

The Forgotten Jewish-Arab Refugees

Overview

- The international community consistently stresses the importance of Palestinian-Arab refugees. The UN General Assembly has adopted roughly 700 resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. More than 100 of those resolutions have dealt with refugees--Palestinian-Arab refugees *only*.
- **Not one resolution condemned, addressed, or even referenced the murder and expulsion of roughly 1 million Jews from Arab lands.** Over the course of the 20th century, Arab leaders oversaw the murder of hundreds of indigenous Jews in their countries and expelled nearly everyone else.
 - From the early 1900s through the 1930s, Palestinian-Arab leader Hajj Amin al-Husseini and others incited riots against Jewish civilians throughout the Middle East.
 - During World War II, **al-Husseini and other Arab leaders formed close ties with Nazis** and promoted the killing of Jewish civilians throughout the area.
- Arab violence against Jews, however, did not end with World War II and the establishment of Israel. **Arab regimes continued to authorize and sponsor the murder and mistreatment of Jews for decades until few to no Jews remained in the Arab world.**

Arab persecution of Jews led to more than 1 million Jewish refugees and the death of the millennia-old Jewish communities in Arab world.

	Number of Jews in 1944	Number of Jews in 2004
Yemen	55,000	100
Iraq	150,000	16
Algeria	140,000	80
Egypt	80,000	40
Libya	38,000	0
Syria	27,770	26
Lebanon	5,666	20
Morocco	265,000	5,000
Tunisia	105,000	1,500

Arab-Muslim leadership forced Jews to live as second-class citizens.

- The Islamic states of the Middle East forced Jews (and other minorities) to live as “*dhimmis*,” or second class citizens.
 - Countries such as Syria, Libya, Iraq, Morocco, and Egypt demanded Jews pay *al-jizya*, a tax specifically instituted for *dhimmis*.
- These countries subjected Jews to behavioral codes. For example:
 - A synagogue could not be built higher than a mosque.
 - A Jew could never ride a horse, for fear of being taller than a Muslim.
 - Arab governments prohibited displaying non-Muslim religious symbols on buildings or clothing.

Pogroms (massacres) increased throughout the Middle East during and immediately after World War II, killing more Jews.

- Many Arab Muslims rioted and massacred Jews. For example:
 - **1941 Farhud:** Arab nationalists murdered roughly 175 Jews and injured 1,000 more in Baghdad. The attackers looted Jewish property and destroyed 900 Jewish homes.ⁱ
 - **1945 Libya Riots:** Rioters killed more than 140 Jews and injured many more in a pogrom in British-military-controlled Tripolitania.ⁱⁱ
 - **1947 Aleppo Pogrom:** Rioters murdered roughly 75 Jews and wounded several hundred as part of an anti-Jewish wave of unrest across the Middle East and North Africa. In the aftermath of the pogrom, half the city's Jewish population fled.ⁱⁱⁱ

Violence against Jews continued after World War II.

- **Public hangings under Saddam Hussein:** In late 1968, Saddam Hussein's regime publicly hanged 14 men (nine Jews) after falsely accusing them of spying for Israel. Afterwards, the regime encouraged Iraqis to "come and enjoy the feast" and half a million people paraded and danced past the scaffolds where the regime hanged the men.^{iv}
- **Abu Zaabal and Tora, Egypt:** President Gamal Abdel Nasser's government imprisoned more than 500 Egyptian-Jewish men in the Abu Zaabal and Tora prison camps following Egypt's 1967 war with Israel. The guards of the prisons humiliated internees in gruesome conditions as "punishment" for being Jewish.^v

While Palestinian-Arab refugees received international support from the UN and others, Jewish refugees from Arab states received nothing. Israel and the Jewish community abroad financed Jewish absorption to the last cent.

ⁱ Martin Gilbert. *The Atlas of Jewish History*, William Morrow and Company, 1993. pg. 114. ISBN 0-688-12264-7.

ⁱⁱ Goldberg, Harvey E. (1990), "The Anti-Jewish Riots of 1945: A Cultural Analysis", *Jewish Life in Muslim Libya: Rivals and Relatives*, University of Chicago Press, ISBN 9780226300924.

ⁱⁱⁱ Jacob Freid (1962). *Jews in the Modern World*. Twayne Publishers. p. 68. Retrieved 18 October 2010.

^{iv} Green, David B. "This Day in Jewish History / Nine Jewish 'spies' Are Hanged in Baghdad."

www.haaretz.com. Haaretz, 27 Jan. 2014. Web. 18 June 2014.

^v *The Forgotten Refugees*. Dir. Michael Grynszpan. Perf. Irwin Cotler and Gina Waldman. IsraTV, 2005. DVD.