



# JUSTICE FOR JEWS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

## International Rights and Redress Campaign

15 West 16th Street • (6th Floor) • New York, NY 10011 USA

Tel: (917) 606-8262 • Fax: (212) 294-8348

info@JusticeforJews.com • www.JusticeforJews.com

## Facts on Middle East Refugees

- For over 2,500 years, Jews in substantial numbers resided in areas that are today Arab countries (e.g. Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, etc.) – fully 1,000 years before the advent of Islam.
- The exodus of Jewish refugees from Arab countries occurred mainly between 1940s and the 1970s. In fact, there were more Jews displaced from Arab countries (856,000)<sup>1</sup> than there were Palestinians who became refugees as a result of the 1948 Arab Israeli war (726,000)<sup>2</sup>.
- **From 1948 to 1958 97% of all Jews that were living in Arab countries had been uprooted, either due to government sponsored anti Jewish decrees or the hostile political, social and economic climate created there.**
- **More than \$100 billion<sup>3</sup> of Jewish individual and communal assets were confiscated by Arab Governments.**
- On two separate occasions the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) ruled that Jews fleeing from Arab countries were indeed ‘*bona fide*’ refugees who “fall under the mandate of my (UNHCR) office”.<sup>4</sup> The statistics are stark: **856,000 Jews from Arab countries in 1948 – reduced to 7,800 in 2001.**
- Since 1947, the United Nations General Assembly’s predominant focus has been on Palestinian refugees:
  - a) 681 resolutions on the Middle East conflict, including 101 resolutions on Palestinian refugees;
  - b) Numerous UN agencies and organizations mandated or newly created to provide protection and relief to Palestinian refugees; and
  - c) Over the last 58 years, tens of billions of dollars have been disbursed by the international community to provide services and assistance to Palestinian refugees.
- During that same period, there were no UN resolutions; no support provided by UN agencies; nor any financial assistance forthcoming from the international community to ameliorate the plight of Jewish and other refugees from Arab countries.
- In all relevant international bilateral or multilateral agreements, (i.e. UN Resolution 242, *The Road Map*, *The Madrid Conference*, etc.), the reference to ‘refugees’ is generic, allowing for the recognition and inclusion of *all* Middle East refugees - Jews, Christians and other minorities.

<sup>1</sup> Estimates based on UN document “Trends and Characteristics of International Migration since 1950 – Refugee Movements and Population Transfers” (UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, Demographic Study No. 64 ST/ESA/Ser. A/64).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, P. 18; United Nations. *Annual Report of the Director General of UNWRA*, Doc. 5224/5223. 25 November 1952

<sup>3</sup> World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Auguste Lindt, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Report of the UNREF Executive Committee, Fourth Session – Geneva 29 January to 4 February, 1957; and Dr. E. Jahn, Office of the UN High Commissioner, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Document No. 7/2/3/Libya, July 6, 1967.