

The Truth About Israel That Doesn't Reach Your Screen



The Truth About Palestine

MYTH

Israel occupies Palestinian land.

FACT

No independent, self-governing nation of Palestine ever existed.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Jews are indigenous to Israel. In the late 1800s, after almost 2,000 years of exile, Jews began returning to their homeland in large groups. After the breakup of the Ottoman Empire in 1918, following World War I, Britain took control of the Land of Palestine and much of the Middle East. By 1920, Israel was internationally recognized as the Jewish homeland under international law.

In 1947, the UN voted to divide the Land into two states: Israel and Palestine. The local Arabs, unhappy with the deal, immediately launched a war on Israel and were joined by the surrounding countries of Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. Following Israel's success in its War of Independence in 1948, Judea and Samaria ("The West Bank") and East Jerusalem became occupied territory – not by Israel, but by Jordan, who took over the Land. **No independent, self-governing nation of Palestine ever existed.**

In 1967, with its existence threatened by surrounding Arab countries, Israel fought for its self-defense and liberated Sinai, Judea and Samaria and the Golan. Israel allowed the Palestinians living in Judea and Samaria to create their own self-rule. **1967 was the first time that Palestinians ever had land that was self-governed.**

After Gaza was given to the Palestinian Fatah organization in 2005, the Hamas terror organization took over by murdering the Fatah leaders. Gaza has since become a source of relentless rocket fire into Israel. 2005 marked the first time in 3,000 years that Gaza was Jew-free.



WATCH

Dr. Mordechai Kedar explains the history of Palestine



WATCH

Origins of the Word Palestine

The Truth About Sheikh Jarrah

MYTH

Israel is trying to evict Palestinian refugees from their homes for no good reason.

FACT

Sheikh Jarrah was originally a Jewish neighborhood, purchased by the Jews in 1875.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Jews legally purchased the land in what is today known as Sheikh Jarrah in 1875, establishing the community of Shimon HaTzaddik.

Despite waves of violent attacks from their Arab neighbors, they continued to live there until 1948, when they were forced to flee during Israel's War of Independence.

Local Arabs lived on the land until 1967, when Israel liberated Yerushalayim and reunified the city.

The original Jewish owners of the land came to the Israeli court with the deed, claiming they'd paid for the land and wanted it back.

The court ruled in their favor, that the land indeed belonged to them – but since there were Arabs currently living there, they would be considered "protected tenants" and would not be evicted, so long as they paid rent to the Jewish owners. The Arab tenants turned the issue into a political one in order to avoid paying rent and evacuation.



WATCH

The truth about Sheikh Jarrah

The Truth About Hamas

MYTH

Since there are more casualties in Gaza than in Israel, Israel is clearly abusing its power against weak and defenseless Gaza.

FACT

While Israel values and invests in defending its citizens (hence the IDF, Israel *Defense Forces*), Hamas and Islamic Jihad value and invest in killing Israelis.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Since Israel's disengagement from Gaza in 2005, Hamas has launched tens of thousands of rockets at Israel. During the recent Operation Guardian of the Walls, Hamas fired almost 4,400 rockets at Israel over the course of 12 days alone. In Israel, the Iron Dome defense system has intercepted 90 percent of the rockets fired at the country. Together with bomb shelters throughout Israel, they have saved countless lives. **The fact there aren't more casualties in Israel does not mean that Hamas is not trying to kill Israeli civilians. It just means that with G-d's help, the IDF is doing an incredible job at protecting them.** On the other hand, Hamas has turned residential areas in Gaza into military strongholds, placing Gazan civilian lives in danger. Some of these military strongholds include:

- **Rocket launchers** - Hamas places its rocket launchers in densely populated areas of Gaza and has fired thousands of rockets at Israel. The IDF must strike these rocket launchers to defend Israel and prevent more rocket attacks.
- **Tunnel systems** - Hamas has a network of tunnels used to maneuver around Gaza, store weapons, conceal its militants, and try to infiltrate Israel and kidnap Israelis. These tunnels are built under civilian areas. As a hiding spot for terrorists and a danger to Israel, these constitute legitimate military targets.
- **Military buildings** - Hamas uses multi-story buildings for intelligence gatherings, planning attacks, command and control, and communication. Other units in the buildings are often used by civilians, who may not be aware of what is happening down the hall. But when Hamas uses buildings for such purposes, they become legal military targets under International Humanitarian Law.

WATCH

Hamas in their own words



The Truth About Civilian Casualties

MYTH

Israel strikes civilian targets in Gaza and has killed hundreds of innocent Gazans, including women and children.

FACT

Israel does its utmost to prevent civilian casualties in Gaza. In addition, in the recent Operation Guardian of the Walls, approximately 680 Hamas rockets have misfired and landed in civilian areas. The casualties of these Hamas-fired rockets are often blamed on Israel in international news.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Although Israel struck a number of buildings and sites in Gaza recently in self-defense, Israel does its utmost to prevent civilian casualties, by:

- Calling residents of buildings to warn them to evacuate.
- Sending SMS messages to warn civilians to evacuate an area.
- Dropping non-destructive "roof knocker" bombs on the roofs of buildings they are planning on demolishing, thereby warning civilians inside to evacuate.
- Providing enough time for civilians to evacuate.

WATCH

British Colonel Richard Kemp declaring the IDF as the world's most moral army



WATCH

Hamas missiles fall short and land in Gaza



WATCH

The IDF warns civilians in Gaza to evacuate



The Truth About a Two-State Solution

MYTH

Israel is preventing the Palestinians from forming their own self-governing country.

FACT

The Palestinians have been offered a self-governing state on multiple occasions yet each offer was met by refusal or failure.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 1936, the Arabs rebelled violently against the British and the Jews. The Peel Commission, arranged by the British to address this violence, concluded that the solution was to create two independent countries. The suggested split offered 80 percent of the disputed territory to the Arabs. Although offered only 20 percent, the Jews voted to accept this offer. The Arabs rejected it and continued their rebellion.
- Like the Peel Commission, in November 1947, the UN voted to divide Israel into two separate states, giving half the land to the local Arabs. The Arabs once again rejected this offer and launched a war against Israel.

- Shortly after the Six-Day War, the Arab League Summit met in Sudan, where it was decided they would refuse to negotiate or compromise with Israel.
- In 2000, Ehud Barak met with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in Camp David, where he offered him a new Two-State plan. Barak offered Arafat a Palestinian state including all of Gaza and 94 percent of Judea and Samaria with East Jerusalem as the capital. Arafat rejected the offer and the Palestinians launched a bloody wave of suicide bombings during the intifada, which killed thousands of Israelis in cafes, wedding halls and busses.
- In 2005, Israel withdrew completely from Gaza, allowing the Palestinians to form their own self-governed state. Instead, it was taken over by Hamas and has become a launchpad for thousands of rockets shot into Israel.
- In 2008, Ehud Olmert offered Mahmoud Abbas a deal similar to Barak's Camp David suggestion. Abbas once again rejected the offer.

Without addressing the *hashkafic/halachic* aspect of this issue, these failed attempts have led much of the right-wing in Israel to conclude that a two-state solution is not a feasible option.

WATCH

General R. H. McMaster explains why a two-state solution in Israel isn't currently possible



The Truth About Gaza's Economy

MYTH

Palestinians instigate violence and start wars with Israel because of poverty and their dire economic situation.

FACT

This is an unproven theory, not a fact.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Billions of dollars sent to Gaza do not actually reach the citizens in need. Hamas takes the foreign aid and uses it to build military tunnels and amass weapons and rockets.

Even so, just before Operation Guardian of the Walls, Gaza had reached a 'golden age,' during which its economic situation was better than it had ever been. Many Israeli leaders believed this theory, that economic renaissance in Gaza would prevent another war.

In a recent interview with Israel's Channel 12, former Mossad chief, Yossi Cohen, admitted he was wrong in accepting this theory: "I thought their lives would be better and the motivations for crises and wars diminished. I was wrong."

WATCH

Al-Jazeera showing malls and luxury in Gaza that the Western media won't show



The Truth About the Ceasefire

MYTH

Gazans send friendly balloons to bordering Israeli towns.

FACT

These incendiary balloons are actually sent loaded with explosives and flammable material together with "flaming kites."

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The balloons carrying explosives floating over the Gaza border are being sent by Hamas with the aim of wreaking havoc in Israel. Because of these balloons, over 34,000 dunams (8,400 acres) of Israeli crops and fields have been destroyed and Israel has suffered severe ecological damage. Despite repeated ceasefires, Hamas continues to send these balloons over the border.



WATCH

Terrorists in Gaza prepare balloon bombs to send to Israel



WATCH

Israeli children respond to flaming kites from Gaza with balloons carrying candy for Gazan children