



# Stop the JNF Campaign [www.stopthejnf.org](http://www.stopthejnf.org)

## THE JNF BRITISH PARK - planted over the ruins of two forcibly depopulated Palestinian villages, Ajjur & Zakariyya

In 1948 the Jewish National Fund (JNF) helped to plan the ethnic cleansing of about 500 villages in Palestine, an event known to the Palestinian people as the Nakba. In international law, these were war crimes, specifically *forced population transfer*.

After the Nakba, the JNF continued to violate international law by expropriating lands of Palestinian refugees and planting forests and parks over the ruins of their villages. In the 1950s, the JNF's UK branch funded the planting of the 'British Park' over the ruins of two forcibly depopulated Palestinian villages, Ajjur and Zakariyya.

Although the JNF presents itself as an environmental organization, in fact the JNF works to exclude the Palestinian people from their land and develop segregated Jewish communities. For example, the Jewish agricultural settlement of Moshav Zecharia now sits on lands that belonged to the Palestinian village of Zakariyya.



**"A gift of the Jewish National Fund of Great Britain"  
(Signpost at the entrance of the British Park)**



**The first picture on the left shows the ruins of a Palestinian home – and a JNF picnic area.**

**The second picture is of a JNF sign about 'The Ajjur Olive Trees' – there is no mention of the Palestinians who planted those trees.**

## **Ajjur (District of Hebron)**

### **Before 1948**

Distance from district center: 24km NW of Hebron

Population: 2,917 (in 1931); 3,730 (in 1945)

Number of houses: 566 (in 1931)

Schools: *The village had two schools*

Religious institutions: *Ajjur had two mosques, one was an old mosque which was built during the Fatimid period, the other was built during the British Mandate period*

Shrines/maqams: *Ajjur contained four shrines within its borders*

Archeological sites: *Ajjur was the site of the battle of Ajnadin (AD 634), in which the Muslim Arabs triumphed over the Byzantines; it contains 22 other archaeological sites*

Land ownership/dunums: 44,771 (private), 13,303 (public)

### **After 1948**

Israeli occupation date: *July 23-24, 1948*

Israeli military operation: *Operation Yo'av*  
Israeli attacking brigade: *Fourth Battalion of Giv'ati Brigade*

Village defenders: *Egyptian Muslim Brotherhoods, local Palestinian militias and some Arab Liberation Army volunteers*

Ethnically cleansing: *Ajjur inhabitants were completely ethnically cleansed*

Village remains: *Ajjur was mostly destroyed, three houses remain standing to this date*

Israeli settlements: *Moshav Ajjur (established 1950), Agur, Tzafririm, Giv'at Yesh'ayahu, Li-On (established 1960, now renamed Saraigi) & Tirosh*

## **Zakariyya (District of Hebron)**

### **Before 1948**

Distance from district center: 25 km NW of Hebron

Population: 742 (in 1931); 1,180 (in 1945)

Number of houses: 189 (in 1931)

Religious institutions: *One mosque (still standing)*

Town's name in history: *Zakariyya was known to the Romans as Caper Zacharia*

Archeological sites: *According to the Bible David fought Goliath at Tall Zakariyya*

Land ownership/dunums: 15,311 (private, of which 7,484 cultivable)

### **After 1948**

Israeli occupation date: *October 23, 1948*

Israeli military operation: *Operation ha-Har or Operation Yo'av*

Israeli attacking brigade: *Possibly Fourth Battalion of Giv'ati Brigade*

Village defenders: *Egyptian Muslim Brotherhoods, local Palestinian militias and some Arab Liberation Army volunteers*

Ethnically cleansing: *Zakariyya was completely ethnically cleansed on June 9, 1950 based on the orders of Yosef Weitz, the JNF's head of settlements*

Village remains: *Zakariyya was partially destroyed, the remaining houses and mosque became the property of the JNF and the State of Israel*

Israeli settlements: *Moshav/Beit Zecharia (and possibly Beit Shamesh)*

**Join the Stop the JNF Campaign:  
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