

Chapter Six: The Refugees

Israel alone is blamed for the refugees' suffering, while the responsibility of the Arabs who initiated the war that created the refugee problem is totally ignored. The only solution envisaged in the textbooks is their return to their former homes.

“...in the year 1947 the United Nations Organization adopted a resolution partitioning Palestine between the Arabs and the Jews. Accordingly, the British Mandate over Palestine ended and the Mandate government withdrew. Then war erupted between the Arabs and the Jews in 1948, which brought about the capture of part of Palestine by the Jews and the occurrence of the Catastrophe (*Nakbah*) which caused most of the Palestinian people to emigrate.”

(Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 78)

The following quotations relate to the hostilities of 1947-49.

“He had land and an olive tree
And a grapevine, a courtyard and a house
And when the vessels of age brought him to the shores of tranquility
And he dug his grave on the top of the hills
The Tartar battalions burst out
And chased him away from his sad land”
(“Three Pictures from Gaza”, Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 56)

“9. What did the Palestinian have while in the homeland?
10. What happened to the Palestinian when he grew older and approached death?”
(Questions, “Three Pictures from Gaza”, Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 58)

“O little ones
Your eyes burn me with fire
Their depths ask me about the dawning day
About the return to the homes
I say... O little ones
Let us wait for tomorrow
If tomorrow is lost to us, O little ones
Our whole life will be lost in vain”
(“Three Pictures from Gaza”, Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 56)

“I will express out loud the Palestinian’s right to return to his birth place.”

أعبرُ شفويّاً عن حقّ الفلسطينيّ في العودة إلى مسقط رأسه .

(Assignment, “Three Pictures from Gaza”, **Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 59**)

“The right of return is a red line that cannot be crossed.”
Linguistic Sciences, Grade 8, Part 2 (2002) p.68