of land ownership. He is author of French Imperialism in Syria, 1927-1936, Ithaca Press, 1998. Peter A. Shambrook PhD (Cantab) PGCE (Cantab) Independent Historian.



Ms. Anjum Layla Dean

Ms. Anjum Layla Dean is a Humanitarian Development Consultant, working currently in collaboration with Doughty Street Chambers. She is the Founder & CEO of Basic Human Rights (INGO). She is a human rights activist, with history as a senior Associate at AH International Development Associates (AHIDA), Director & Board Chair at Khan Solicitors.



Dr. Malath Alagha

Dr. Malath Alagha received his doctoral degree at University of Exeter and interested in EU-Russia foreign policy towards the Middle East and the Palestinian question. He has been an academic at number of Palestinian universities: Al-Quds Open University, Al-Aqsa University, and the Islamic University of Gaza.



Dr. Jeff Handmaker

Dr. Jeff Handmaker is a senior lecturer in law, human rights and development at the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam and an honorary senior research fellow in the School of Law at the University of the Witwatersrand. A board member of the ISS research group on Governance, Globalisation and Social Justice (www.iss.nl/GGSJ), he conducts research on legal mobilisation and accountability. He serves in various advisory capacities and is a regular speaker and commentator on the subject of Palestine, and in particularly Palestinian refugees.



Professor Gilbert Achcar

Gilbert Achcar is a Professor of Development Studies and International relations at the School of Oriental and African Studies - SOAS, University of London. He is also Chair of the SOAS Centre for Palestine Studies and Editor of the SOAS Palestine Studies book series at IB Tauris. He grew up in Beirut and taught and researched in Beirut, Paris, and Berlin, before London. His many books include the critically-acclaimed, "The Arabs and the Holocaust: The Arab-Israeli War of Narratives".



Ms. Shivani Jegarajah

Shivani is named in the Legal 500 as a leading refugee lawyer. She graduated in History from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is an expert human rights lawyer in respect of war crimes and has been acting in many leading cases. She is Standing Counsel to Tamils against Genocide.



Oliver Miles CMG

Born 1936. Joined the FCO in 1960 and served mainly in the Arab world including Jordan 1964/6, head of Near East and North Africa Department 1980/83, retired 1996 as ambassador to Greece. 2004 was one of 52 former British ambassadors who wrote to Tony Blair about British policy on Palestine and Iraq.



Mr. Mark McDonald

Mark is a human rights barrister, Deputy Head of Mansfield Chambers and founder of Labour Friends of Palestine and the Middle East. He has worked in the West Bank as a lawyer for the Bar Human Rights Committee and has written extensively on human rights in Palestine. Mark stood for Parliament in 2005.



Dr. Salman Abu Sitta

Dr. Salman Abu Sitta is a member of Palestine National Council, General Coordinator of the Right of Return Congress. He is the Founder and President of Palestine Land Society, dedicated to the documentation of Palestine's people and land. He published several hundred articles and papers and several books on the Right of Return and refugees, including the compendium "Atlas of Palestine" 1917- 1966".



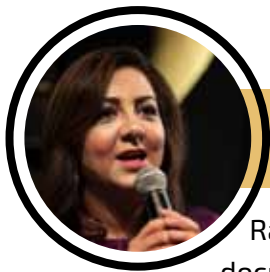
Mr. Tim Llewellyn

Mr. Tim Llewellyn is a veteran British journalist and former BBC's Middle East correspondent. He is also a commentator on the Middle East affairs and frequent contributor at the Guardian and other media outlets.



Dr. Roxane Farmanfarmaian

Roxane Farmanfarmaian is on the Faculty of the Political and International Relations department at the University of Cambridge, where she teaches the International Relations of the Modern Middle East and North Africa on the department's Masters programmes. She is the Principal Investigator and Director of the University of Cambridge-Al-Jazeera Media Project, which is researching «Media in Political Transition» in Tunisia, Turkey and Morocco. She likewise served as the Inaugural Visiting Fellow at the Al-Jazeera Centre of Studies in Doha in 2012. Dr. Farmanfarmaian is a specialist on Iranian geo-strategic and security issues within the wider context of Middle East and North Africa oil affairs, media, Political Islam and policy relations with the US and EU. She is the author of *Blood and Oil: Inside the Shah's Iran* and numerous scholarly articles on regional security and the Arab Spring.



Rawan Damen

Rawan is a senior commissioning producer for Al Jazeera's weekly documentary strands: 'Focus' and 'Palestine Under Focus'. As a film director, her profile includes several documentary series such as: 'Arab Women Pioneers' (12 hours), 'Al-Nakba' (4 hours), 'The Homeland's Owners' (5 hours), 'The Price of Oslo' (2 hours), 'The Bitter Peace' (1 hour) and 'The Road to Jan 25' (1 hour). Her award-winning documentary series 'Al-Nakba' has been translated into ten languages including the sign language, and received world-wide appreciation. She is the co-author of three books: 'Palestinian Children Before 1948', 'Expulsion in the Memory of Children' (both Oral History books) and 'Our Schools in Court of Justice' on Education in the Arab World. Academically, Rawan holds BA with distinction in Media and Sociology from Birzeit University, Palestine and MA with distinction in Communication Studies from Leeds University, UK.



Mr. Nasim Ahmed

Nasim Ahmed is a researcher and staff writer with the Middle East Monitor. He has published articles on Palestine and political Islam. Previously he worked with the Palestinian Return Centre as a senior researcher. Mr. Ahmed held a number of lectures and workshops on the issue of Palestinian in universities, colleges and UN organizations.



Mr. Sameh A. Habeeb

Finished his PhD in SOAS university of London, author of the book " Refugee Status in Islam: Concepts of Protection in Islamic Tradition and International Law. "



Mr. Sameh A. Habeeb

Sameh is head of Media and Public Relation Department at the Palestinian Return Centre. He is also a PhD. candidate at Brunel University on Media standards, researcher and specialist in the field of Media regulations. Mr. Habeeb worked as a journalist and covered the Israeli war on Gaza in 2008/2009 as a freelance reporter for the Dutch TV, French VSD magazine, Sky News, BBC and others. He then founded the Palestine Telegraph online newspaper in 2009, which works towards covering the Arab-Israeli conflict and provide an alternative media account. He lectured in dozens of conferences/workshops on the issue of Palestine across Europe and other parts of the world.



Organized by

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