



British Park: A JNF UK crime scene 'Not in our Name'



British Park

British Park is an extensive wooded leisure attraction in Israel, with guided walks and picnic tables, created by the charity JNF UK in the early years of Israel's existence.

British Park lies over the lands of 7 Palestinian villages ethnically cleansed in the Nakba, when over 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly removed from their homes to make way for the State of Israel, from 1947-9. British Park is just one of 46 JNF parks and forests built on stolen Palestinian land.

The 7 villages before the Nakba

These were active, thriving Palestinian communities. The largest, Ajjur, dated back centuries, with



sustainable agriculture, two masjids and schools. It was a market for the region. In the words of renowned Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, "This land has everything that makes life worth living".

Residents of these villages are now refugees, living in exile – struggling to return to the land from which they, or their ancestors, were expelled.

UN Resolution 194

In 1948, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution declaring that Palestinians expelled or forced to flee by Zionist forces in the Nakba should be allowed to return home.

Israel was determined to prevent this.

So it allocated land confiscated from the Palestinians to the JNF, a nominally independent, non-state body. This ensured that the land was passed, in perpetuity and exclusively, into Jewish ownership. On some of the land it acquired, the JNF created parks and forests to block any prospect of the refugees' return, and to conceal the destroyed villages.

In 1948, Israeli Agriculture Minister Tsizling said it was 'important in the international arena, and before the world community, that what is happening here *appears* legal.' (Emphasis added)

British Park tells the story of Palestine in a nutshell

Since 1948, Israel has tried to gain control of the maximum amount of land, with the minimum number of Palestinians. The Zionist project has four dominant strands:

- **LAND** – acquire as much as possible
- **EXPULSION** – evict the Palestinian inhabitants (ethnic cleansing)
- **SETTLEMENT** – prioritise the Jewish settlers' interests
- **ERASURE AND DENIAL** – hide the ethnic cleansing, deny the truth of the ongoing Nakba.



The Jewish National Fund (JNF) from its inception in 1901 has been central in each of these strands.

Is British Park an injustice of the past, irrelevant today?

Palestinians continue to face the systematic denial of their rights by the Israeli state. Their Right of Return, enshrined in international law, is still being prevented; huge numbers still live in refugee camps both inside historic Palestine, and in neighbouring countries. Plundered Palestinian property has never been returned.

Today, Israel continues the ethnic cleansing of Palestine, aided by the KKL-JNF. The KKL-JNF recently announced that it will acquire Palestinian land in occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank, in flagrant



breach of international law, a harbinger of yet more ethnic cleansing. Under the founding Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, every Israeli settlement, on land stolen from the Palestinian people, is a presumptive war crime.

Britain and the JNF today

Despite its complicity in the violation of Palestinian rights, the KKL-JNF's branch office, JNF UK, is afforded charitable status.

Take Action

We must stand with the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice, and equality, and speak out against the JNF. Join us in saying, "British Park – not in my name".

Find out more: www.stopthejnf.org "Forests and Parks Projects"



Find out more

For further information on the background to the campaign, go to "Why the JNF?" – www.stopthejnf.org/why-the-jnf

Call for Action: www.stopthejnf.org/call-for-action

Keep the JNF out of COP26: www.stopthejnf.org/keep-the-jnf-out-of-cop-26

Join the mailing list: www.stopthejnf.org/join-mailing-list