

# Palestinian Proposal on Palestinian Refugees

January 22, 2001

\* A just resolution to the refugee problem is an essential component to a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

\* Moral responsibility: Israel must recognize its moral and legal responsibility for the forced displacement and dispossession of the Palestinian civilian population during the 1948 war and for preventing the displaced from returning to their homes as stated in United Nations Resolution 194.

\* The right of every refugee to return shall be exercised in accordance with the modalities set out in the Agreement.

\* A Palestinian refugee is any Palestinian who was prevented from returning to his or her home after November 29, 1947. A “refugee” in this Agreement shall include a refugee’s descendants and spouse. All registered persons with UNRWA shall be considered refugees in accordance with this Article.

\* A **Repatriation Commission** shall be established in order to guarantee and manage the implementation of the right to return in accordance with this Article. The Commission shall be composed of representatives from the United Nations, the United States, the Parties, UNRWA, the Arab host countries, the EU, and Canada. The Commission shall consult the governments of the Arab host countries as it may deem it necessary.

\* **Legal Status:** Returning refugees should enjoy full civil and social rights and should be protected against discrimination, particularly in employment, education and the right to own property.

\* The returning refugees shall assume Israeli citizenship. This shall end his or her status as a refugee.

\* **Restitution:** Real property owned by a returning refugee at the time of his or her displacement shall be restored to the refugee or his or her lawful successors.

\* In case[s] where, according to criteria determined by the Repatriation Commission, it is impossible, impracticable or inequitable to restore the property to its refugee owner, the refugee shall [be] restituted in-kind with property within Israel, equal in size and/or value to the land and other property that they lost.

\* **Compensation:** The State of Israel shall compensate refugees for the property from which they were deprived as a result of their displacement, including, but not limited to, destroyed property and property placed under the custodianship of the “Custodian for Absentees’ Property.”

\* Compensation should cover loss of property and loss of use and profit from the date of dispossession to the current day expressed in today’s value.

\* The State of Israel shall also compensate refugees for suffering and losses incurred as a result of the refugees’ physical displacement.

\* Refugees shall, as the case may be, receive repatriation assistance, in order to help them resettle in their places of origin, or rehabilitation assistance, in order to be rehabilitated in the place of their future residence.

\* The State of Israel shall pay compensation to the [S]tate of Palestine for the Palestinian communal property existing within the internationally recognized borders of the State of Israel.

\* The refugees' host countries (i.e., Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and the Palestinian Authority) shall receive compensation for the significant costs they bore in hosting the refugees.

\* **International Funding:** An International Fund shall be established to support and finance the implementation of the provisions in this Agreement related to the resolution of the Palestinian refugee issue.