

# **GLOSSARY OF EVENTS, PHRASES, PEOPLE, AND PLACES IN *SLINGSHOT HIP HOP***

## **PLACES**

### *Palestine*

One of several names for the area between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. Although the borders have varied throughout history, the area has been called Palestine for millennia. The state of Israel was unilaterally established in 1948 on this land as part of the Zionist project to create a homeland for the Jews. Under the cover of war, over 400 Palestinian villages were destroyed and their inhabitants forced to flee, causing about 80% of the Palestinian population to become refugees.

### *Israel*

In 1948, through political and military means, Zionists established a Jewish state in Palestine and called it Israel. During the early years of the state, the Jewish population increased through mass immigration of survivors of the Holocaust in Europe and Jews from Arab countries. Although originally established on 54% of historic Palestine, through subsequent wars, Israel expanded its territory to include 78% of Palestine and has occupied the remaining 22% since 1967. Currently, roughly 75% of Israel's population is officially defined as Jewish, 20% defined as Arab, and 4.5% defined as Other. (See also Zionism)

### *'48*

Some use the term '48 Palestine to refer to the area that the Israeli state was established on in 1948. The Palestinians that remained on their land after the Israeli state was established eventually became Israeli citizens and currently make up about 20% of the Israeli population. Although Israeli citizens, they are systematically discriminated against and not given equal status to Israel's Jewish citizens. These Palestinians are often referred to as '48 Palestinians.

### *'67*

Some use '67 Palestine to refer to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which make up 22% of historic Palestine. In 1948, the West Bank came under Jordanian rule while the Gaza Strip came under Egyptian jurisdiction. These territories came under Israeli military occupation in 1967. The Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, denied any form of Palestinian or Israeli citizenship, are often referred to as '67 Palestinians and remain under Israeli occupation to this day.

### *Occupied Territories*

The phrase "Occupied Territories" refers to the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip, areas captured by the Israeli army in 1967 from Jordan and Egypt respectively during the 1967 war. Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Territories include extensive use of collective punishments, such as curfews, house demolitions and closure of roads, schools and community institutions. Policies also include confiscation of Palestinian land, building

settlements, detention without trial and deportation of Palestinians.

### *The West Bank*

The West Bank refers literally to the land west of the Jordan River, which is Palestinian land that came under Israeli military occupation in 1967. The West Bank has a population of 2.5 million and surface area of about 5,860 sq. km (2260 sq. miles). The majority of the population is Palestinian Arabs and a minority are Israeli settlers, illegal according to international law. Major Palestinian cities in the West Bank include Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus, Hebron, and Jenin. (See Occupied Territories).

### *The Gaza Strip*

The Gaza Strip is a small coastal area in the south of Palestine with a surface area of about 360 sq. km (139 sq. miles). The Gaza Strip has a population of about 1.5 million Palestinians, two thirds of which are descendants of refugees who were expelled from their homes during the 1948 war. It is one of the most densely populated areas on the planet. Because of the Israeli occupation and blockade, over 70% of the people of Gaza live today on less than \$2 a day. (See Occupied Territories).

### *Checkpoint*

Checkpoints are structures put in place by the Israeli military to prevent and/or monitor the movement of Palestinians both within the West Bank and Gaza, as well as in and out of those territories. Some checkpoints are permanent structures with high-tech security devices, and others, called “flying checkpoints” are set up temporarily and without notice. In October 2006 the U.N. counted 526 checkpoints. Checkpoints represent a loss of freedom and income for Palestinians, make travel within the Occupied Territories extremely slow, unpredictable, and humiliating, and are a major source of frustration for Palestinians.

### *Refugee camps (Dheisheh, Nimsawi)*

Refugee camps were originally set up to temporarily house Palestinian refugees who were expelled from their lands during the war that established Israel in 1948. They are located in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the surrounding Arab countries of Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Since the refugees have been barred from returning to their homes, most of the 59 refugee camps have become refugee cities. Dheisheh camp, near the West Bank city of Bethlehem, is one of these. Palestinians from 45 different villages west of Jerusalem and Hebron fled to Dheisheh camp, the descendants of whom comprise the more than 11,000 inhabitants of the camp today. They live on less than a half square kilometer of land. Al Nimsawi is a refugee camp in the district of Khan Yunis in Gaza, now home to more than 60,000 people, most originally from the Bir Al-Saba district of historic Palestine.

### *The Wall*

The Wall is a physical barrier built by Israel to separate and isolate the West Bank and its inhabitants. Also known as the Apartheid Wall and the separation barrier, the wall is in some places up to 8 meters (over 26 ft) high and made of concrete, while in other places it is constructed of ditches and roads surrounded by multiple lines of electric and barbed wire 60-100 ft wide. The wall was ruled illegal by the International Court of Justice in 2004 because its

path does not follow the internationally recognized 1967 border (the Green Line). The wall is built inside the West Bank and is basically de facto annexing to Israel nearly 50% of the West Bank, further isolating Palestinian communities into cantons, enclaves and military zones.

### *Tel Aviv*

The city of Tel Aviv was the first European Jewish settlement established in the outskirts of the old Palestinian city of Jaffa in 1908. After the establishment of the Jewish state, Tel Aviv grew, while Jaffa was nearly depopulated and destroyed, and eventually incorporated into the Tel Aviv municipality. With close to 400,000 inhabitants, Tel Aviv is today Israel's second biggest city and its financial and cultural center.

### *al-Lyd*

Home to Palestinian Hip Hop artists DAM and Abeer, Lyd (Lod in Hebrew) is located within the state of Israel, or '48, near the city of Jaffa. Almost two months after the Israeli state was established in 1948, Israel occupied Lyd, massacred nearly 100 Palestinians, and ordered the rest of its inhabitants to flee. Today, just 20% of Lyd's population is Palestinian and is an economically depressed city.

### *Akka*

Home to Palestinian Hip Hop artist Mahmoud Shalabi and female Hip Hop group Arapeyat, Akka (called Acre in English) is a coastal city in the north of what is now Israel. Akka had been an important city regionally since ancient times because of its historically active port, but is now more marginal in the Israeli economy. In 1948, almost three fourths of the Palestinian population of Akka was expelled or fled, and currently the Palestinian population of the city makes up close to 28% of the total residents, a number higher than many other Israeli cities. Akka, like many areas of Israel with significant Palestinian populations, is economically depressed.

### *Khan Yunis*

Home to Palestinian Hip Hop group PR, Khan Yunis is the name of a city and the adjacent refugee camp in the southern part of the Gaza Strip. Khan Yunis has been strongly affected by Israeli practices of house demolitions and agricultural destruction. It is also frequently the target of Israeli air raids and ground invasions.

## **PHRASES**

### *Allah hu Akbar*

Literally "God is great" or "God is the greatest," used as both an informal expression as well as a formal declaration of faith.

### *Asalaam Alaykum*

A greeting, literally translated as "Peace be with you" and used as a general salutation.

### *Al Nakba*

Arabic for “The Catastrophe.” The term refers to the 1948 war during which over 400 Palestinian villages were destroyed and around 80% of the Palestinian population forced to flee. Al Nakba marks the establishment of Israel on the land of Palestine. (See also Israel and ’48 Palestine)

### *Wardee*

Literally means “my flower” in Arabic, but is used as slang to mean “my brother.”

## **EVENTS**

### *’67 War (also known as the Six Day War)*

In June 1967 Israel’s army attacked Syria and Egypt. After Jordan joined the war, Israel invaded the West Bank. The war ended in six days with a decisive Israeli military victory. The West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Sinai and the Golan Heights came under Israel’s military occupation. During and immediately after the war, Israel expelled another 300,000 Palestinians from their West Bank homes.

### *Intifada*

Intifada means “uprising” (or literally, “shaking off”) in Arabic, and refers to two grassroots Palestinian efforts to end the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The first Palestinian intifada broke out in the streets of Gaza refugee camps in 1987. After 20 years of living under occupation, Palestinians were responding to an increasing number of shootings and human rights abuses by Israeli forces with demonstrations, mass civil disobedience, confrontations with Israeli tanks and soldiers, boycotts of Israeli products, and the creation of new social organizations. A second Palestinian intifada (known as the al-Aqsa Intifada) began in 2000. The immediate cause was a violent crackdown on Palestinian protests during Israeli politician Ariel Sharon’s visit to the mosque compound of Al-Haram Al-Sharif in the Old City of Jerusalem. However, Palestinians had long been frustrated that 7 years of the Oslo Peace Process failed to bring about physical or economic security for Palestinians, end the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements on Palestinian land, much less produce an independent Palestinian state.

### *Zionism*

Zionism is the official ideology of the state of Israel and its supporters (Jewish and otherwise). Zionism originated as a European political movement established in the late 19th century, influenced by other European nationalist movements of that era. It sought to define Jewishness as a nationality and worked to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Although Zionism is often equated with Jewishness, it is only one of many contemporary political movements Jews have participated in.

By the late 1960s, Zionism and the state that it helped to produce had become major factors in shaping the ways in which Jews in the U.S. and other countries position themselves as Jews. However, historically and currently, opponents to Zionism (both Jewish and non-Jewish) have claimed that insofar as Zionism produces and prolongs the oppressive conditions in which

Palestinians live, only a far-reaching structural transformation of the state will succeed in bringing about necessary change.