

A Vigil and march organised by Justice For Palestine will be held at King George Square, Brisbane CBD, at 5 pm on Friday, May 15 to mark Palestine's Al Nakba.

**Al Nakba** (or 'Catastrophe' in Arabic) **Day** is commemorated across the world on May 15<sup>th</sup> to remember the genocidal ethnic cleansing wherein 531 Palestinian villages and towns were entirely depopulated and destroyed between 1947 and 1950 by Israeli militia. Israeli forces killed an estimated 13,000 Palestinians and forcibly evicted 737,166 Palestinians from their homes and land - that is 80% of the Palestinian people living in the land that became Israel. Thirty four massacres were documented by the Israeli historian Benny Morris alone. After the genocides, the land owned by the Palestinians diminished from 93% to 7%, while Jewish owned or controlled lands increased from 8% to 85%.

**The Nakba continues:** After the '48 Nakba, Israel gained 78% of Palestine. Not happy, it is gradually annexing the remaining 22% which it occupies since 1967. Day by day, week by week, Israel is dispossessing Palestinians by annexing their homes and land and bringing in armed and violent settlers. Meanwhile, the refugees created by Israel's Nakba remain homeless and unwanted. As of January 2010, UNRWA cites 1,396,368 registered refugees in camps and 3,370,302 registered refugees not in camps. That's over 4.3 million homeless people! Please protest against the continuing ethnic cleansing by attending the **Brisbane Al Nakba Vigil and march**.

**Gaza needs your support:** In the brutal attack on Gaza last July, the UN reports that 2,104 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, including 1,462 civilians, among them 495 children and 253. In other words, 69 percent of the total killed were civilians. During Israel's 2014 attack, some 13,529 houses were destroyed and 8,392 severely damaged, exacerbating an existing housing shortage generated by the 2008 attack.

Before the 2014 attack, some 90 per cent of Gaza's water from its coastal aquifer was considered undrinkable. Most areas experienced power cuts of 12 hours a day; they have increased to 18 hours daily after the attack and the subsequent attack by Israel on the Gaza power station. Economic recovery remains stagnant, resulting in high unemployment, food insecurity and reliance on food aid.

Children constitute 30 per cent of those suffering from a disability as a result of injuries sustained during the war. Over 1,500 children have reportedly become orphaned, 67 with thousands of others traumatized by the attack.

The health system is in disarray. According to WHO, some 17 hospitals and 56 public health centres were destroyed by Israel. Damage inflicted on health institutions, the prevailing shortage in essential drugs (40 per cent) and the lack of spare parts for certain medical equipment have reduced the availability of health services.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza is desperate. Palestine needs your support. Please attend the vigil and march. *Please contact Emad Sinan on 0424 264 750 for further information.*