

## NEWSLETTER 9

Dear Readers,

The year 2022 was the deadliest in this area of the occupied Palestinian territory since the United Nations started systematically documenting fatalities in 2005. At least 150 Palestinians have been murdered by Israeli military in the occupied West Bank this year, including 33 children. It was also a record year for settler violence.

This in addition to other forms of atrocities committed by the Zionist occupiers against the indigenous people of Palestine.

With Netanyahu back as prime minister of Israel in a government consisting of extremist parties, we can expect the atrocities to increase in 2023.

We hope the international community will be more convinced that Israel is nothing more than a Zionist settler-colonialist project which is committing crime of apartheid with the objective of wiping out all traces of Palestinian identities in their own country.

We also hope 2023 will see increased support for the global BDS movement.

Professor Nazari Ismail, Phd.

Director

Hashim Sani Centre for Palestinian Studies.

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- **UN Experts Condemn Record Year of Israeli Violence in Occupied West Bank**



UN experts condemned on Thursday Jewish settler violence and excessive use of force by the Israeli army in the occupied West Bank, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

The UN experts slammed in a press release “the rampant Israeli settler violence and

excessive use of force by Israeli forces against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank this year, that have made 2022 the deadliest in this area of the occupied Palestinian territory since the United Nations started systematically documenting fatalities in 2005.”

According to UN figures, Israeli forces have killed at least 150 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank this year, including 33 children.

Full text at: <https://www.palestinechronicle.com/un-experts-condemn-record-year-of-israeli-violence-in-occupied-west-bank/>



- **A 16-year-old girl is the latest victim in Israel’s daily aggression in the occupied territories**



Jana Majdi Zakarneh, a 16-year-old girl, was the latest victim in Israel's non-stop aggression in the occupied territories and the city of Jenin in particular.

The Ministry of Health said after midnight that Zakarneh was shot in the head by Israeli soldiers while on the roof of her house and killed.

Zakarneh was found dead on the roof by her family after the soldiers have left the area but not before shooting and injuring two others and arresting three Palestinians, according to local sources.

Full text at: <https://english.pnn.ps/news/45723>

- **Cancer-stricken Palestinian prisoner Nasser Abu Hmeid after years of medical negligence**



Nasser Abu Hmeid, 49, a critically ill Palestinian freedom fighter and cancer patient serving a life sentence in Israeli jails, was rushed to hospital today after a serious rise in his body temperature and a drop-in heart rate, according to the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS).

Abu Hmeid has been battling death for several months in the Israeli occupation's infamous Ramla Prison Clinic, and his health has been deteriorating ever since amid a wide spread of cancer cells throughout his body, with a complete damage of his left lung.

Full text at: <https://english.pnn.ps/news/45721>

- **2022 was a record year for settler violence. Palestinians say next year will be even worse**



The violence was indescribable. Something they had never witnessed before.

That is what the Palestinian residents of Hebron told Mondoweiss days after what they described as a settler “rampage” through their city in mid-November.

“It was like a sea of settlers, and all of them were filled with hate in their eyes,” Bader al-Tamimi, a local shop owner and municipality worker, told Mondoweiss from the doorway of his souvenir shop in the heart of Hebron’s Old City.

“There were hundreds, thousands of them, with even more soldiers protecting them, and they just started attacking anything Palestinian – people and shops,” al-Tamimi said.

Full text at: <https://mondoweiss.net/2022/12/2022-was-a-record-year-for-settler-violence-palestinians-say-next-year-will-be-even-worse/>

- **China's permanent ambassador to the UN: International community should work to translate two-state solution from consensus into action**



China's permanent ambassador to the UN, Zhang Jun said the international community should stay committed, and work together to translate the two-state solution from consensus into action and from vision into reality.

During his remarks at the UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, the Chinese ambassador said the Palestinian-Israeli question has been on the UN agenda for over seven decades. During this time, generations of Palestinians have seen their hair graying, their childhoods lost in tears, and their hopes dashed in waiting.

He stressed that every day of inaction by the international community is a disservice to peace, a betrayal of justice, and a failure to the next generation.

Full text at: <https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/132448>

- **President Boric Announces Chile Will Open Embassy in Palestine**



President Gabriel Boric of Chile said Wednesday that he plans to open an embassy “in Palestine”, The New Arab reported.

The announcement by the leftist president, who began his four-year term in March 2022, came at a Christmas ceremony for Chile’s

Palestinian community, estimated to be more than 300,000 strong.

“One of the decisions we have taken as a government, I think we have not yet made it public... is that we will raise the level of our official representation in Palestine,” Boric said.

Full text at: <https://www.palestinechronicle.com/president-boric-announces-chile-will-open-embassy-in-palestine/>

- **For Gaza’s Christians, Christmas is marred by permits and checkpoints**



The city of Bethlehem in the southern occupied West Bank is one of Christianity's holiest places and a major tourist destination for religious pilgrims.

Every year, thousands of Christians from around the world travel to the city to celebrate Christmas and visit the Church of Nativity, the birthplace of Jesus Christ.

Beneath the church, in a small, dimly lit grotto, is a fourteen-point silver star, marking the exact place where Christians believe Mary gave birth to Jesus.

Watch video at: <https://youtu.be/f6845-GWP8E>

Full text at: <https://mondoweiss.net/2022/12/for-gazas-christians-christmas-is-marred-by-permits-and-checkpoints/>

- **Israeli Soldiers Fire Teargas at Palestinian Students in Hebron (VIDEO)**



Several students, including children, suffocated on Tuesday from tear gas fired by Israeli soldiers in the city of Hebron (Al-Khalil), the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

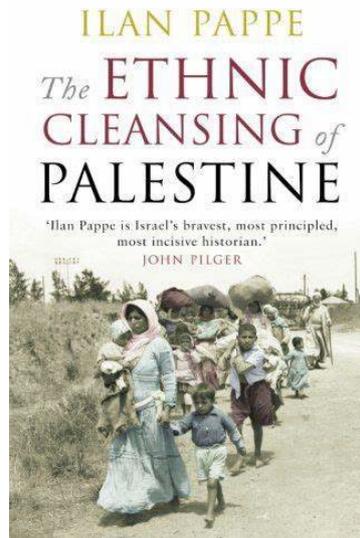
The soldiers fired tear gas canisters at students as they were leaving their schools in the southern parts of Hebron causing several suffocation cases, all treated at the scene.

Watch video at: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1607699908051476482>

Full text at: <https://www.palestinechronicle.com/israeli-soldiers-fire-teargas-at-palestinian-students-in-hebron-video/>

## **5 Books: The best books on The Israel-Palestine Conflict**

1. **The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine by Ilan Pappé**

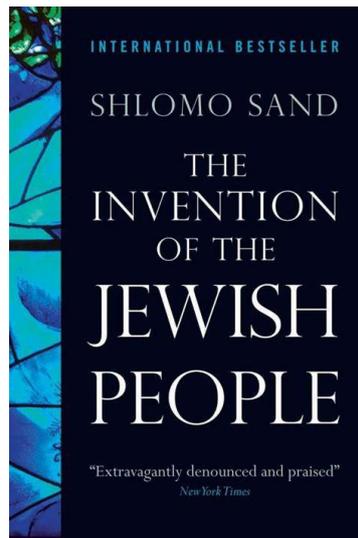


The book that is providing a storm of controversy, from 'Israel's bravest historian' (John Pilger)

Renowned Israeli historian, Ilan Pappé's groundbreaking book revisits the formation of the State of Israel. Between 1947 and 1949, over 400 Palestinian villages were deliberately destroyed, civilians were massacred and around a million men, women, and children were expelled from their homes at gunpoint.

Denied for almost six decades, had it happened today it could only have been called "ethnic cleansing". Decisively debunking the myth that the Palestinian population left of their own accord in the course of this war, Ilan Pappé offers impressive archival evidence to demonstrate that, from its very inception, a central plank in Israel's founding ideology was the forcible removal of the indigenous population. Indispensable for anyone interested in the current crisis in the Middle East.

## **2. The Invention of the Jewish People by Shlomo Sand**

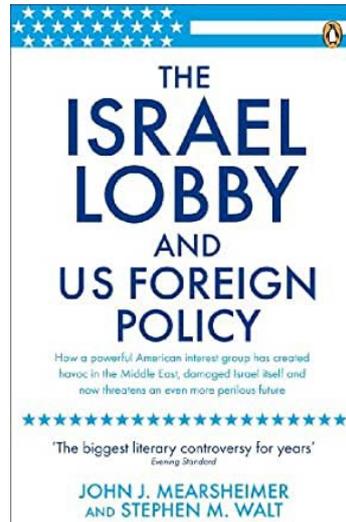


A historical tour de force that demolishes the myths and taboos that have surrounded Jewish and Israeli history, *The Invention of the Jewish People* offers a new account of both that demands to be read and reckoned with. Was there really a forced exile in the first century, at the hands of the Romans? Should we regard the Jewish people, throughout two millennia, as both a distinct ethnic group and a putative nation—returned at last to its Biblical homeland?

Shlomo Sand argues that most Jews actually descend from converts, whose native lands were scattered far across the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The formation of a Jewish people and then a Jewish nation out of these disparate groups could only take place under the sway of a new historiography, developing in response to the rise of nationalism throughout Europe. Beneath the biblical back fill of the nineteenth-century historians, and the twentieth-century intellectuals who replaced rabbis as the architects of Jewish identity, *The Invention of the Jewish People* uncovers a new narrative of Israel's formation, and proposes a bold analysis of nationalism that accounts for the old myths.

After a long stay on Israel's bestseller list, and winning the coveted Aujour'hui Award in France, *The Invention of the Jewish People* is finally available in English. The central importance of the conflict in the Middle East ensures that Sand's arguments will reverberate well beyond the historians and politicians that he takes to task. Without an adequate understanding of Israel's past, capable of superseding today's opposing views, diplomatic solutions are likely to remain elusive. In this iconoclastic work of history, Shlomo Sand provides the intellectual foundations for a new vision of Israel's future.

### 3. The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy by John J. Mearsheimer



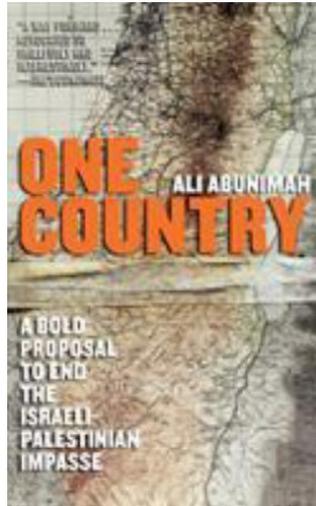
The Israel Lobby," by John J. Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago and Stephen M. Walt of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, was one of the most controversial articles in recent memory.

Originally published in the London Review of Books in March 2006, it provoked both howls of outrage and cheers of gratitude for challenging what had been a taboo issue in America: the impact of the Israel lobby on U.S. foreign policy.

Now in a work of major importance, Mearsheimer and Walt deepen and expand their argument and confront recent developments in Lebanon and Iran. They describe the remarkable level of material and diplomatic support that the United States provides to Israel and argues that this support cannot be fully explained on either strategic or moral grounds. This exceptional relationship is due largely to the political influence of a loose coalition of individuals and organizations that actively work to shape U.S. foreign policy in a pro-Israel direction. Mearsheimer and Walt provocatively contend that the lobby has a far-reaching impact on America's posture throughout the Middle East—in Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, and toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—and the policies it has encouraged are in neither America's national interest nor Israel's long-term interest. The lobby's influence also affects America's relationship with important allies and increases dangers that all states face from global jihadist terror.

Writing in The New York Review of Books, Michael Massing declared, "Not since Foreign Affairs magazine published Samuel Huntington's 'The Clash of Civilizations?' in 1993 has an academic essay detonated with such force." The publication of The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy is certain to widen the debate and to be one of the most talked-about books in foreign policy.

#### 4. One Country: A Bold Proposal to End the Israeli-Palestinian Impasse by Ali Abunimah



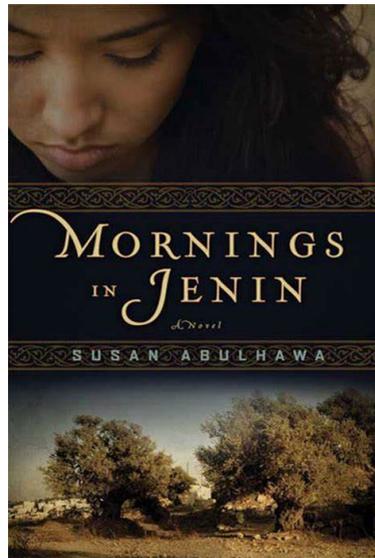
A "visionary"\* approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—one state for two peoples—that is more urgent than ever

It is by now a commonplace that the only way to end the Israeli-Palestinian violence is to divide the territory in two. All efforts at resolving the conflict have come down to haggling over who gets what: Will Israel hand over 90 percent of the West Bank or only 60 percent? Will a Palestinian state include any part of Jerusalem?

Clear-eyed, sharply reasoned, and compassionate, *One Country* proposes a radical alternative: to revive the neglected idea of one state shared by two peoples. Ali Abunimah shows how the two are by now so intertwined—geographically and economically—that separation cannot lead to the security Israelis need or the rights Palestinians must have. Taking on the objections and taboos that stand in the way of a binational solution, he demonstrates that sharing the territory will bring benefits for all.

The absence of other workable options has only led to ever-greater extremism. It is time, Abunimah argues, for Palestinians and Israelis to imagine a different future and a different relationship.

## 5. Mornings in Jenin: A Novel by Susan Abulhawa



A heart-wrenching, powerfully written novel that does for Palestine what *The Kite Runner* did for Afghanistan.

*Mornings in Jenin* is a multi-generational story about a Palestinian family. Forcibly removed from the olive-farming village of Ein Hod by the newly formed state of Israel in 1948, the Abulhejos are displaced to live in canvas tents in the Jenin refugee camp. We follow the Abulhejo family as they live through a half century of violent history. Amidst the loss and fear, hatred and pain, as their tents are replaced by more forebodingly permanent cinderblock huts, there is always the waiting, waiting to return to a lost home.

The novel's voice is that of Amal, the granddaughter of the old village patriarch, a bright, sensitive girl who makes it out of the camps, only to return years later, to marry and bear a child. Through her eyes, with her evolving vision, we get the story of her brothers, one who is kidnapped to be raised Jewish, one who will end with bombs strapped to his middle. But of the many interwoven stories, stretching backward and forward in time, none is more important than Amal's own. Her story is one of love and loss, of childhood and marriage and parenthood, and finally the need to share her history with her daughter, to preserve the greatest love she has.

Set against one of the twentieth century's most intractable political conflicts, *Mornings in Jenin* is a deeply human novel - a novel of history, identity, friendship, love, terrorism, surrender, courage, and hope. Its power forces us to take a fresh look at one of the defining conflicts of our lifetimes.

## **Dates for Palestine Solidarity in 2023**

### **28 Mar – 4 Apr Israel Apartheid Week**

30 Mar	Land Day Palestine
5 Apr	Palestinian Childs Day
9 Apr	Deir Yassin massacre - Irgun Terrorism - 107-120 Palestinian men, women and children massacred
17 Apr	Palestinian Prisoners Day
11 May	World Kufiya Day
15 May	Nakba Day – marking the mass ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from Palestine in 1948
5 Jun	Naksa Day - Start of 1967 War - Land Grab – Invasion of Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza, Egypt and Syria - 5 June 1967 – 10 June 1967
20 Jun	Attack on Gaza - 6–21 May 2021 (2 weeks and 1 day)
16-18 Sept	40th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres
28 Sept	Second Intifada - 28 Sept 2000 – 8 Feb 2005
8/9 October	PSNA National Meeting in Christchurch
2 Nov	Balfour Declaration
29 Nov	United Nations - International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
8 Dec	"First Intifada - 8 Dec 1987 – 13 Sept 1993