



**Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**



**Special Statistical Bulletin  
On the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba**

**May, 2011**

### **The Nakba: Ethnic cleansing and systematic replacement of the population**

Nakba in literary terms is expression of natural catastrophes such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and hurricanes. However, the Nakba of Palestine is an ethnic cleansing process as well as destruction and displacement of an unarmed nation to be replaced systematically by another nation. Contrary to natural catastrophes, the Palestinian Nakba was the result of man-made military plans and conspiracy of states unfolded a major tragedy for the Palestinian people.

These events along with the displacement of Palestinians and the subsequent occupation of the remaining land of Palestine in 1967 have resulted in great tragedy for the Palestinian people. More than 800,000 out of 1.4 million Palestinians (the Palestinian population in 1948 living in 1,300 Palestinian towns and villages) were driven out of their homeland to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, neighboring Arab countries and other countries of the world. In addition, thousands of Palestinians were displaced from their homes but stayed within the Israeli controlled 1948 Territory. According to documented data, Israelis controlled 774 towns and villages and destroyed 531 Palestinian towns and villages during the Nakba. The atrocities of Israeli forces also included more than 70 massacres during Nakba in which 15,000 Palestinians were killed.

### **The demographic reality: Palestinians have doubled 8 times after 63 years from Nakba**

Statistics show that the total number of Palestinian population in 1948 was 1.4 million. The estimated total number of Palestinians all over the world amounted to approximately 11 million by the end of 2010. This indicates that the number of Palestinians worldwide has multiplied 8 times since the Nakba in its 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. Statistics show that the total number of Palestinians living in historic Palestine (between Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea) by end of 2010 totaled 5.5 million compared to 5.7 Jews. It is also expected that the Palestinian and Jewish population in historic Palestine will be equal at end of the year 2014, and reach 6.1 million for each at end of the year 2020 providing that growth rates remain current. It is also expected that the number of Palestinians will reach 7.2 million compared to 6.7 million Jews at the end of the year 2020.

Statistical data also show that refugees in the Palestinian Territory constitute 44.0% of the total Palestinian population in the Palestinian Territory. UNRWA's records at mid 2010 showed that the number of registered Palestinian refugees totaled 4.8 million, constituting 43.4% of the total Palestinian population worldwide; distributed as 60.4% living in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, 16.3% in the West Bank, and 23.3% in Gaza Strip. About 29.4% of Palestinian registered refugees live in the 58 refugee camps, of which 10 are in Jordan, 9 in Syria, 12 in Lebanon, 19 in the West Bank, and 8 in Gaza Strip.

These estimates represent the minimum number of Palestinian refugees, given the presence of non-registered refugees. These estimates also do not include Palestinians who were displaced between 1949 and 1967 war "according to UNRWA's definition" and do not include the non refugees who left or were forced to leave as a result of the war in 1967. The estimate of the number of Palestinians who remained in their homeland in the 1948 territory after the Nakba was 154,000 persons and estimated to 1.36 million persons on the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Nakba. The sex ratio is 102.2 males per 100 females, and the percentage of persons aged less than 15 years is 40.6% of Palestinian population in the 1948 land, compared with 3.2% aged 65 years and over based on available statistics about Palestinian living in Israel in 2007. This shows that the composition of Palestinians in 1948 territory is young as a natural extension of the Palestinian society as a whole.

The number of the Palestinians in the Palestinian Territory was estimated at 4.1 million at the end of 2010, of whom 2.5 millions in the West Bank and 1.6 millions in Gaza Strip. The number of Palestinians in Jerusalem governorate was at end of 2010 about 386 thousand, 62.1% of them live in those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed forcefully by Israel in 1967 (J1). The fertility rate in the

Palestinian Territory is high compared to other countries. The total fertility rate in 2010 was 4.2 births (3.8 births in the West Bank and 4.9 births in Gaza Strip).

### **Population density: The Nakba has made Gaza Strip the most crowded place in the World**

The population density in the Palestinian Territory at end of 2010 reached 682 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> of which 450 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> in the West Bank and 4,279 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> in Gaza Strip. In Israel, the population density reached 357 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> of Arabs and Jews in 2010.

### **Settlements: Most settlers live in Jerusalem as part of Israeli Judaization campaign**

The number of Israeli settlements and military bases in the West Bank totaled 470 at the end of 2010. Most of settlements are located in Jerusalem governorate; while the number of Jewish settlers in the West Bank totaled 517,774 at end of the year 2009. Data show that 267,325 (51.6%) of settlers live in Jerusalem governorate of whom 201,273 live in Jerusalem (J1). Statistics show that the ratio of the Palestinians to the Settlers in the West Bank is 21 settlers per 100 Palestinians, where the ratio in Jerusalem governorate reached 71 settlers per 100 Palestinians.

### **The Expansion and Annexation wall swallows about 13% of the West Bank area**

Israeli occupation confiscated hundreds of thousands dunums of land to construct the Expansion and Annexation Wall. Data showed that the isolated and confiscated area between the wall and the green line amounted to almost 733 km<sup>2</sup>, which represents about 13.0% of the West Bank area. These isolated and confiscated areas include 348 km<sup>2</sup> as agricultural area, 110 km<sup>2</sup> utilized by Israeli settlements and military bases, 250 km<sup>2</sup> forests and open area and 25 km<sup>2</sup> as Palestinian Built-up area. About 29% of the West Bank, mainly in the Jordan valley, is considered as restricted area; while 3.5% of the West Bank has been confiscated for settlements and bypass roads. Israeli occupation established a buffer zone along the border of the Gaza Strip of a width exceeding 1,500 m along the eastern border of the Gaza Strip that amounts to about 58 km. This buffer zone swallows 87 km<sup>2</sup> of the total area of the Gaza Strip, and that means the Israeli occupation still controls 24% of the Gaza Strip, which already suffers from the highest population density in the world.

### **Israel controls more than 85% of the Land of Historical Palestine**

About 11 million people live in the historical land of Palestine at end of 2010 with a 27,000 Km<sup>2</sup> estimated area. The Jews constitute around 49.4% of the total population and utilize more than 85% of the total area of lands. The utilizing of land by the Jews during the British Mandate was not more than 1,682 km<sup>2</sup> which constitute about 6.2%. While Arabs comprise 47.9% of the total population and utilize less than 15% of the land area, the others constitute about 2.7% of the population in the 1948' territory.

### **Water in the Palestinian Territory: Realities and challenges**

Preliminary data from the Palestinian Water Authority for the year 2010 showed that the amount of water purchased for domestic use from the Israeli Water Company (Mekorot) amounted to 53 million m<sup>3</sup> in the West Bank. Data shows that the quantity of water purchased from the Israeli Water Company increased by 6 million m<sup>3</sup> compared with last year, which constitutes about 15% of the annual available water quantity .

### **Martyrs: Continuous struggle to liberate the land and build the state**

The number of the al Aqsa Intifada martyrs between September 29<sup>th</sup> 2000 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 reached 7,342, while it was 7,235 martyrs at the end of 2009, of whom, 2,183 martyrs in the West Bank (2,059 males and 124 females), and 5,015 martyrs in the Gaza Strip (4,601 males and 414 females), the rest of the martyrs are from the 1948' area and outside the Palestinian Territory. The year 2009 was the bloodiest year with 1,219 Palestinian martyrs followed by 2002 with 1,192 martyrs. In

addition, 107 martyrs including 9 from Turkish solidarity convoy were killed by aggressive Israel army on Gaza-bound humanitarian fleet during the year 2010.

### **Detainees**

According to data from the Ministry of Detainees, around 750,000 people were detained by Israel since 1967, of whom around 12,000 females and tens of thousands of children, some of whom were re arrested for many times. Data also showed that around 6,000 detainees are still under arrest in Israeli prisons, of whom tens of Arab detainees, 820 under life imprisonment, 37 females, 245 children who represent 4.1% of total detainees, 136 detainees have spent more than 20 years in Israeli jails, 41 detainees have spent more than 25 and 4 detainees have spent more than 30 years in Israeli prisons. The data also showed that Israel had detained more than 70,000 detainees during Al-Aqsa Intifada, of whom 8,000 children, 850 females (4 of them were pregnant and gave birth in prison), tens of of the detainees from the members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and Former Ministers.

### **The health situation: Slow growth of health human resources**

Statistics in 2009 showed that the rate of physicians per 1000 population registered in the Physicians' Union in the West Bank reached 1.3 compared to 3.2 in Gaza Strip. On the other hand, data for 2009 showed that there were 1.6 nurses per 1,000 population in the West Bank compared to 5.5 nurses per 1000 population in the Gaza Strip. Regarding hospitals, the number of hospitals in 2009 in the Palestinian Territory is 75 (50 hospitals in the West Bank and 25 in the Gaza Strip). Regarding the distribution of hospitals by type, there are 25 governmental hospitals, 28 non-government, 19 private, 2 hospitals run by Military institution, and one run by UNRWA. The number of hospital beds is 5,058 with a rate of 1.3 bed per 1,000 population distributed as 3,045 beds in the West Bank and 2,013 in the Gaza Strip. The number of Primary Health Care centers is 559 in the West Bank in the year 2009 while it is 134 center in Gaza Strip.

### **Agriculture: 16.0% of the total area of the Palestinian Territory was cultivated land area**

The area of the Palestinian Territory was 6,020 km<sup>2</sup> in 2010, of which 960.3 km<sup>2</sup> were cultivated land area and that comprises 16.0% of the total area of Palestinian Territory during the agricultural year 2009/2010, based on the preliminary results of the Agriculture Census 2010.

The preliminary results include all agricultural holdings in the Palestinian Territory that had been enumerated in the agricultural year 2009/2010. The number of agricultural holdings in the Palestinian Territory reached 111,458 holdings. There are 79,728 plant holdings, which comprises 71.5% of the total holdings in the Palestinian Territory; compared to 17,461 mixed holdings that constituted 15.7% of the total holdings. The total number of animal holdings is 14,269 holdings that constituted 12.8% of total holdings, during the agricultural year 2009/2010. The number of the breeding Cattle in the Palestinian Territory reached 38,259 while the number of breeding sheep in the Palestinian Territory reached 563,636. The number of breeding goats in the Palestinian Territory is 228,981 on 01/10/2010

### **Housing Conditions: Continuation of Israeli policy of house demolition to up-root Palestinian from their land**

The Israeli occupation forces have destroyed 145 housing unit in the Palestinian Territory during 2010 according to a study issued by the Department of National and International Relations of the PLO. The Israeli occupation army has approved to build 16,497 housing unit mostly in and around Jerusalem (J1), and 1,300 housing units are now under construction.

The data indicate that the average number of persons per room in housing units in the camps was 1.7 persons in 2010, while 13.1% of the households in the camps in the Palestinian Territory live in housing units with a housing density of 3 or more persons per room, distributed as 14.4% in camps

of the West Bank and 12.2% in the Gaza Strip. About 60.5% of the households in the camps in the Palestinian Territory live in housing units with area less than 120 m<sup>2</sup>, distributed as 67.6% in camps of the West Bank and 55.2% in the Gaza Strip

### **Labor market 2010:**

The participation rate in the labor force in the Palestinian Territory in 2010 was 41.1% (38.7% among refugees and 42.6% among non-refugees). The participation rate in the West Bank reached 43.7% (41.6% among refugees and 44.4% among non-refugees) compared to 36.4% in Gaza Strip (36.5% among refugees and 36.2% among non-refugees). The unemployment rate in the Palestinian Territory reached 23.7% (29.5% among refugees and 20.5% among non-refugees). The unemployment rate in the West Bank was 17.2% (19.9% among refugees and 16.3% among non-refugees) compared to 37.8% in Gaza Strip (37.4% among refugees and 38.3% among non-refugees). The service sector is considered the largest employed sector of refugees in the West Bank at 37.1% (compared to 68.2% in the Gaza Strip), followed by trade sector at 21.7% in the West Bank (compared to 14.1% in Gaza Strip)

### **Education:**

According to the Education Survey for the scholastic year 2010/2011, the number of schools in the Palestinian Territory was 2,647 schools (1,971 in the West Bank and 676 in the Gaza Strip); distributed by supervising authority as follows: 1,965 governmental schools, 335 UNRWA schools, and 347 private schools. The number of students in these schools was 1.128 million, of whom 563,000 were males and 565,000 females. Regarding distribution of students by supervising authorities, there were 772,000 students enrolled in governmental schools, 265,000 enrolled in UNRWA schools and 91,000 enrolled in private schools.

The illiteracy rate among Palestinians aged 15 years and above in 2010 was 5.1% distributed as 2.4% for males and 7.8% for females. Regarding higher education in the Palestinian Territory, there are 14 universities and 15 university colleges offering programs leading to the bachelor degree: 5 universities and 5 university colleges are in Gaza Strip, and 9 universities and 10 university colleges are in the West Bank. There are 20 intermediate community colleges; 14 in the West Bank and 6 in Gaza Strip.

### **Macroeconomics:**

#### **Prices during 2010**

Average prices for 2010 in the Palestinian Territory increased by 3.75% compared with 2009, distributed as 4.24% in the West Bank and 1.72% in Gaza Strip. In comparison with the base year in 2004, the average prices in the Palestinian Territory had increased by 29.00% distributed as 26.67% in the West Bank and 31.79% in Gaza Strip.

#### **Trade: Restrictions on border crossings and very limited Palestinian exports with the outside world**

Import of goods indicates an increase in 2009 compared to 2008, while exports had decreased in 2009 compared to 2008. The value of imported goods in 2009 reached U.S.\$ 3,600 million and indicated an increase by 3.9% compared to 2008. Regarding exports on goods, the total value of exports reached U.S.\$ 518 million with a decrease by 7.2% compared to 2008. As a result, the net trade balance on goods recorded a deficit of U.S.\$ 3,082 million in 2009 with an increase by 6.0% compared to 2008.

Regarding exports abroad, the results indicated that only 13.0% of total exports were exported, while 87% of exports were exported to Israel. The limited exports abroad was due to the Israeli restrictions imposed on Palestinian exports especially on Gaza Strip.

**Information Society**

The percentage of households that have a computer in the Palestinian Territory is 48.8%, of which 49.9% in the West Bank and 46.6% in Gaza Strip. As for Internet connection, the results showed that 29.1% of households in the Palestinian Territory have an Internet connection in 2010, of which 27.5% in the West Bank and 32.2% in Gaza Strip. The percentage of households that have TV dish in the Palestinian Territory is 91.4% in 2010, of which 91.6% in the West Bank and 90.9% in Gaza Strip. The results also indicated that 45.5% of households in the Palestinian Territory have a fixed phone line, of which 48.5% in the West Bank and 39.7% in Gaza Strip. Data showed that 85.1% of households have a Palestinian mobile phone in the Palestinian Territory, of which 79.6% in the West Bank and 95.7% in Gaza Strip, while 23.2% of households have Israeli mobile phone in the Palestinian Territory, of which 34.7% in the West Bank and 0.9% in Gaza Strip