



Universidad del Azuay

Faculty of Law
School of International Studies

Participation of Ecuador in the recognition of Palestine as a State

Thesis of Graduation previous to obtaining the University Degree of Bachelor in
International Studies, with a Bilingual Minor in Foreign Trade

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Cuenca-Ecuador

2016

DEDICATION

To my mom Marlene for her dedication, love and unconditional support, for teaching me to be a determinate woman and to always look to the positive side of life.

To my children Bruno and Joaquin for being the strongest reason to pursue my dreams, and to achieve my goals, and never to look back.

To Renan for being an amazing dad.

To my grandma Ines for being the person who marked my childhood of love and happiness, you will always be in my heart.

To my grandparents Rosa and Jorge for their support

I dedicate to you the following project, Thanks for your love.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to thank God for everything I have in my life, for my children and family.

To my children for being the biggest reason to fight for everything I want.

To my mom, my husband, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends for their love.

To my father, for teaching me that we must achieve our goals by ourselves without expecting anything from anyone.

To those people who collaborated directly and indirectly to the fulfillment of this project.

An especial gratitude to Dra. Andrea Jaramillo Merchán for her affection and care, her generosity and advice, but must of all for the huge support that she has always offered me, for also teaching me to never give up no matter the situation and to always look ahead.

I also owe a special thanks to Dr. Esteban Segarra for his guidance throughout this project, for his generosity and time.

Finally to Universidad del Azuay for its academic training and for giving me the guidelines to continue my professional life.

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ABSTRACT

Since the partition of Palestine in 1948 by the United Nations resolution number 181 which established the creation of two states, a Jew State which actually achieved its independence and creation in the same year in which the resolution was issued, and one Arab State which never consolidated, the Palestinian people for more than 65 years have been in a permanent struggle to achieve their right to be recognized internationally as a free and independent state. Through the years, the Palestinian people through the UN have raised their voices for the international acceptance for the creation of their state. Many countries of the International Community have intervened in this conflict either in favor or against of the creation of a Palestinian State. Therefore, this project will analyze the Position of Ecuador in the recognition of Palestine as a State.

INTRODUCTION

The Middle East characterizes for being one of the most controversial regions regarding territorial, political and religious aspects, being the conflict between Arabs and Jews the most transcendental, its territorial divergences have carried out a war for over 65 years having as a result thousands of mortal victims and the exile of hundreds of Palestinians.

The root of the conflict between these two nations for the Palestinian territories is a problem whose origins date back to the biblical times where originally it was known as Canaan. This territory was influenced for different cultures such as the Babylonians, Arameans, and even the Hebrews. Back then, different cultures and religions lived and shared the same territory. Nevertheless, the story about the land of Palestine and its people goes further, specifically to the religious sphere where according to the Jews religious beliefs, their ancestors inhabited in Palestinian lands for years, until they were conquered and exiled from the ancient Jerusalem in two occasions, as a result, its people were dispersed and forced to migrate to different countries around the world for many centuries. According to the Jewish religion, as a consequence of their exile or “Diaspora” their god (Yahave) offered to give them back their “Promised Land”, land that years later will be claimed in Palestinian territories, turning this land in the bond of contention between the Arabs and the Jews.

The territories of Palestine went through a lot of conquests by different civilizations who found in this region a population based basically in agriculture and ranching. Over the course of history, the Palestinians developed, in part by the cultural influence of these civilizations, however, until then, its population as its territory belonged to Palestine. Nevertheless, to the middle of the XX century the story for the Palestinians will change drastically.

During the XX century the Second World War meant a transcendental change in the global order of that time. The human, as well as the material lost were colossal, millions of Jews between men, woman and children, were brutally murdered inside the ghettos and the concentrations camps. Over five years the Jew people were chased and tortured having as a result one of the biggest genocides at the time. Once the war was over, the International Community worked to make sure that an event

like that never happen again, searching for alternatives that guarantee the protection of the integrity and security of all nations of the world, as a result, the League of Nations was created, eventually this organization was named as the United Nations Organization (UN) becoming the most important instrument inside the International Community and as a protector for the different nations of the world.

Under these circumstances the new created organization became in one of the principal pioneers of a radical and considerable change in the zone near the Mediterranean. In 1948 it was decided the partition of the Palestinian territory toward the formation and creation of a Jew State, fulfilling the Jew prophecy of having their “Promised Land” burring the Palestinians in a bind of suffering death and exile. At this point, it is important to mention that the fact the Jew people have a territory and a State, has become the basis for the uprising of the Arabs to fight for what legally belongs to them; to have their own State, with their own territory and the return of its people and so, finally achieve a fair and equal international recognition which will end the abuses and outrage of what the Palestinians have been victims since the creation of the State of Israel.

Since the year the Jew State was created based on the partition of the Palestinian territory, the Arab and Israeli conflicts have intensified to the point of becoming in a matter of international transcendence, where all countries which are part of the International Community had tried to search a pacific solution that actually helps to stop hostilities between these two nations. Therefore, along this project I will analyze the position that the Republic of Ecuador has assumed in an area so important as the Arab and Israeli conflict and especially in the struggle of the Palestinian people of fulfilling the foundation and creation of a Free State and its international recognition inside this new global order. It will be considered the actions, opinions, and other factors adopted by the Ecuadorian State that shows its position in this conflict. Finally, I will add an analysis based on opinions and points of view from different people taken from interviews, which will help to the strengthening of this thesis.

CHAPTER 1: HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS

Being the Arab and Israeli conflict a very complex topic not only because of the territorial and demographic factors but also because of humanitarian issues which have taken place as a result of the different wars aroused in this region, but most of all because of the period of time in which the confrontations between these two nations have been present in the Middle East. It is important to look back into the past which define the origin and the root of this problem so we will be able to understand its present and have a clear perspective of its future.

This chapter has as goal to establish the historical antecedents that surrounds this conflict, also, I pretend to expose a bit of what the ancient Palestine was, as well as, the Palestine before 1948 and all the subsequent events to this period which marked a reality full of pain, injustice, and abuses to the Arab nation,; but at the same time marked the beginning of a unstoppable struggle for an international recognition as a free and independent state. At this point I will make an analysis of the treaties and international agreements which support and allowed the partition of the Palestinian territory and therefore, the creation of the Jew State. Also, I will analyze the intervention and the role that have carried out the United Nations (UN) in the Palestinian struggle for the creation of its own state, the current position of Palestine inside the organization, and a few concepts will be clarified so it will allow us to have a clear perspective of the situation of Palestine inside the organization.

1.1 Antecedents

1.1.1 Ancient Palestine B.C.

In the past, the Palestinian territory was known as “*the Land of Canaan*”. Located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, the Land of Canaan had a great influence of a variety of cultures and civilizations. Through its history Canaan went to a series of conquers by different nations as the: Arameans, Egyptians, Persian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Phoenicians, even by the Hebrews and Turkish, being these last two the most important because the Turkish occupied this land for many years,

while the Hebrews meant the subsequent tragedy of the Palestinian people (Cattan 1971, 13:16). The Land of Canaan had a population with its traditions and an established culture. Its main population was the Canaanites who settle in the plain territories and the Philistines who settle in the coastal region of the territory. The population of this region was mostly polytheist, although the territory was inhabited by other cultures with religious diversity as the Christians, in the Land of Canaan the cultures settled in this region coexisted peacefully within the same territory (ibid).

To the year 1400-1280 B.C. the land of Canaan was under the Egyptian domain, becoming part of the great nations conquered by this civilization, while the Hebrew nation on its majority served the Egyptians' pharaohs. Four centuries later the Hebrews left the lands of Egypt led by Moises to Canaan, where they arrived as nomadic people and consequently they established in the land they believed their God have promised to them and from which years later were banished (Parkes 1970, 51). Under this context it is important to mention that the Israelis were not the first inhabitants of Palestine, just like the rest of the civilizations they were invaders who arrived to this land and established there (Cattan 1971, 13). Even though, the Palestinians were submitted to different types of conquests by different civilizations, its population as its land until then, was part of them.

Before 1948 the only significant change that suffered the Arab population was in the religious matter, since in the 7th century to the year 570 in the Arabian Peninsula arose a religious orientation with great domain known as Islam with Mahomet as its maximum exponent (Grimberg 1973, 85:86). This religion expanded throughout the Arabic Peninsula and subsequently, to the North of Africa, Eastern Europe, Indian Sub-Continent, South-East Asia, and to the Middle East, adopting from that very moment a monotheist religious connotation with Allah as its true and unique God (Castro Salgado 2012).

1.1.2 Palestine under Turkish domain 1518-1917 A.C.

The Ottoman Empire rises after the dissolution of the Byzantium Empire in the year 1300 A.C. It was one of the most powerful empires, its domains over the European, Asian, and African territories lasted until the XX century. The population were

mostly Muslims, although, the religious diversity was not an obstacle for people to feature the political rights which the Turkish government offered to its diverse population (Imber 2002, 19:20). To the year 1518 A.C. Palestine went over the Turkish domain, at its command and despite the Palestinians territories were under their domain, Jerusalem as the rest of the cities were autonomous and they were bind directly with the Empire's Capital; Constantinople.

The Palestinian citizens back then featured several equal civil rights which were stipulated in the Turkish Constitution of 1876 (Cattan 1971, 18:20). The civil rights from which the Palestinian people benefited were, the right to vote having the option of choosing their own representatives, they also had the right to participate in the general administration of the country, enjoying of political independence and equality. In this context of the Palestinian history it is important to point out that its citizens had "achieved a cultural level of development and a political maturity which could have made them free if they would had been helped by a foreign power" which wouldn't had been guided by corrupt feelings such as greed and betrayal just like occurred with Great Britain and the United States (20).

Nevertheless, despite all civil rights which benefited the Arabs, their desire of having their own free and independent state, would be the main reason that lead them to reveal themselves against their governors, handing over their dream of having a state in the hand of a new allied, The British Empire, same that later on will betray them giving to the Palestinians a future of exile. The Arab rebellion against their conquerors was the beginning of what afterwards meant the dissolution and decadency of the Ottoman Empire and the beginning of the British domain over the Palestinian people, being this period of the Palestinian history the bind of the conflict which years later will start in this territory (20).

1.1.3 Palestine under the British Mandate

The First World War not only meant the dissolution and partition of the Ottoman Empire, but also the creation of a new structure of global organization. The League of Nations inspired by the president of the United States Woodrow Wilson had as goal "to make possible a collective security that guarantee the integrity of all states,

strong and weak, the arbitration of international conflicts and disarmament” (Ocaña 2003). So with this new global order ahead the territories of the ancient Ottoman Empire were divided into two administrations: to the north the territory was granted to the French administration; meanwhile, to the south the territory was left in British hands. Subsequently, the North territories became part of the current territories of Syria and Lebanon, while the territories from the South became part of Palestine.

With this territorial partition, on July 22, 1922 The League of Nations granted officially to Great Britain the mandate of Palestine (Solar 1975, 14). With Palestine under this new command the Arab people seem very close the realization of their new independent state, that was the promise made by the British Empire to the Arab people in 1916, and that promise was what allowed the rebellion of the Arabs against their Turkish conquerors. However, what the Arabs did not know was that the British Empire not only promised a future in the new Palestine to the Arabs, but also to the Jews, this event is recognized on an agreement known as Balfour Declaration, where is thoroughly specified the betrayal of the British Empire to the Arab people.

1.1.3.1 The Balfour Declaration

Long before the British Empire had the control of Palestine, a document which specified the future of Palestine had already been created. On November 2nd 1917 Arthur James Balfour, Minister of External Affairs of Great Britain through a message addressed to Lord Lionel Walter Rothschild leader of the Zionist Movement stated that Great Britain “consider favorable the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people” (C. Crum 1947, 32). A fragment of this communicated specified the following:

Dear Lord Rothschild,

*I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government,
the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations
which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet:*

"His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine

of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur James Balfour

Clearly the Jew Nation for many years have pursued big interests in the Palestinian land with the only goal to achieve the creation of a Jew independent State in this territory ,that is why this declaration gave hope for the total achievement of this desired goal. The document was created to benefit hundred per cent to the Jew people, putting aside the Palestinians interests and rights over the land that was their territory for many centuries.

As for the declaration, it gave access to the basis for the Mandate for Palestine, this document was "created to establish their own territory in which the Jews who were persecuted and the Jews who were in conflict with their environment could go freely" (32). So, from that manifest the Jews migration to Palestine increased significantly. The Statistics of a census made in 1922 show that "the Jew population was 82.000 Jews and 700.000 Arabs, ten years later the number of Jews triplicated while the number of Palestinians was practically the same" (Solar 1975, 25).

With the rise of the Jew migration to Palestine the purchase of lands by many Jews organization also raised, so the following years to 1920 the Jews became the owners of almost the whole Jezral Valley, one of the most fertile lands of Palestine (26). This migratory flow by the Jews continued rising, as a result the protests by the Arab people intensified and the conflicts turned violent and frequent between these two nations. As a consequence of these confrontations because of the Jew migration, in

1939 the British government organized a conference over Palestine. In this conference the Arab people expressed their disagreement and discontent about the continuing and massive Jew migration, also they show their total opposition to the idea of the partition of Palestine in a Jew State and an Arab State.

At the end of the conference Great Britain ended up with the creation of the *White Paper* as a momentary solution to the conflicts between Arabs and Jews. This document “established an amount of 75.000 Jews migrants as maximum to enter Palestine, after that amount no Jew could enter without a Palestinian authorization, likewise, the White Paper impeded the Jews to buy lands in ninety four per cent of the country” (C. Crum 1947, 34:35) however, the main point established in this document was the fact that Great Britain guaranteed the Arab independence.

Although, the White Paper was created with the intention to control the Jew migration and therefore the situation in Palestine, as well as to guarantee its independence, none of these two points were accomplished. The Jews even after the creation of the White Paper continued to migrate to Palestine, violating the agreement which was created to control the situation. The desire of a free and independent Arab State every time turned distant and unattainable. The following years to the creation of the White Paper, in 1939 the Second World War took place in the heart of Europe bringing as a consequence a series of events that would change drastically the history of Palestine and its population, modifying their present and therefore their future.

1.2 Creation of the State of Israel (1948)

1.2.1 The Second World War

In 1939 the Nazi Germany carried out one of the most catastrophic wars of all times, The Second World War. Adolf Hitler was the maximum leader of the National Socialist Workers Party of Germany also known as Nazi Party under a totalitarian political system, Hittler lead Germany to be responsible of one of the most tragic wars of the XX century (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum no year). This

war was not only characterized by the quantity of military arsenal but also for the amount of people killed during the conflict.

Characterized by his great capacity of leadership and oratory, Hitler captivated the German people reaching power in 1933 first as chancellor and subsequently he obtain the political and military power of Germany (Ibid), gaining control over the political power as well as the German people. Adolf Hitler had a deep rooted sense of nationalism which lead him to convert Germany in one of the strongest world power of that time, his expansionist vision and his beliefs about the existence and predominance of what he considered an Aryan race or racial purity, and most of all, his deeper feeling of anti-Semitism led him to be responsible of one of the biggest exterminations of modern history. All these events were synthetized in one word, The Holocaust.

Once Hitler had the power, he promulgated a series of decrees and laws denominated as the “*Nuremberg Laws*” with racist contents against the Jews who lived in Germany, and all these laws were issued with the purpose of excluding the Jews from participating in the political life of Germany. These decrees disposed that the Jews had to abandon university, administrative positions, the Jew soldiers were obligated to quite the armed forces, etc. As the time passed by, Hitler’s regime turned severe and so, the life of the Jews turned in a daily survival. The Jew situation changed drastically, most of them had to go on exile while others didn’t have another option than staying in Germany (Dwork 2004, 31:32)

Until then, life was pretty hard for the Jews but in 1938 things got worse, on November 9, 1938 the first attack against the Jew population took place, this incident was known as “*The Night of the Broken Crystals*”. This attack left 91 people dead, 35.000 prisoners, who eventually were moved to the concentration camps, 815 businesses burnt down, 7.500 stores sacked, and 191 synagogues destroyed. From that moment the attacks toward the Jew population was just the beginning of the cruel future that awaited them (Ibíd.)

The Second World War came to an end in 1945, the six years that this war lasted left six millions Jews cruelly murdered in the concentrations camps and ghettos and another thousands of them spread all over Europe as fugitives, and as refugees in other countries. The humanitarian tragedy of the Second World War was

catastrophic, all this together with a devastated Europe and a defeated Germany. Although The Second World War meant a tragedy in the Jew history, it also became the event that changed the Jews future considerably and their desired dream of having a Jew home on Palestine.

GRAPHIC # 1 THE HORROR OF THE HOLOCAUST



Source: Foto Galería Diario El País Author Margaret Bourke White (Getty). Available on:

http://internacional.elpais.com/internacional/2012/01/26/album/1327603530_263653.html#1327603530_263653_1327605133

1.2.2 The end of the Second World War and the beginning of a Jew State

Once the war was over the countries of the International Community found themselves in the difficult task of deciding the future of Europe and even more difficult, the future of the thousands of Jews who survived the war. The desperate voices of the Jews cried out for a new beginning far away from the memories of the devastating experience they were victims in Europe. The debate over their future was the greatest challenge of that time, since the majority of Jews wanted a new beginning in Palestine and that was the opportunity that the Zionism used to promote their State.

Before the Second World War hundreds of Jews had already migrated to Palestine whereof, the natives Arabs were totally against of the arrival of new Jews to Palestine. However, the British government who had the control of Palestine back then, ignored completely the requirements and requests of the Arab people and did not do much to control the migratory flow of the Jews to Palestine, disrespecting extremely the Arabs will and the rights of the Arabs and Christians who inhabited those territories and were considered as primitive inhabitants of those lands. This wave of migrants brought as a result the establishment of a “political and demographic nucleus that hadn’t existed for twenty years” having as a final result an increase of the Jew population of twelve times higher (Cattan 1971, 36).

TABLE # 1 TABLE “CENSUS OF PALESTINE”

<i>Año</i>	<i>Musulmanes</i>	<i>Cristianos</i>	<i>Judios</i>	<i>Otros</i>	<i>Total</i>
1918	574 000	70 000	56 000 ³⁶	—	700 000
1922 (censo)	590 900	73 014	83 794	9 474	757 182 ³⁷
1931 (censo)	759 712	91 398	174 610	10 101	1 035 821 ³⁸
1946	1 076 780				
	127 000 (beduinos)				
	1 203 780	145 060	608 230	15 490	1 972 560 ³⁹

³⁶ Gobierno de Palestina, *Survey of Palestine*, vol. I, p. 144.
³⁷ Gobierno de Palestina, *Statistical Abstract of Palestine*, 1941, p. 12.
³⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 12.
³⁹ Apéndice I del informe de la subcomisión 1 a la Comisión *ad hoc* sobre la cuestión de Palestina, Actas

Source: Table from the book “Palestine the Arabs and Israel” of Henry Cattan

This entire migratory wave by the Jews to Palestine had the finance and support of huge Zion’s organizations located in other countries, especially in the United States, their main goal was based in the “domination of Palestine and the foundation of a Jew State”, during the following years the situation in Palestine was unsustainable. The British government had on its hands the responsibility with these two nations

because as mandatory of the Arabs its responsibility and commitments was to respect the Palestinian rights and position about their lands and the Jew migration; but there was also the Jewish blackmail over the persecution of Jews in the Second World War, this fact created a certain feeling of guilt especially in the American people. The feeling of guilt was not the only thing which helped to accomplish their goal, also the pressure of the Jews who lived in the United States, taking advantage of the presidential elections of that year, led the President Truman to put pressure on the British government to open the borders to 10.000 new Jews (41).

At that point the situation of Palestine got worse every day, the British and the North America governments failed on keeping a tolerant environment among these two nation, because their predilection on obeying the Jews whims made the situation to go out of their hands, transgressing article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations which was proposed by the end of the First World War, same that was valid in the situation of Palestine back then. This article whose ideas were promulgated by the President of the United States Wilson declared the following:

The people who inhabited the territories that no longer were under the sovereignty of the State that previously governed them, should apply the “principle that their wellbeing and development constitute a sacred mission of the civilization”

With respect to the nations separated from the Ottoman Empire the article 22 stated:

“...their existence as autonomous nations can be recognized provisionally with the condition that the aid and advice from a mandatory state [Great Britain] guide their administration until these nations are able to manage by their own”

(Cattan 1971)

Having failed in their task as responsible for the Palestinian people, Great Britain ended their mandate in a hostile environment full of discontents by the Arab people, as once more the Palestinian rights were violated by those who were supposed to protect them. Likewise, the failure on the accomplishment of what was established in article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, plus the constant pressure of the Jews and Arabs demands had as a result the end of the British mandate in 1947, and

from that moment the situation of Palestine went over to the hands of the United Nations.

1.3 The Partition of Palestine

The British mandate over Palestine ended by unanimous decision of the 11 countries who were part of the *Special Committee of the United Nations for Palestine (UNSCOP)*. This Commission not only managed the British mandate, but also, it investigated and analyzed the Arab and Jew situations. On September 1st of the same year some of the conclusions of the Committee were known, the most important conclusion was the possibility of the partition of Palestine in two States, the Commission came to this conclusion because according to it “it was impossible to get to a sustaining agreement for both parties” and so, the matter of Palestine as a request of this Committee passed directly to the General Assembly of the United Nations, and in an environment of dissatisfaction, on November 29, 1947 the resolution about the partition of Palestine in two States was approved with 33 votes on favor, 13 votes against and 10 abstentions (Solar 1975, 31:34)

The resolution number 181 of the United Nation with date November 29, 1947 which determined the new Palestine, established and granted to the Arab people the territories corresponding to the Gaza Strip, part of Galilea and almost all the edge of the Jordan, starting from the lake Tiberiades and half of the Dead Sea, while Israel got the territories of the Mediterranean Arc, form the Lebanon to Gaza, part of the Neguev Desert with exit to the Red Sea and the West Bank of the Jordan in the Galilea region. The holly city of Jerusalem for the meantime, stayed under international control (Ibíd).

GRAPHIC # 2 ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS



Source: BBC Mundo Available on: http://www.bbc.co.uk/spanish/especiales/moriente_mapas/2.shtml

With the approval and recognition of the new Jew State by the UN and other countries of the International Community, except for the Arab countries, the Palestinian people started their fight for justice. A fight in cold blood started between these two nations, one of them with the desire to refute an unfair and undemocratic plan of partition which was against the article 22 established in the Covenant of the League of Nations about the self-determination of people, while the other nation was fighting to keep with the plan of partition with the only purpose of carrying out the foundation of their own State. To the year 1948, Great Britain finished its mandate in Palestine and left the territory in an environment of rivalry and conflicts between these two nations.

The Palestinian situation turned more conflictive every day, so as a result, the UN analyzed the option of establishing a temporally trustee administration in Palestine. However, this event caused the fury of the Jews who protested against the proposal,

and so, once more the UN fall in the Jews extortions, as a consequence, the UN removed this option having as a last alternative the intervention of mediators, leaving on their hands the uncontrollable situation between Arabs and Jews. A series of “negotiations” were proposed by the mediators, nevertheless, none of them ended up in agreements or options of progress for the Palestinian people, making this situation worse over the time.

1.3.1 The War of Independence

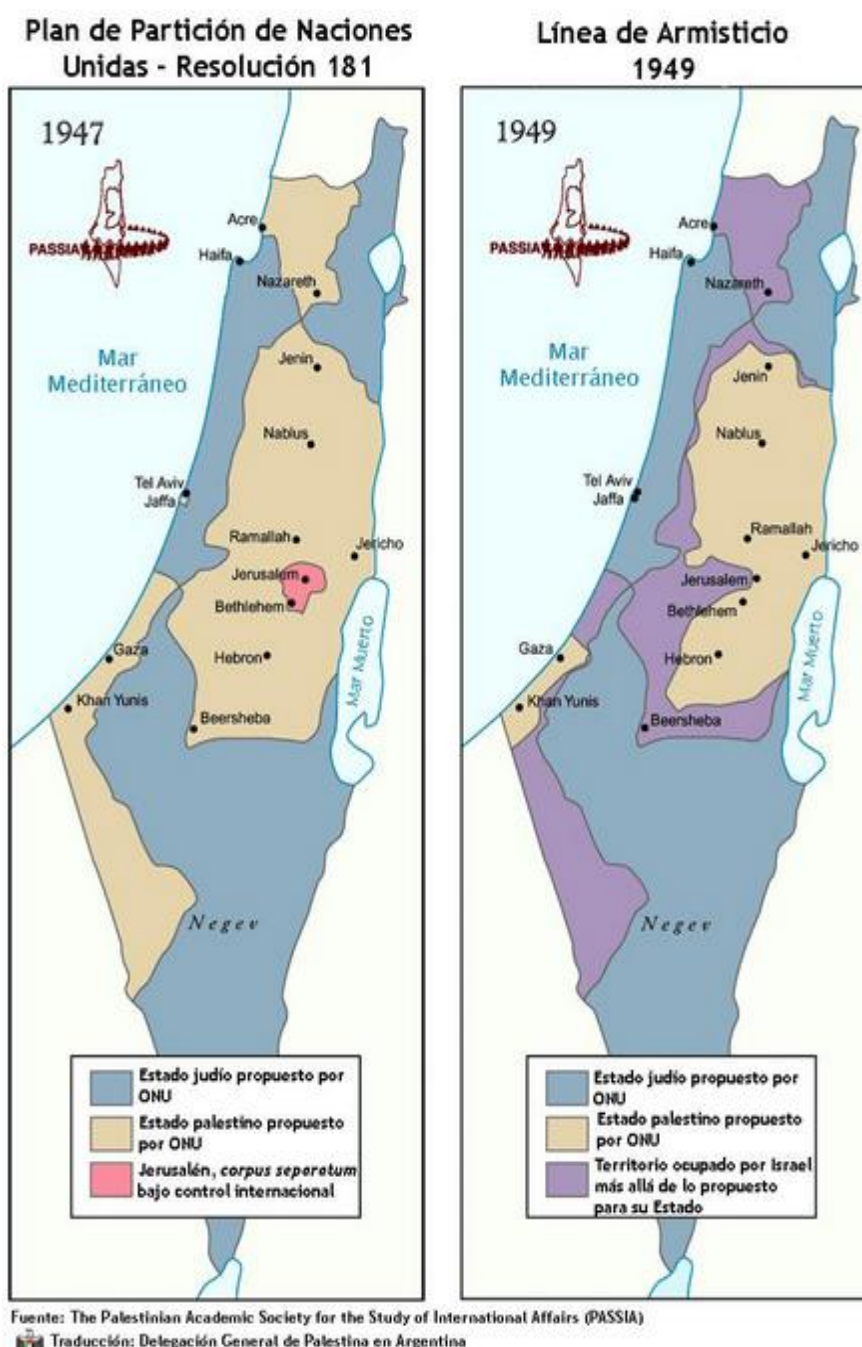
As soon as the new Jew State was proclaimed the first war took place in the region, the neighbor countries of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon were against the resolution 181 of the United Nations, so as a result, these countries declared war to the new formed State of Israel. This war was known as “War of Independence” their main goal was based in the protection of the Arab territory from the invaders. Nevertheless, this conflict had dreadful end with even more negative images for the Arab people.

The Arab countries coordinated a plan of attack, Lebanon and Syria will attack from the north, Iraq and Egypt will attack from the south, Jordan will attack from the east, while Saudi Arabia will support them from south east. The mobilization of the Arab armies started in the midnight of May 15 by all fronts, their goal was to take all Arab territories that had been recently granted to the Jew State. 35.000 Arabs fought this war against 25.000 Jews, without mentioning the great military arsenal that the Arabs had (Solar 1975, 38:39). Therefore, if the Arab armies had a great advantage regarding to soldiers and weapons, why did the War of Independence meant the beginning of the Arab tragedy? The main characteristics of this conflict were the way in which the troops of both sides were organized.

Even though the number of Arab soldiers was superior to the Jews, the Arabs were in great disadvantage because they didn’t have any kind of organization, techniques, military training, or strategies that would let them, at the same time, weak the Jew army. On the Contrary, the Jew army was militarily more organized because most of the soldiers who were part of the <<*Hagana*>> (Jew army) had fought in the Second World War, having more experience, so their military strategies at the end of

the war allowed them to gain more territories of what originally belong to them. The War of Independence ended with an implacable defeat of the Arab people not only in military terms but also because the Jew State could expand its territory in almost 3.000 km² of what they originally were granted by the UN (37:41). The territorial lost was not the only peculiarity that left this war, the tragedy of the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people together with the drama of the Palestinian refugees growth from this conflict.

GRAPHIC # 3 UNITED NATIONS PLAN OF PARTITION- RESOLUTION 181/1947/ THE 1949 LINE OF ARMISTICE 1949



Source: Palestinian Embassy in Spain Available on <http://www.embajadapalestina.es/mapas.php>

1.4 Palestinian Refugees

1.4.1 *Nakba*, The Catastrophe

We are not lamenting the parting

We not have the time or tears

We do not take this time to say goodbye

Go! It is the farewell

And we've run out of tears

(Pappe 2008)

With the defeat of the Arab army in the War of Independence in 1948, not only the territorial lost was transcendental in this conflict, on the contrary, the Arab tragedy was critical. In the memories of the Arab people the year 1948 will always be remembered as the year of the catastrophe or <<*Nakba*>> in Arab language because once the conflict ended, the Jew army started a series of attacks against the civilians of the different villages that were part of the Palestinian territory. As a consequence, the Palestinian people were obligated to give up and abandon their lands and homes turning themselves in refugees inside the neighboring countries and stranger inside their own territory.

Pursuant to the UN statistics “between April and July, 1948 more than 600.000 Palestinians run away or were thrown out from their lands” (Aranguren 2005, 39), but what caused the exile of a vast Palestinian population in a short period of time and with no possibilities of coming back? Without any doubt, to be able to understand the current situation of the Palestinian refugees it is necessary to analyze former events to this year which are very important for the understanding of the beginning of the Palestinian exile.

The Zionists' plans over the Palestinian territories were very ambitious. Their goal was always focused in the creation of a State purely Jew, “the idea of a State-Nation purely Jew was an integral part of the Zionist ideology since the rise of this movement at the end of the XIX century” (Pappe 2008, 69). Under their ideology

this goal must be accomplished no matter the consequences or even the means used to accomplish their goal. This goal endured for many years in the mind of the maximum pioneers of the Zionist movement as David Ben Gurion who was the most important exponent of the Jew dream, as well as, the ethnic cleansing, and the exile and of the Palestinian population, without any possibility of coming back.

Since Palestine was under the Turkish domain Ben Gurion moved his big influences with the Sultans of that time to gain support so they can allow him to accomplish his goal in Palestine. Nevertheless, the Sultans support was little or limited, but once Palestine pass over the British administration the efforts of Ben Gurion were directed towards the British government. Obviously in this administration he got more support than in the past because by that time the Balfour Declaration was already been created and its execution was a fact. It was only a matter of time for the conclusion of the so desired goal of the Jews. Afterwards, on 1947 the UN decides through the resolution number 181 the partition of Palestine in two States one Arab and one Jew.

The partition of Palestine was unequal, unfair and violated all democratic rights of the Arab people, because more than half of the Palestinian territory, it means 57% of Palestine was granted to the Jews, back then, they only represented the 6% of the total population, against a 90% that represented the native Arab population and which at the end of the partition only got a 43% of their territory; it means, less than half of their total territory (Aranguren 2005, 65). Despite of the great territorial loot that benefited the Jews, their ambition was greater, they just won't resign with a piece of land or with the fact of having to coexist and share what they believed was their territory with a different group of people in terms of race and religion. To this fact, the Jewish leaders had already planned years before to the creation of the Jew State the "perfect" solution to the demographic and territorial problem of Palestine. A whole repertory of strategies and methods for a systematic ethnic cleansing and expulsion of the Arab people was captured in one instrument known as "Plan Dalet". This written document contended the future of Palestine and with this, the future of its inhabitants.

1.4.2 Plan Dalet, a plan for the expulsion and ethnic cleansing of the Arab people

The Jews always were prepared to benefit themselves from any disadvantage situation presented to the Arabs, a clear example of this is the war in 1948 as the Jews took advantage of the Arab's despondency, together with their lack of military organization, the Jews occupied 78% of the territory that was given to the Palestinians (Fuentes no year), this was more territory of what they originally had, and they were ready to take even more territories no matter what the consequences were, and without going back because everything that was about to happen to the Palestinian people had already been established inside the Plan Dalet. The main goal of this plan was to destroy the rural areas as well as the urban areas of Palestine, what the Jews wanted was imminent: The Palestinians must go, Leo Motzkin one of the most liberal thinkers of the Zionist movement in 1947 declared:

“Our idea is that the colonization of Palestine should proceed in

Two direction: the settlement of Jews in Eretz Israel [The land of Israel]

And the resettlement of the Arabs of Eretz Israel in areas outside the country.

The transfer of so many Arabs may seem at first sight

Unacceptable from the economic point of view, but nevertheless it is a

Practical option. An excessive amount of money is not required

To relocate a Palestinian village in another territory”

The Plan Dalet had a very thorough and detailed organization, months of investigation allowed the Jews to gather enough information about everything that was related to the land of Palestine, such as, population, number of villages, the location of the most fertile lands of the territory, the location of water resources, characteristics of the land, main source of income; all information referring to Palestine and its population was useful for the planning and subsequent execution of

the Plan Dalet (Pappe 2008, 42). Under these parameters the plan was executed months before the formal proclamation of the new Jew State. The Jew army had purposed to make a series of violent attacks toward the Arab civil population, among this attacks was, bombs explosion, murdering of people, and the destructions of villages.

The Jew intimidation toward Arab people was more frequently and with higher rank of violence. The Jew army started to attack villages by air and land, they bombed it until left them on ashes, obligating the inhabitants to abandon their homes. All this acts full of hate seek to cause physical and psychological damages to the Palestinian people, so the event that left a mark in the life of all Arabs and which affected directly on their decision of running away from Palestine leaving everything, was the attack of Jew army to the Deir Yassim village on April 3rd, 1948. The murdering of the people of this village together with the attacks of other villages can be defined as an act of a systematic ethnic cleansing.

1.4.2.1 Deir Yassin

Deir Yassim was a real example of ethnic cleansing committed by the Jew army on 1948; it is important to know the concept of ethnic cleansing because like this, we can really understand what happened in that village and have notion of the consequences of this event. Rodolfo Stavenhagen from the National Autonomous University of Mexico in his article about “ethnic cleansing” stated that according to the Committee of United Nations, ethnic cleansing is defined as: *The act of homogenizing an area by using force or intimidation to move from one certain area to another people from a different ethnic or religious group.* On the other hand, the author Ilan Pappé in his book “the Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine” states the following: *“In the opinion of the writer, ethnic cleansing is a well definite policy of a particular group of people to eliminate systematically from a certain territory another group of people because of their national origin, ethnicity or religion such policy is violent, and often, connected with military operations. It is consider that this will be carried out by all possible means, from discrimination to the extermination, and involves violations to human rights as well as to the International*

Humanitarian rights... most of the methods of ethnic cleansing suppose a serious violation to the Geneva Convention of 1949 and to the Additional Protocols of 1977”

As a consequence of the different acts of ethnic cleansing carried out in different regions and countries, there are a series of dispositions such as the Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1911 in which are stipulated various humanitarian principles same that apply in any war situation and which are used with the purpose to protect, defend and safeguard the life of victims of wars. These are also used in cases of territorial occupation, partially or totally, by soldiers of a foreign country or territory. This agreements have the faculty of imposing sanctions to anyone who perpetrate crimes, violate or attempt against the human rights of an specific group of people, just like how occurs in Palestine (International Committee of the Red Cross 2012). Once the different definitions of what ethnic cleansing means have been stated, and after quoting the different agreements and conventions currently valid related to this particular matter, Subsequent we will analyze the situation arouse in the village of Deir Yassin in 1948.

Deir Yassin was a small shepherding village located in a hill on the east of Jerusalem. The Hagana entered the village attacking its population with machine guns, shooting against women, children and elderlies and everyone who stand on their front. Soldiers committed sexual harassment against Arabs woman, who afterwards were cruelly murdered, they torched and bombed houses and everything in their way, throwing out the few, almost scarce survivors that left this attack. The Jews decided to destroy the village perpetrating a slaughtering in cold blood of all its inhabitants, killing them with no mercy while the survivors were exiled with no chances of recovering their belongingsaw, and with no possibilities of returning (Pappe 2008, 130:131).

The author Henry Cattan on his book “Palestine, the Arabs and Israel” make reference to a testimony of what occurred in Deir Yassin, a Chief delegate of the Red Cross whose name was Jacques de Reyenn testified: “Three hundred people- said- were murdered...with no military reason or provocation of any kind, elderly, woman, children, new born, were cruelly killed with grenades and knives by Jew troops of the Irgun (Jew army) perfectly controlled and directed by their leaders”. Once the Jew army finished destroying Deir Yassin, four more villages were on the list of Plan

Dalet: Oalunya, Saris, Beit Surik and Biddu (131), villages that without any doubt had the same destiny as Deir Yassin. With the destruction of these towns together with the warning of the destruction of other villages, the Palestinian people didn't have other option than running away, fearing retaliations they left everything to save their lives and their relatives, because it was clear that the "Arab State" granted by the UN in 1947 didn't belong to them anymore.

At the end of the massacre and devastation, the highest Jew authorities saw with joy and success the results that left the attacks to the Deir Yassin village, accomplishing their goal of causing fear in the Arab population so they abandon "voluntarily" their homes and lands with no opportunity of return. About this particular event in his book Henry Cattani makes allusion to another comment from the delegate of the Red Cross Jacques de Reynier who affirmed: "This action had huge impacts. The Jew and Arab media condemned with severity this behavior. However, they [the media] insisted on the possible repetition and about the necessity of being aware. As a consequence, the Arabs terrified and started outbreaks of panic completely disproportionate to the real danger. The exodus started and was almost general". Even though the Palestinian exodus was occurring months before these attacks in small amounts, the subsequent attack to the village Deir Yassin was the main cause for a massive exodus of the Palestinian people.

Graphic # 4 THE ETHNIC CLEANSING OF PALESTINE



Source Ilan Pappé "*Ethnic cleansing of Palestine*" Spain, 2008

It is a bit ironic the fact that the nightmare the Jews lived in the Second World War was repeating in Palestine, using the same techniques of execution, together with the same cold killer indifference typical of the Nazis who committed crimes in the holocaust against the Jews; with the only difference that this time were the Jews the intellectual authors and perpetrators of this repugnant events, what led us to the conclusion that history have not teach us anything yet. On December 11 of the same year, the UN makes presence to intercede in the situation of the refugees, thus it adopts the resolution number 194 which stated the immediate return of the exiled Palestinians who wanted to go back to their homes (Cattan 1971, 85). The result of this intervention by the UN was a total failure because the Jew government emphatically denied to obey the request from the UN and avoided at all costs the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homes. At the end of this war the balance of

victims was dramatic, over a million Palestinians abandoned or were obligated to abandon their homes, cities and villages, losing everything and turning into exiles with no means of subsistence (61).

According to declarations and testimonies of Count Bernadotte who acted as mediator of the United Nations back then and who later on was murdered by Jews terrorists, in 1948 wrote: As a result of the conflict of Palestine, almost the totality of the Arab population ran away or was thrown out from the areas occupied by Jews [...] From a population of a bit more than 400.000 before the outbreak, the number of Arabs calculated today (1948) in the territory controlled by the Jews is approximately of 50.000. In words of the author Cattani we can summarize that “The Palestinian territory taken by Israel in 1948 was reduced to less than one tenth of its original number” (76). The Jews denied everything that happened, arguing that the Palestinian exile was voluntarily; even then, five years after the Palestinian exile, the Jews continued attacking the Arab people. Up to 1953 the numbers of villages destroyed by the Jew army were 171 (65).

Graphic # 5 Palestinian Villages Banished 1947-1949

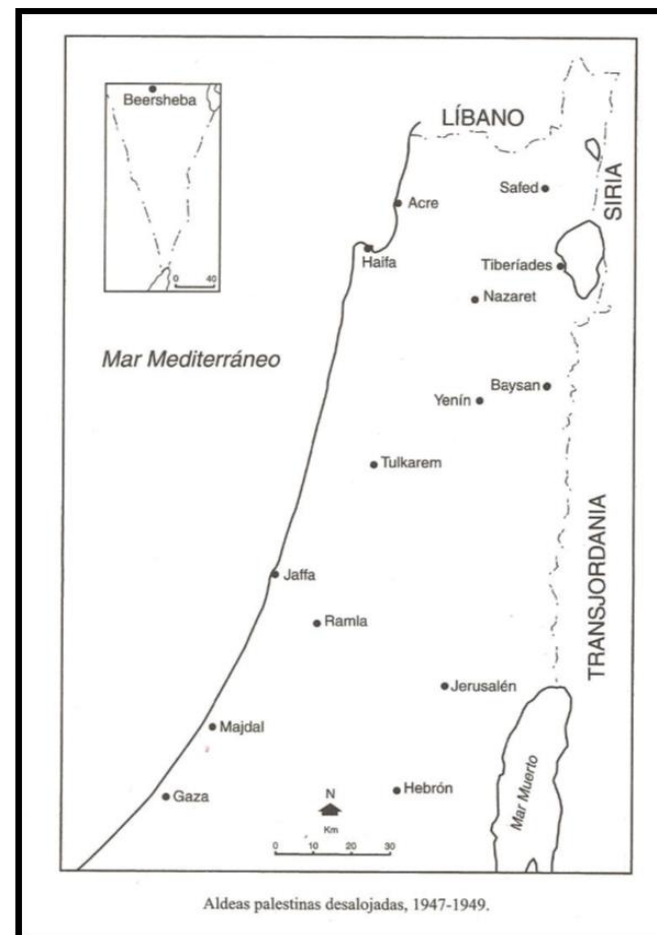
TABLA 1: PALESTINA: PROPIEDAD DE LA TIERRA EN PORCENTAJES POR DISTRITO, 1945¹

DISTRITO	PALESTINA	JUDÍA	P. PÚBLICA Y OTROS ²
ACRE	87	3	10
BAYSAN	44	34	22
BEERSHEBA	15	<1	85
GAZA	75	4	21
HAIFA	42	35	23
HEBRÓN	96	<1	4
JAFFA	47	39	14
JERUSALÉN	84	2	14
YENÍN	84	<1	16
NAPLUSA	87	<1	13
NAZARET	52	28	20
RAMLA	77	14	9
RAMALA	99	<1	1
SAFED	68	18	14
TIBERÍADES	51	38	11
TULKAREM	78	17	5

TABLA 2: PALESTINA: DISTRIBUCIÓN DE LA POBLACIÓN POR DISTRITO, PORCENTAJES DE PALESTINOS Y JUDÍOS, 1946³

DISTRITO	PALESTINOS	JUDÍOS
ACRE	96	4
BAYSAN	70	30
BEERSHEBA	99	<1
GAZA	98	2
HAIFA	53	47
HEBRÓN	99	<1
JAFFA	29	71
JERUSALÉN	62	38
YENÍN	100	0
NAPLUSA	100	0
NAZARET	84	16
RAMLA	78	22
RAMALA	100	0
SAFED	87	13
TIBERÍADES	67	33
TULKAREM	83	17

¹ La fuente de esta tabla es *Village Statistics*, Palestine Government, Jerusalén, 1945.
² La categoría de «propiedad pública» bajo el Mandato británico derivaba del sistema otomano de tenencia de la tierra, que incluía un dominio estatal y contratos de arrendamiento privados y comunales.
³ La fuente de esta tabla es *Supplement to a Survey of Palestine*, Government Printer, Jerusalén, junio de 1947.



The Jew army finished with a whole town because of their territorial ambitions and their selfish and immoral dream of having a State purely Jew. The slaughtering on Deir Yassin was just the beginning of the Palestinian exile, because in the present day; sixty six years after this crime, the situation of the Palestinian refugees haven't improve at all. On the contrary, the situation gets worse turning into a devastating and desolating reality for thousands of Palestinian families who live in inhumane conditions and without any international authority that can be able to put an end to this heartbreaking scene marked by injustice, abuses and desolation. The territorial occupation by the Jews in 1948 wasn't the only occupation in the Palestinian history. Twenty years after the *Nakba* the Israeli government will start another war in which they will gain a colossal territorial extension, expanding significantly their territory, causing the exile of another important number of Arab civilians. This new territorial occupation finished completely with everything that once was the Palestinian State.

1.5 The Six Days War

In this new conflict perpetrated by Israel the Agreement of Armistice of 1949 between Syria and Israel was violated, this agreement established a demilitarized zone in which the armed forces of both sides should withdraw. The agreement also stipulated that in case of an advance of the armed forces of any of the two sides, it will be considered as an imminent violation to such agreement (Cattan 1971, 128). However, the Jew government transgressed the clauses of the arrangement launching a series of attacks against the civil Arab population settled in that zone.

With this new attack the Jews wanted to take control of those lands to plow, to grow and preserve them for their own benefit. Israel launched for a second time a series of bombardments causing fear amount the population that eventually, just like the first time, were banished from those lands, in a report made by General Bennke who acted as Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization of the United Nations, calculated the expulsion of over 785 Arabs from that zone (130). It was obvious that Israel wanted to take control exclusively of the demilitarized zone, but their ambition was superior. Israel not only wanted to start a war with Syria but it also wanted to involve Egypt and Jordan, because its interests were bounded to those nations too. With the attacks of the Israel army inside the demilitarized zone of Syria, Israel

managed to involve Egypt in the conflict. The first move taken by Egypt was the closing of the Straits of Tiran to the Jew navigation and to all military equipment appointed to Israel, this zone was strategic and with great value for Israel because years before, in 1956 a war took place in the exact same place between Egypt and Israel for the control of those territories. The Israeli dissatisfaction as a result of the closing of the Straits made the tension increase in the region. Israel wanted at all cost to start a war, so it used as an excuse the action of Egypt over the Straits which in terms of sovereignty, Egypt was in its legitimate right (140).

With all these events and the Jew provocations, finally on June 5th 1967 Israel started a vicious attack and invasion to the three Arab nations of Egypt, Syria and Jordan. In this new conflict Israel wanted to accomplish its new expansionist goal of taking over the old city of Jerusalem and must of all, take control of the Egyptian oil wells in Sinai, in only six days that last this new war, Israel destroyed a lot of cities from the three Arab nations, killed thousands of people and banished, for a second time to more than 400.000 civil Arabs. This new war was an “assault carried out by Israel against the Arabs States” (147).

In this new conflict Israel was able to take control of very important places. From the zone of Syria, Israel gained the Golan Heights, from the zone of Egypt Israel gained the Sinai Desert, It also gained The West of the Jordan River (West Bank), the Gaza Strip and finally conquered the old city of Jerusalem. The results of this new conflict were more catastrophic than the 1948 war because the number of refugees increased in exorbitant numbers. The Jew army carried out new evacuations of the Arab population, many of these people had already been banished in 1948 and now there were exiled for a second time (145).

The number of Palestinians displaced from the West Bank of the Jordan River and from the Gaza Strip was over 410.248. To January 1968, over 325.000 refugees were taken care by the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), from which 145.000 were refugees from the 1948 war, and another 180.000 new refugees. There were also 100.000 displaced people from the occupied areas of Syria and another 60.000 to 70.000 people displaced from the Sinai Peninsula, and around 300.000 more were transfer away from the Zone of the Suez

Canal because of the Israel bombings. The total number of refugees registered by the UNRWA in June 1968 was 1.364.298 Palestinians (148-149).

The techniques used in this new exile were similar as in 1948, Israeli soldiers attempting against the lives of the Arab people, men, woman and children cruelly murdered, houses bombed and torched, villages dynamited to avoid the return of its population. The Jew ambition had no limits, its attacks reached the refugee camps raised by the UNRWA in 1948, where the Jew army assaulted shooting against children, woman, man and anyone who stand on their way. Around 800 houses and accommodations for refugees were destroyed in the Jordan Valley, the same story had another refugee camp with 42.000 refugees which was destroyed in one night, leaving 144 houses totally devastated (152:154).

At the end of the war the lives of the Arab people was never the same, a lot of Palestinians in less than twenty years lost everything again. For a second time the human rights of a whole nation were violated, the cruel acts of the Jews didn't seem to end. Obviously, this barbarian acts were condemned several times by the Commission of Human Rights of the United Nations and by the Security Council of the UN, but as always, The Israeli government didn't obey the calls for ceasefire and the immediate return of the refugees to their homes (Fuentes no year). The Jew State simply mocked in the face of the whole International Community.

It is important to specify that after the Second World War with the evident scene of the violation to the human rights in the Holocaust, and with the eventual creation of an international organization which was supposed to work in pro of the world safety where the rights of people and nations in general prevail over any other act of oppression or attempt of colonialism; it is very curious that only in the case of Palestine has allowed that a majority of population to be displaced and banished [by the use of force] by a minority of foreign origin and without any authority or international organization stops or do something against this abuses. After the Six-Day War in geographic terms, Palestine in almost 20 years (Since 1948 to 1967) changed drastically, the totality of the Palestinian territory went over the Jew hands, following it is shown a map of all the territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

GRAPHIC # 6 SIX DAYS, A WAR WHICH CHANGED THE MIDDLE EAST



Source: BBC Mundo. Available on http://www.bbc.co.uk/spanish/specials/1131_seisdias/page4.shtml

Another map of Palestine shows in sequence the territorial portion taken by Israel since the approval of the resolution number 181 in 1948, to 2012, sixty four years of the Palestinian history expressed in one map. This will help us understand and notice the magnitude of the Jew ambition, cruelty and effrontery; but we can also understand deeply the tragedy of the Palestinian people who lost their homes, their lands, living in situations of abandon, becoming in nothing else than refugees inside the neighboring countries. All this thanks to the greed of one nation that because of their selfish goals, ended with the future of millions of people including children, leaving them without a permanent territory to be able to grow freely, living in situations of continuous danger because the Jews reprisals over the years haven't reduce at all.

GRAPHIC # 7 PALESTINE IN OUR HEART



Source: Word Press Available on: <http://mariaenpalestina.wordpress.com/2013/09/17/a-20-anos-de-los-acuerdos-de-oslo-2/>

1.6 The beginning of the Arab Movements (OLP)

After the 1948 war and especially once the Sinai war on 1956 ended, together with the Jew outrage, the exile and misery in which millions of Palestinian lived, all these elements combined, were the impulse that the Arab people needed to make conscience about the concept of union and most of all the awareness of their identity as nation. It was until then, that the Arab nation fought separately, joining together in different political movement that allow them face Israel. We can say that before the Six-Day War didn't exist any type of Palestinian resistant group, but the humiliation they were victims helped from that moment to the Arabs that already had conformed the first Palestinians organizations (Solar 1975, 71) to consolidate and set them up to fight for their rights. It was under this structure that the first political Arab movement

of great importance and influence with its own identity, surged under the name *Al Fatah* which means <<victory>>. Its maximum leader and founder was Yasser Arafat, who turned into a relevant figure with a lot of influence inside the Arab world and the world in general.

This organization had its origins in the Israeli occupation on 1967 to the Gaza Strip and it was founded as a resistant organization as a result of the Israeli occupation on that zone. The ideology of this movement was based mostly in the nasserism of Egypt and its main purpose was centered in the return of the refugees to their homes (72). Nevertheless, this would be the first step for the creation of one of the most influent organizations in Palestine. On April, 1964 the First National Arab Congress in Palestine gathered in Jerusalem and with the participation of 424 Palestinian representatives, the Organization for the Liberation of Palestine (OLP) was founded, with the financing support of the Arab League (ibid).

The OLP from the very moment of its foundation became one of the most important organizations of Palestine because in its hands fell the responsibility of fighting for the recognition of the Palestinian rights, as well as, all efforts of negotiations to reach an agreement with Israel. In the same period in which the OLP was founded, other political movements were created, these political movements were small but with terrorist ideologies and with feelings full of hate. This new movements were responsible for different attacks to Jews, diplomatic kidnaps, murders (71) which in certain way stopped the peaceful agreements between the two nations.

Until now, the only organization that had gained a great leadership and had reached an international recognition is the OLP same that surged and reached a great importance since 1969, year in which Yasser Arafat took the power of this organization, being part of important peace negotiations like the ones in Geneva, and having a small participation inside the United Nations (147), so in the Arab Summit of Rabat of 1974, the OLP was recognized as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian rights under the resolution number 3227 where it is ratify the right of this organization to participate as observer inside the UN meetings (Fuentes no year). Despite to the long struggle that imply the recognition of Palestine as a State, it is important to emphasize that every participation of Palestine no matter how small it is, it has a great importance for the Palestinian people.

1.7 Palestine at Present

1.7.1 Palestine inside the United Nations (UN)

As I have previously mentioned, the history of the Palestinian people had been characterized and marked by different acts of injustice and outrages to the human rights of this nation. Since the recognition of the OLP as the only entity that represents the Palestinian rights in 1974, important events have taken place which have allowed to open important door for Palestinians. In 1993 the Oslo Accords about the Declaration of Principles, same that was signed freely and voluntarily by Israel and the OLP established a Palestinian Interim Self-government, which was named as Palestinian National Authority (PNA), same that is recognized as the government of Palestine since that year and in territorial terms it includes the territories of Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank (Political System Palestinian National Authority no year).

Yasser Arafat was the first president of this political organization, and eventually in 1996 he was named as the president of Palestine and had the political power of Palestine until his death in 2011. After he passed away the political power of Palestine passed over the current president Mahmud Abbas, under his administration another important event was carried out in 2012 which gave to Palestine a greater importance inside the International Community, Palestine was finally recognized inside the United Nations.

1.7.1.1 Palestine as an observer state not a member of the United Nations

In 2011 the Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas made a formal petition to the General Assembly of the United Nations for Palestine to be part of the organization as a free independent and sovereign state with defined borders. Abba's proposal without a doubt was a great progress for the future of the Palestinian territory, and its people as well because the petition was pronounced in favor of the Palestinian rights that for years were oppressed, and they sought to put than end to the Israeli occupation inside the Palestinian lands and to assume their category of State that they

have as a right. The Palestinian proposal after being analyzed and after an innumerable meetings, finally on November 29, 2012 a year after the official presentation of the petition, the General Assembly of the United Nations made the recognition of Palestine “as an observer state not a member of the United Nations under the resolution number 67/19. It was adopted with 138 votes in favor, 41 abstentions and 9 votes against, obviously from Israel and the United States (Ramirez 2012).

Since 1988 Palestine had a status of an “Observer Entity” inside the General Assembly of the UN but the new resolution and the new status recognized Palestine as an observer “State”. In spite the new resolution doesn’t give enough power inside the organization, the simple fact of being recognized as a “State” re opens the door of hope to a whole nation that for years had sought its recognition and justice. This resolution reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to its auto determination and independence of the State of Palestine with the 1967 borders” (Ibid).

With the new status of observer state, Palestine will be able to attend permanently to the General Assembly meetings; although, Palestine won’t be able to vote for resolutions inside the organization, it has the same level of representations as the Vatican inside the organization. Even though, Palestine won’t be able to join certain main organization of the United Nations such as the Security Council, or the Economic and Social Council, it can join other international organization which are also part of the United Nation such as: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), also, Palestine will be able to join the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice where Palestine can report acts of violence and aggressions. Also, Palestine could adhere to some international treaties, such as: the Rome Statute o to the Geneva Conventions (Mariño 2012).

Despite to the recognition of Palestine as an observer state inside the United Nations it still a long fight to finally become a free and independent state because Israel together with its maximum ally, The United States will put endless obstacles to the Palestinian purpose, since the United States as an active member of the Security Council of the United Nations could use the right to veto to any Palestinian petition,

but despite this, the Palestinian people will continue their fight until they get what as a right belong to them, since with their new status, hope has return to millions of Arabs. Thanks to the new status, Palestine was able to adhere to five UN treaties about human rights such as: the UN Convention against torture, elimination of racial discrimination, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities, and the Convention on the rights of the Child (El Universal 2014), the social group which have been really affected and have suffered the most during these sixty five years of war. We could say that for the first time in the Palestinian history, the human rights of men women and children have the opportunity of being protected and valued.

GRAPHIC # 8 PALESTINE RECOGNIZED AS AN OBSERVER STATE INSIDE THE UN



Source: Diario El Observador Available on: <http://www.elobservador.cl/noticia/sociedad/palestina-logra-ser-reconocido-como-estado-observador-ante-la-onu>

Conclusions

The historic background of the Palestinian people as well as its territory presented in this first chapter show us that in fact since the unfair and disproportionate partition of the territory, the conflicts arouse in the Middle East region have more serious and dramatic connotations than just the territorial matter. The partition of Palestine was the advantage of Israel for taking territories that never belong to it by the use of violence, murdering, and throwing thousands of Arabs out of what once was their home, making the situation of the native people worse. The Dalet Plan created exclusively by Israel years before the creation of their State proves it.

The tramps and ruses of the great powers, the double help offered to Jews and Arabs at the same time shows the lack of seriousness, consciousness and justice with which the Partition of the Palestinian territories were carried out. The Balfour Declaration shows clearly the way the Arab people were tricked by the great powers who were in charge of this people back then, the same countries that were not able to manage the situation when the Arabs raised against everything that was about to happen. This events had as a result, the beginning of a conflictive environment which is characteristic on this zone, marked by the continuous acts of violence where most of the time are the Palestinians the most affected, since every conflict submerge them in devastation, crisis, burring them in poverty.

Despite to all immoral acts toward the Palestinians, in 1974, year in which the OLP was recognized as the maximum entity of representation of the Palestinians in the UN, many important events have taken place in the last few years such as the new status granted to Palestine inside the United Nations as an observer state not a member of the United Nations. This recognition allows Palestine to be part of a series of other important international organizations such as the International Criminal Court where Palestine can openly accuse Israel for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and for attempting against human rights, and also for the violent attacks against the Palestinian civil population in which hundreds of children were harmed. Beyond the enormous advance that means the new status of Palestine in the humanitarian matter; without a doubt this fact represents an indirect recognition of a Palestinian State which gives a sign of hope to the existence of a resolution on its

favor. Though, this hope requires of a lot of patience because Israel will use all possible mechanisms to avoid the creation of a Palestinian State and some other instruments that allow them keep stealing territories and growing more illegal Jews settlements on these territories, all this right in front of the indifferent sight of the International Community and the United Nations.

CHAPTER 2: DIAGNOSTIC OF THE INTERVENTION OF ECUADOR IN THE RECOGNITION OF PALESTINE AS A STATE.

Within the international context the Palestinian problem is a very complex matter because as a result of the disproportionate partition of the territory in two different states, the Arab nation have gathered in a struggle for their freedom, self-determination and for the international acceptance of their own state, as well as for the recognition of their rights which for several years have been violated and still being infringed now days. This situation has left as consequence many wars and conflicts which have cause the death of a significant number of people among men, woman and children through the Palestinian territory.

Even though, the Palestinian conflict is a problem which started because of territorial matters, now a days it has taken a deeper perspective that at some point is disturbing. As a consequence of the territorial division, the Arab nation had to witness the exile of its people because of the violent military incursion of the Israeli troops in Palestinians territories. The millions of refugees, who lost everything as a consequence of the Israeli invasions and aggressions, currently live inside a decadent and subhuman environment, facing dangerous situations, with one desire in their heart: return home.

It is countless the catastrophic results in terms of human rights that the different conflicts between the two nations have left, being the Palestinian people the most affected ones. As a result, the dispute has proceeded to superior instances, where the Arabs not only look for a pacific solution to the territorial matter, on the contrary, the humanitarian disasters as consequence of the different conflicts between the two nations have turned the Palestinian matter in a situation of international interest, where many countries have taken part in different ways trying to find a permanent solution to end the war and for the humanitarian drama of hundreds of Palestinians.

After several years of violations, by the Israel government, to the different treaties and international agreements issued by the UN and other international organizations throughout the conflict; reached for a ceasefire and the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homes, finally the Arab people have gathered to fight for their right to have a free and independent territory, and to be recognized by the international

community as a legal State. This event has as a result, the division of opinions between the different states that on one side support the Jew purpose to have a territory and their own state after the terrible events of the Second World War; and on the other side, there are the states that rejects the abuses and violations of Israel to the human rights of the Arab people, and support the Palestinian right to also have a territory and become a sovereign and free State. The resolution number 181 of the UN stipulates the creation of two states: one Jew that already exists, and another one Arab that was never accomplished.

There are many reasons for which the different nations around the world have manifested throughout the years about the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, some of them have contributed with positive actions of support to the Arabs, while other nations have shown their refusal toward the Palestinian purpose, marking their preferences to Israel, as the United States, distressing the peace negotiations between the two nations making the conflict even worse. For this reason and for all the terrible events which are part of the Palestinian past, and as a citizen of the Republic of Ecuador, it is important to analyze the participation of Ecuador in this conflict through the years, so in this chapter I will analyze the intervention of Ecuador in the recognition of Palestine as a State.

2.1 Ecuador as a guard state of the human rights

The Ecuadorian State has expressed inside its constitution the importance of the compliance, protection and respect of human rights, which have an inalienable, irrevocable, and non-transferrable nature, and from which all citizens of the world no matter its race, condition or gender are protected with. These rights are universal, therefore, these are essential for all human beings, that is the purpose of its existence and it is necessary to establish them into norms (Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948). All countries ,including ours, are obligated to regulate them and safeguard, so every one of these precepts are respected by all components that are part of the law society that constitute our country, toward the effective compliance of these regulations. The Republic of Ecuador as an independent and protective state of the human rights has ratified a series of agreements and treaties, emphasizing its total

opposition to crimes against humanity, genocides, and any other act of violence that attempts against the physical, psychological, or mental integrity of a person or a nation in general (National Assembly of Ecuador 2008).

The Ecuador is a fundamental part of many treaties, agreements and conventions regarding to human rights in subject of protection, prevention of violations, as well as penalties for those who violate human rights. Within the most important treaties of which Ecuador is part of is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, document where its established article by article all liberties and benefits which all human beings are submitted (Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948).

The Ecuadorian state as a member of the international community through the different treaties that is part of, looks for the compliance of each one of the clauses agreed inside the different international instruments, not only inside its jurisdiction but a general compliance of all nations which are part of the international community, which have under their charge the protection of the rights of its people; and specially of those states which faces constant conflicts, where the human rights of its people are vulnerable to violations, just like the case of Palestine toward the abuses of Israel in subjects such as: the continuation of military incursion, the unending occupation of the Palestinian territories and finally, the Jewish illegal settlements inside Palestinian territories as well.

2.2 Ecuador and its intervention in the Palestinian situation

2.2.1 The intervention of Ecuador at the beginning of the conflict

The Republic of Ecuador is a charter member of the United Nations. It was accepted inside the organization on December 21, 1945 and its participation in the Israeli and Arab problem was relevant. Ecuador was one of the 33 countries which voted in favor of the partition of Palestine, and therefore of the creation of a Jew State for a nation that back then was victim of many cruel crimes and persecutions in Europe as a consequence of the Second World War. During the time that the Jew and Arab nation have been involved in all different kind of conflicts, many meetings have taken place inside the United Nations, and Ecuador has always been present. Ecuador

has been important member at the time of taking decisions for the Jew and Arab situation.

In 1974 as a consequence of the Six Day War which aroused on June, 1967 where Palestine lost the majority of its territory, same war in which the incessant occupation of the Palestinian lands by Israel had its origin, the 30th period of session of the United Nations took place, in this session the Palestinian situation was included inside the General Assembly's agenda (Fuentes no year). In this meeting was recognized, for the first time in history since the beginning of the conflict, the rights of inalienable nature of the Palestinian people and its self-determination under the resolution number 3236 with date November 22, 1974 (Ibíd.). This resolution emphasized important matters related to the Palestinian people such as the right to independence and its national sovereignty, the right to free self-determination without interference of any external force, and the right of the Palestinian to return to their homes (Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People 2012). Nevertheless, the application of the main points suggested on this resolution were not accepted by Israel who also denied to obey them, that caused the breach of the resolution, so as a result, on November 10, 1975 the General Assembly decides the creation of "*Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*". This organization was created exclusively to resolve the Palestinian situation beholding the well-being of the Palestinian people specially.

Currently, this Committee has 25 members including Ecuador, same which acted as an observer member since the foundation of the organization (1975) but on March, 2012 Ecuador became part of this Committee as state member (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility 2012), another 24 more countries are part of the Committee as observers. This is the only entity of the United Nations that deal with the Palestinian situation, thus its main function is to arrange meetings and international conferences that promote any kind of measures directed to reach a fair solution to the Arab and Jew conflict, based on the protection of the human rights of the Arabs. Even though Ecuador has acted as an important element in the Arab situation from the very moment of the Palestinian partition with its support to the creation of a Jew State, and having joined very important meetings, and as a member of the most relevant organizations that managed the Palestinian matter, making an

analysis of the former Ecuador we could say that the Ecuadorian participation in the Palestinian situation has been ambiguous.

Latin America, characterized by its diverse and affluent natural resources as well as its soil reserves has always been desired by the first world countries, which through the years benefited themselves for their own wealth and development. The new world served for centuries as the only supplier of raw materials and other precious metals of great value for the interests of the industrialized countries. Countries such as the United States, and the European states developed and gained a great economic and political progress toward the impoverishment and underdevelopment of all Latin American countries, to the point that countries as Brazil, Argentina, Chile and other including Ecuador managed internal political laws based on the first world countries' decisions specially from the United States and its main political institutions such as the IMF and The World Bank.

The author Eduardo Galeano on his book "Open veins of Latin America" shows us the exorbitant dependency of the Latin American countries over the United States and especially with the North American multinationals which were very rooted in Latin America and which had a great power of decision, even greater than the national governments. Galeano mentions that "The big oil companies [...] up and dethrone kings and presidents, finance palatial conspiracies and coups, have innumerable generals, and ministers [...] and in all regions and in all languages decide the course of war and peace"

Latin America was so enslaved to the United States that even the decisions taken inside the most important international organizations such as the United Nations were based upon the interests and benefits of the United States and therefore, for its main allies. Galeano quoted a confession made by Teodoro Moscoso who acted as a Chairman of the Alliance for Progress, entity created by the United States for Latin America. On his confession Moscoso stated "...may be that the United States needs the vote of a particular country in the United Nations, or the OAS and may then government of that country-following the honored tradition of the cold diplomatically ask a price in return" (Galeano 2005, 215).

As for the counselor of the Palestinian embassy in Ecuador Abdallah Y.M. Younis also referred to this part of the Ecuadorian history and he points that the Latin

American governments including Ecuador had pro-American politics, or what he calls “the United States’ back yard” it means that the Latin American countries were so entrenched to the policies and decisions of the United States, so when this country needed a vote in the UN “it was negotiated for the daily bread, if you didn’t vote on their favor they denied you the aid ” which means that Latin America was at disposal of the United States wishes and cravings.

Subsequently, the Israeli presence in Ecuador in security and defense matter were evident in the 80s in the administration of Leon Febres Cordero (1984-1988). Cordero had an ultraconservative thought which was inspired by the ex-president of the United States Ronald Regan., he implanted an authoritarian political system based on the United States politics. His administration was characterized by acts of torture, vanishing of people and other methods that attempted against human rights (Tamayo no year). According to reports and other data determined on this period shows that the administration of Febres Cordero had strong ties with the Israelite Ran Gazit who trained the elite police force which was known as SIC 10 to fight the subversive groups of that time such as “Alfaro Vive”. In 1986 a school for torture was founded, it was run by the Israelite here in Ecuador (Panchana 1996), in this school he taught different torture techniques which were applied to different people members of these subversive groups as well as, other people who did not have any tie with these groups like the case of the brothers Restrepo, who disappeared in the Cordero administration.

The political past of Ecuador had a very tight bound with the United States that is why it is almost impossible to think in a support of Ecuador toward Palestine back then. Nevertheless, now a days in the current administration of Rafael Correa the Republic of Ecuador has pronounced more openly about the Palestinian cause, demonstrating its total support to the Arab people. A series of events have taken place, events which without any doubt have created important bonds between these two nations.

2.2.2 Intervention of Ecuador in the current administration

The participation of Ecuador in the Palestinian situation has been more frequent in the administration of Rafael Correa. The opening that Ecuador has shown in the last years toward the Arab people has been significant, as we have mentioned before, Ecuador currently is a member of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. So, Ecuador in this time was host of the international meeting of this organization which took place in the city of Quito. The event had the participation of authorities representing Ecuador such as Ricardo Patiño, Chancellor of Ecuador; it also had the participation of the representative of the United Nations, Oscar Fernandez Taranco who acts as Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, who came in representation of the General Secretary of the United Nations. Likewise, the session had the participation of the President of the Committee, Mr. Abdou Salam Diallo, as well as a representative of Palestine before the United Nations, Riyad Mansour (El Mercurio 2014).

The meeting helped to ratify the permanent support of Ecuador to Palestine, as well as, its support in their struggle for its international recognition as a free, independent and autonomous State. Also, the meeting worked to examine the opportunities that currently exist to promote peace, as well as the conditions that block the negotiations making it more difficult to reach a peaceful and productive agreement between both nations. Finally, they evaluated the support that the Latin America countries and the region in general can provide to find a solution to the Palestinian situation (El Universo 2014).

Nevertheless, Ecuador as host country of this session not only sought to promote the rights of the Palestinian people, but also recognized the cultural side of the Palestinian nation, so the meeting was celebrated with a film festival and a photographic exhibition of the Palestinian patrimonial places, this was made in honor to the *“International year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”* declared by the General Assembly of the United Nation on 2013 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility 2014) emphasizing its support and concerns for all crimes committed daily against civilians and which affects enormously to the Palestinians in general.

The festival also had the participation of the Ministry of External Affairs of Ecuador as well as the Film Institute of Technology and Superior Performance (InCine). The event had the participation of the Ecuadorian authorities such as the Undersecretary of International Organizations and Supra Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Diego Morejon and the Vice Chancellor of the Republic, Leonardo Arizaga, who showed their support to the Palestinian people, and who also pointed that situations, such as the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, the settlements, the block of the West Bank, and the construction of the wall, together with the violence against civilians by the Jew army, are matters that really concerns to Ecuador (Cuba Debate 2014).

Ecuador, as a peace loving country has tried to stop the arbitrariness committed by Israel through the years, showing its support to Palestine. Nevertheless, its intervention as a host country of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has not been the only proof of solidarity that Ecuador has shown toward the Palestinian people. For the first time in history, Ecuador made the international recognition of Palestine. December 24, 2010 was without a doubt a transcendental year for the Arab nation because the Ecuadorian government through an inform address to the President of the Palestinian National Authority Mahmud Abbas, subscribed formally its recognition of the Palestinian State as a “free and independent State with the 1967 borders”, joining Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia who also recognized the new State (EL Universo 2010).

This event not only demonstrated the support of Ecuador but all South American countries, which constitutes a very important achievement for Palestine because if more countries support and contribute to the Palestinian cause, the Palestinian probabilities to succeed on their struggle are bigger. The recognition of the Palestinian State by Ecuador has created important bounds between this two nations, since from the recognition the bilateral relations between Ecuador and Palestine have strengthen significantly and their bonds of friendship have magnified, empathizing their mutual support.

From this event, both nations in the year 2013 expressed their desire of opening embassies in Ecuador and Palestine. The Palestinian embassy in Ecuador is already functioning; it has an ordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador who has the capacity

to represent the Palestinian State inside Ecuador. The ambassador possesses full powers to negotiate or to deal with certain subjects. The letter of credential of the current Palestinian ambassador in Ecuador, Hani Remawi was approved on April 21st 2013 (Vice presidency of the Republic of Ecuador 2014), while the Minister Luis Arellano since June 17 of the present year is directing a diplomatic mission of Ecuador in Ramala in the West Bank, where the Ecuadorian embassy is functioning (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility 2014). This will allow that the bonds of alliance between the two nations grow with the purpose of encouraging agreements that benefit both.

The following year to the recognition of Palestine by Ecuador another significant event took place. In 2011 Ecuador emphasized its support to Palestinians, the Republic of Ecuador voted in favor of the admission of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with 107 votes on favor, a total of 24 Latin American countries supported the admission of Palestine in the organization, except for Panama which voted against , even so, Palestine now is part of this organization as a member number 195 of the UNESCO (El Pais Internacional 2011) the decision was welcomed with joy by the majority of members who are an important part of this organization.

It is important to keep in mind that to be a member of the UNESCO the intervention of the Security Council of the United Nations is not essential, the candidate countries only need the vote of the majority of the state members of the organization, in this case 97. Meanwhile, to be accepted as a full member state inside the United Nations it is required the unanimous vote of all members which are part of the Security Council, therefore, if one member of the Security Council uses its right of veto in a petition, it will not be accepted. This is exactly what happens with the Palestinian petition to become a State, the United State always uses its right to veto to stop the Palestinian requests, which impede its formal acceptance to the organization.

However, this new designation represents a great victory for the Palestinian nation because with this appointment Palestine reaches a great diplomatic achievement since this event represents “another step in its road toward the consolidation of their recognized State” (Sputnick opinion and analysis 2011) because inside this organization Palestine is already recognized as a State. Obviously the decision

adopted by the majority of the members was not welcomed by Israel and the United States who rejected the decision adopting as an answer the elimination of its financial contribution to this entity for an amount of 60 million dollars which represent the 22% or the budget of the organization (El Universal 2011). Despite to the cowardly decision of the United States, the UNESCO seemed with joy the admission of its new member. Among the events which have symbolized great advances for the Palestinian nation there is one specific that with no doubt creates hope to the Arab people and opens the possibility of finally become a State inside the United Nations and therefore, inside the International Community.

In addition, November 30, 2012 was a transcendental year for the world since the General Assembly of the United Nations accepted Palestine as an “ Observer State not a Member” with a total of 138 votes in favor including the vote of Ecuador, 9 votes against and 41 votes abstained (El Pais Internacional 2012). Ecuador also acted as sponsor of the resolution project which eventually gave this new status to the Palestinian Nation inside the Organization (El Universo 2012). As it was expected, this event meant the joy and celebration of the Palestinians who sees a new hope of changing their present and therefore their future, since this new designation indirectly represents the recognition by the International Community of Palestine as a State with territory and a population and it also recognizes the rights of the Palestinians which for decades were trampled.

GRAPHIC # 9 THE UN ACCEPTS PALESTINE



Source: Diario Internacional El País, España. Available on
http://internacional.elpais.com/internacional/2012/11/29/actualidad/1354211937_218747.html

Even Though Ecuador is a small country inside the extensive South American continent, the actions and decisions taken in favor of Palestine have been helpful. It has meant a great advance for the Palestinian nation who have suffered many abuses and whose human rights have been violated many times being invisible to the eyes of the world. The unconditional support that Ecuador has shown to the Palestinian cause has opened an important door so as a nation they can continue raising their voices for the accomplishment of their final purpose of becoming a free, autonomous and independent state with define borders where its population can develop freely and with no fears to retaliations. So, for this reason the fact of having been named as Observer State not a Member” inside the United Nations allows Palestine to join and be part of the different entities and organizations which are also part of the Unites Nations, which until now Palestine was excluded. But what really represents a victory for the Arab people is the fact that with its new status Palestine has access to the International Criminal Court where they can inform against Israel its war crimes,

their military incursions carried out in the Palestinian territories where hundreds of civilians have died throughout the conflict.

As we can see, Ecuador has taken part on the Palestinian situation with important decisions which have allowed Palestine to live great changes in its government, as well as for its population. Nevertheless, the different interventions and decision adopted by Ecuador with respect to the political situation for a free and independent State are not the only actions assumed by Ecuador to help Palestine. Different events have taken place throughout the years in which Ecuador has emphasized its support and solidarity to the humanitarian drama that Palestinians face every day in the territory.

Taking a look at the human side of the Arab and Jew conflict, Ecuador has also interceded condemning severely all criminal acts committed by the Israeli government through the years, rejecting its criminal, colonialist, and genocidal policy that this government has arouse inside the Palestinian territory and its population. Israel is the only country member of the United Nations and the International Community that never, since its creation, have accepted any resolution issued by the UN, committing crimes against humanity and other act which violate the most fundamental rights of the human beings such as the right to life, crimes which at the same time are against the International Law which supposedly every state of the International Community are submitted to.

It is a fact that the Jews wickedness has no limits, its selfish and evil plans to conquer Palestine have allowed the Jews to perpetrate genocidal acts inside the Palestinian territories which in my opinion have reached a margin of violence even greater than the Second World War. According to data from the Institute of Studies on Conflicts and Humanitarian Action (IECAH), the civil population in the territories of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank reach the 2 million people (Institute of Studies on Conflicts and Humanitarian Action 2012) . This population lives in an alarming humanitarian situation, under policies of discrimination, oppression, and violence, where the most basic human rights are violated and denied, this together with the construction of the retaining wall in the zone, isolating the territory of the Gaza Strip from commerce, fishing and other agricultural activities which are important for the development of

the zone turns the Gaza Strip, in word of President Correa, in “the largest open- air prison in the world”.

All economic and social problems in Gaza might get worse for those Palestinian who have decided to continue living in the middle of the devastation. According to a report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) the Gaza Strip could be uninhabitable in 2020 if the economic deterioration of the zone continues. According to a data of the same report this fact is the consequence of the eight years of the Israeli blockade to the Gaza Strip, which have stopped the productive growth in the zone, plus, the catastrophic result of the displaced people, the coalition of the infrastructure, the material injuries, and the damages to the most essential sectors such as health, sanitation, energy, education, as a result of the last conflict in 2014 (Agencia EFE 2015)

Through the years, the Israeli attacks to civil Palestinians have been more aggressive every time, we can even say that only the Israeli attacks perpetrated toward the Palestinian population haven't been discriminatory because the targets of these attacks have been children, mothers, fathers, elderly people, etc. killing complete families. Throughout the Arab and Jew conflict, the Zionist government has launched an innumerable attacks and military incursions inside the Palestinian territory. However, the confrontations which took place in the years 2008-2009, 2012 and recently in 2014 have been considered as the most violent and terrible attacks, for the use of force as for the deadly number of victims which were mostly civilians.

From December 2008 to January 2009 Israel started a series of deadly attacks toward the Palestinian population of the Gaza Strip, a military operation which was named as “Operation Cast Lead” which last 25 days and where near 1.300 Palestinian were killed, one third of the deadly victims of this conflict were children (El Mundo 2010). The Israeli attacks on 2008 might be considered as a “planned humanitarian disaster” because the Jew army claimed to be fighting against the Palestinian group of Hamas considered as terrorist to the eyes of the United States and the European Union and which is present in the territory of the Gaza Strip since 2007. Nevertheless, in this confrontation Israel showed that the real targets of the Israel

Defense Forces (IDF) were civilians among children and women (Chossudovsky 2009) because the majority of deadly victims were from this population group.

The humanitarian tragedy that brought this conflict was disastrous, thousands of Palestinians were massacred during the bombings and the survivors were displaced from their homes once more. The new Israeli incursion was not highlighted only for the violence used against the Palestinian population, one year later the humanitarian aid also became a target of the Israeli army. On May 31st, 2010 the International Community shocked against the Israeli attack to an aid vessel known as “Fleet of Freedom” which was transporting humanitarian aid for the Gaza Strip. This new assault was harshly criticized by the world which considered it as a “terrorist” and “criminal” act committed by Israel where 20 pro-Palestinian activists died (El Universo 2010). Unsurprisingly, to this criminal event the Israeli government justified its acts with a series of excuses with no logical arguments, and as always Israel was never punished with the correct sanction.

To this new assault, the Ecuadorian government stressed its concerns for this event because the peace in the Middle East and the world in general was threatened, and again emphasized its total reject to the violent act perpetrated against the ship with humanitarian aid (El Mercurio 2010). Ecuador also reaffirmed the several occasions in which Israel executed violent acts against disarmed population and never comply the sanctions imposed by the UN, so the President of the Republic of Ecuador narrowed to this event that “the resolutions of the United Nations should be an order to all nations with no exceptions” (Palestina Libre. Org 2010) A fact impossible to accomplished when it refers to Israel. To the Israeli brazenness on this new event, The Ecuadorian government called its ambassador in Tel Aviv to consultations for the attack, because it was unacceptable the new Zionist brutality.

In the same year the Organization of America States (OAS) met in Lima. In this meeting Ecuador proposed to the General Assembly of the Organization to pronounce about the attack of Israel to the humanitarian ship. However, the proposal of the Ecuadorian government was supported only by 10 of the state members, while the United States together with Canada and Mexico totally refused to the petition arguing that the situation was already being debated inside the Security Council of

the United Nations (La Hora Nacional 2010), avoiding once more, the imposition of new sanctions to the Israeli government, leaving Israel unpunished. Nevertheless, the citizens of the world would not stay with their arms crossed to this new attack, many protestors raised their voices against the criminal policies of the Jewish government rejecting this new assault against unarmed civilians who wanted to help a desperate and crestfallen group of people and a wreckage Gaza Strip.

GRAPHIC # 10 THE ISRAELI ATTACK TO THE AID FLOTILLA GENERATES INTERNATIONAL PROTEST



Source: CNN México. Available on: <http://mexico.cnn.com/mundo/2010/05/31/el-ataque-israeli-a-flotilla-de-ayuda-genera-protestas-internacionales>

Sometime after the attack to the vessel with humanitarian aid, Israel once again committed new acts of violence against Palestinians. On 2012 a new wave of attacks took place as a response to a missile launched by Hamas from the Gaza Strip to Israel territories (La Republica.pe 2012). As a response to this event the Israeli army started a series of military assaults by air, land and water toward the Palestinian territories using a great military offense. This new military operation was named as “Pillar of Defense”. This new act of violence last almost a week, as a result the

leader of Hamas was killed and a total of 170 civil Palestinians died including children and woman, and over 1.000 Palestinians more were injured (BBC Mundo 2012). This new conflict was considered one of the most intense since 2008. The different Israeli attacks by air left hundreds of people injured and a significant number of families displaced, without mentioning the infrastructural destruction after the bombings.

GRAPHIC # 11 THE FACES AFTER “PILLAR OF DEFENSE”



Source: Diario El Pais Internacional, España. Available on:
http://internacional.elpais.com/internacional/2012/11/18/album/1353247907_238058.html#1353247907_238058_1353249416

As a consequence of this new criminal event, once more the International Community condemns the violent attacks from Israel to the Gaza Strip. This time Ecuador also rejected the violent attack perpetrated by Israel because the number of people injured in this new assault was high. Among the deadly victims of the missiles launched by the Jewish army were again civilians. Also, Ecuador reminded to the Jewish State the position according to what is established in the Geneva Convention of

1949 regarding to the occupant states of a certain territory and its responsibility to protect and safeguard the wellbeing of the civil population which is under their protectorate (Spanish People 2012). However, making a humanitarian calling to the Israel government with the end of a cease fire is practically useless because that government only cares about its own interests and wellbeing, and to achieve their purposes they are capable to go over the International Community and the United Nations as it has done it before.

Throughout the project we have been able to analyze the different and most transcendental military confrontations of this conflict. As I was investigating the most important facts of the conflict I could realize that in every attack carried out by the Hamas group to the Israel territory, most of these attack never had deadly victims, only infrastructural damages and most of the missiles launched from the Gaza Strip did not even get to the Israel territory as these were immediately intercepted by the defense missiles of Israel. However, it was impossible not to realize that the military response from Israel was always aggressive because after every Israeli attack we could see hundreds of deadly Palestinian victims, amount that increased as the conflict advanced.

“I am 16, and I’ve seen three wars. I think this is the hardest of all”

Farah Baker

Until 2014 the military operation known as “Operation Cast Lead” together with the military operation on 2012 known as “Pillar of Defense” were considered as the most aggressive attacks of recent years because the number of Palestinians wounded were more than one thousand in both attacks. Nevertheless, this reality will change drastically in 2014. This year will always be remembered as the saddest year in Palestinian history, the world witnessed once more of how cruel a country can be when greed and ambition rules their heart, and their eyes are blinded by the desire of power.

Once more, the world puts its eyes in the Middle East, as a result of the new wave of criminal attacks perpetrated by Israel to the Gaza Strip. The military operation denominated as “Protector Net” started after three weeks of tensions between both sides first for the apparently kidnap and murder of three young Jews in the West Bank where Israel blamed Hamas, however, the Palestinian group denied its

participation in the tragic event and Israel never provided evidences that support their accusation. Then, the subsequent murder of a young Palestinian by Jewish extremists in revenge to the previous incident, worsen the situation (El Confidencial 2014).

With this background, plus the new excuses of Israel of neutralizing the tunnels which connect the Gaza Strip with the Israeli territory, same tunnels that according to the Jew government are used for contraband and were offensive for the security of the Jew State. On July 8, 2014 the Israeli army started a military incursion in the Palestinian territory. This new confrontation was characterized by the Israeli violence which killed near 1.869 Palestinians from which, according to a report of the United Nations, 73%, it means 1.380 of the dead people were civilians; 423 of them were children. In this conflict the number of dead children was superior to other conflicts, this population group represents the 30% of the victims (RTVE 2014).

The humanitarian harm as well as the infrastructural damages as a result of the bombings inside the Gaza Strip was significant. According to the statistics of the United Nations almost 520.000 residents of the Gaza Strip were vanished which is equal to a 29% of the Gaza population. The damages to the properties were also important, the UN shows that an estimate of 10,000 houses were totally destroyed (El Pais Internacional 2014). A satellite of the UN revealed a photographic of the Gaza territory before the war and after the war. What the satellite captured was devastating.

GRAPHIC # 12 GAZA BEFORE AND AFTER THE ATTACKS



Source: BBC Mundo. Available on:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/noticias/2014/08/140806_galeria_gaza_antes_y_despues_mes.shtml

According to the expert in political science of the University of Al Azhar in Gaza, Jaimar Abusada, after the devastation in terms of infrastructure that left the bombings of the Jewish army, the future of hundreds of Palestinians who are refugees in the different installations of the UN is unknown, according to his declarations “ After the invasion in 2008 and 2009, it took two years to give a home to all displaced people, even though, the damages were less than now” (El Pais Internacional 2014) that means that the reconstruction of Gaza will be more complicated because the Jew army attacked near 4.800 targets inside the territory, seriously affecting public property including schools and hospitals because not even this entities missed the bombings, as well as private property.

What also affects the reconstruction of Gaza is without a doubt the amount of money that is required to do so, it is estimated an monetary amount of near 5.000 million dollars which represents almost three times the Gross Domestic Product of Gaza (La Hora Nacional 2014) it is evident that the reconstruction of Gaza needs aid from the International Community and other Humanitarian International Organizations

because in a territory so devastated by war the economic situation is also decadent. The infrastructure and economic damages that left as a result this new war was not the only thing which characterized this new conflict; the humanitarian harm that caused the Israeli bombings which left thousands of Palestinians killed was the center of attention of hundreds of protests and the indignation of the world, as it was mentioned before not even schools and hospitals missed the Jewish aggression. Despite of had being informed about the presence of civilians who found refuge inside the different schools that were under the protection of the UN, the Jew army launched a series of missiles over this installations killing many Palestinians. Here we can see once more the violations of Israel to the International Humanitarian Law concerning to the protection of the civil installations.

During the time the conflict last Israel attacked four schools of the UN full of civilian refugees who were trying to escape from the conflict. This event was condemned by the International Community, except by the United States, who showed its total support to this new attack. The majority of the deadly victims of this new criminal assault were children. According to a data from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 392 children died in the last Israeli bombings to the Gaza Strip, while near 500 more children were wounded. Pernilee Ironside, chief of UNICEF in Gaza affirms that 70% of the children killed were children under the age of twelve (La Jornada 2014).

GRAPHIC # 13 THE PALESTINIAN MASSACRE “THE USA AND ITS ALLIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ISRAELI CRIMES IN GAZA”



Source: Prensa Islamica. Available on: <http://prensaislamica.com/?p=29965>

It is evident that the Israel government started this wave of attacks with only the purpose of killing Palestinian civilians, because it simply does not exist and it will never exist a reason or an argument that justifies killing innocent children. The fact of taking the life of one child is catalogued as an inhuman and cruel act of people without scruples, and the Jews over the 50 days that this conflict lasted demonstrated to the world what they really are, murderers, they also demonstrated its capacity for extermination which will not stop until they have the whole Palestinian territories for themselves. Meanwhile, the great powers of the world ruled by presidents honored with the Nobel Peace Prize, instead of intervening in pro of a cease fire, encourage the aggressions having as an argument the “Right to Self Defense”.

The Palestinians not only have to deal with the injustice of the usurpation of their land, the exile of its people, but also, the constant danger and the fear of becoming the target of a group of murderers who have the control of all the Palestinian territory, causing physical and psychological damages in all its population, impeding

its correct development and denying them all fundamental rights for the correct development of the human being from the right to freedom and right to life. The Palestinian children are victims of constant harassment and abuses by Israeli soldiers at every time and any place no matter if they are in conflict or not, filling the children with fear which is equally considered as a crime because it violates the principles of the human rights, causing great psychological damages that most of the times leave marks that last forever.

GRAPHIC # 14 ¿WHO IS THE TERRORIST? ISRAEL KILLS A PALESTINIAN CHILD EVERY THREE



Source Palestina Libre. Available on: <http://www.palestinalibre.org/articulo.php?a=39228>

As for the scale of the bombings as for the high number of deadly victims of the new Jewish assault, the Republic of Ecuador responded to the violence with which the government of Tel Aviv intervened in Gaza. After the land, air and water operations incursion by the Israeli army over Gaza, the Ecuadorian government was the first country to remove its ambassador in Israel as way to protest for the violent acts, calling for consultations to the ambassador Guillermo Basantes to account about the situation in Gaza. The chancellor of the Republic, Ricardo Patiño also rejected and

condemned what he considered as a “massacre” to the Israeli aggression to Palestinian civilians and exhort to the United Nations to execute the role for which it was created, “safety and protect” because during the time that the conflict last, the UN did not do much or worse, did not do anything to stop the Israeli bombings (ANDES Agencia Publica de Noticias del Ecuador y Suramerica 2014). As a result, the Ecuadorian government sentenced the military incursion in Palestine and asked for the cease fire of hostilities same that qualified as “discriminated” and urged to the Jew State to act pursuant to the international and humanitarian law (El Universo 2014). Nevertheless, as mentioned before, it is fact that all petitions made to Israel which appeal to the protection of human rights as well as the compliance of the international law are very unlikely to be respected.

Within the framework of the United Nations the representative of Ecuador inside this organization, Xavier Lasso ratified again the name of Ecuador the recognition of the Palestinian State with the borders of 1967 and reminded the entrance of Palestine as an observer member pointing its desire to see Palestine as a full member of the UN (ANDES Agencia Publica de Noticias del Ecuador y Suramerica 2014). A lot of South American countries during this conflict emphasized their support to Palestine condemning all violent acts perpetrated by Israel, and taking actions to this event; that is why, the Palestinian authorities have shown its gratitude to a series of Latin-American representatives including Ecuador for the actions taken as a result of the violent attacks of Israel.

Once the conflict ended, the Palestinian territory was totally devastated and the humanitarian situation of the survivors turned very difficult because they lost everything, making their situation in the zone even worse. To the scarcity of supplies, water and other basic tools for daily live, the Ministry of External Affairs of Ecuador carried out a humanitarian campaign under the name of “All with Palestine” to help people (El Tiempo 2014). The purpose of this initiative was to make conscience to people about the hard situation Palestinians are going through and what aid represents to them after the tragic moments of the war. With the support of the citizens of Ecuador the Ministry seeks to collect all kind of supplies either food, clothes, or medical supplies, because the number of Palestinians wounded was really high and the reserves of the hospitals have reached its maximum capacity. After collecting everything that was needed, subsequently it will be sent through the

Ministry to Gaza. Since Sunday August 10 day in which this campaign started until Monday 25th of the same month the Ministry collect near 20 tons of humanitarian aid between clothes, food, medicines, thanks to the public and private companies and especially to the Ecuadorian citizens who contributed to this cause (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility 2014).

GRAPHIC # 15 ECUADOR WITH PALESTINE



Source: Twitter, Cancilleria del Ecuador Available in: <https://twitter.com/>

After two attempts of getting a truce without a success and a subsequently resumption of hostilities in the Gaza Strip, finally after 50 days of conflicts the Israeli government together with the Hamas group agreed a long term cease of fire, while the negotiations between both parties continued in Egypt, country which acted as mediator of a cease fire on this conflict and continues intervening in favor of a final and durable agreement between the parties. The requests of Palestine as well as Israel have petitions that complicates to reach a permanent agreement. However, in this new arrangement Palestine could achieve for itself the momentary opening of the Gaza borders that will allow the entry of raw materials for the reconstruction of the territory as well as the entrance of the humanitarian aid. Meanwhile, Israel seeks the disarmament of the Hamas group which is considered as the most fragile subject to

deal with (BBC Mundo 2014). While the negotiations between both nations continue, the future of Palestine is uncertain because getting to an agreement between both sides is a slow and dangerous process and the danger of new confrontations with new deadly victims are still latent in the region. Both parties want to gain a great benefit in the negotiations especially Israel, but the truth is simple” No peace without justice”.

2.3 Ecuadorians with Palestine

To this wave of deaths that shocked the world, the citizens of the different countries around the world raised their voices in support of Gaza and Ecuador did the same. Hundreds of Ecuadorian citizens in the city of Quito as well as in Guayaquil gathered outside the Israel embassy to protest against the incessant attacks in the Gaza Strip. The indignation of the population was such, that they reunited a lot of signatures with two purposes: One to consolidate the shipment of humanitarian aid to Gaza, action that was already directed by the Ministry of External Affairs, as it was previously mentioned; and second, there was a petition to break all diplomatic relations with the government of Israel, as well as the expulsion of the ambassador representative of Tel Aviv in Ecuador (El Universo 2014). At this point it is important to mention that in commercial terms, Ecuador does not have any current agreement with the State of Israel. Similarly, Ecuador is not a significant provider for the Israeli imports as well as for the exports, as in 2012 Ecuador only represented a 0.005% of the total of the Israel importations while in exportations Ecuador only represented a 0.0057% in total (Institute of Exports and Promotion of Foreign Investments Pro Ecuador 2014).

Despite Ecuador, commercially speaking is not a very important allied for Israel, in terms of politics and diplomacy the support that the Jewish State needs from Ecuador and the rest of Latin American countries are essential. For this reason, the fact of breaking the diplomatic relations with the Latin American bloc means for Israel to lose the support of all these countries, while for Palestine it means gaining allies that support their purpose of becoming a State, something that Israel wants to avoid at all cost. In the meantime, the Ecuadorians also condemned the violent acts of Israel, turning their eyes to Palestine. The mobilizations in protest of the Jewish government

had great reception of the population. In Guayaquil hundreds of people gathered outside the Israel embassy and encouraged a boycott of the Israel products as well as Jewish places in the city (El Telegrafo 2014).

In Quito the protest was carried out the same day celebrated the International day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. In this protest the energy of the protesters raised, they burnt the flag of the State of Israel, members of the assembly assisted, women, activists, young people, of a whole society fighting for the rights of a nation which have suffered oppression for more than 60 years, and for all violent acts lead by Israel, not only in this last conflict but through the years since the State of Israel was created. During the protests, the marchers stigmatized the Israeli government of “terrorists” and as “Israel assassin of children” and emphasized the hundreds of times that the State have ignored systematically the resolutions issued by the UN with respect to the different conflicts in the region (La Voz del Tomebamba 2014).

GRAPHIC # 16 PROTESTERS IN QUITO ASK THE ECUADORIAN GOVERNMENT TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL



Source: Radio La Voz del Tomebamba, 2014.

Available on:

http://www.lavozdeltomebamba.com/LinksNoticias/tabid/86/newid/4198/title/Manifestantes_en_Quito_piden_al_gobierno_de_Ecuador_romper_relaciones_con_Israel/Default.aspx

The acts of violation of the human rights committed by Israel toward the Palestinian people have been countless, and in several occasions the world and the Ecuadorian citizens raised against the genocide, colonialist and criminal policies carried out by the government Tel Aviv, through protests, petitions by collecting signatures or the simple fact of traveling to one of the most conflictive countries of the world to give a hand of solidarity to those that need it the most, witnessing what people really go through in Palestine. These are acts that show that not all humanity is lost and two persons can become the light people need in the middle of darkness.

This is the story of two sisters from Cuenca who started one of the hardest journeys; hard because for a human being that appreciates life and has the concept of equal rights quite clear, it is not easy to live in the middle of violent society and other society victims of numerous abuses, aggressions, and humiliations, having inside their hearts the frustration of not doing much to stop these abuses. Cristina and Isabel Maldonado former students of the University of Azuay started a journey to the Holy Land where they witnessed a series of moving stories that make you think about the values in which a human being should grow up with, but now the essence of humility and support toward people who need the most have stopped shining inside many humans, and this precisely show the Jews every day who live in the occupied territories of Palestine.

They armed themselves with courage, entering to the Palestinian territory witnessing with a broken heart of all acts of repression and injustice that all Palestinians are victims, men woman, children, the population in general and with bravery let the world known the experience of being witnesses of the suffering and the daily struggle of thousands of people trying to bear a life of imprisonment in their own homes. This two brave sisters for a period of three months became in the hope of a town deprived of many of their basic rights from freedom to the daily struggle of trying to get food to their homes, in the case of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip they are restricted to the access to water, and fishing, while other zones of Palestine the limitation to the land is the biggest problem for people.

Their trip was accomplished through an invitation letter from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel EAPPI. Through this program Isabel and Cristina have to monitor check points and agricultural places, as well as to

report any type of violations to human rights, in their case the demolition of Palestinian houses, also they assisted families who were affected and most important, they support to the Palestinian and Israeli efforts which help to find an end to the occupation (Maldonado 2013). During the time that they were in Palestine, all events and experiences lived were written in two different blogs. On one side Isabel's blog which was named as "*Cronicas de Tierra Santa*" the stories here written are pretty much Isabel's experiences lived by her. On the other side we have Cristina's blog which was named as "*Cuando los cerdos vuelan*" and the stories here written are based on Cristina's experiences. In both blogs we can find many stories starred by different people in different situations, but all these stories had something in common: discrimination; either for the lack of medical assistance by the Israel authorities, or simply at the moment of mobilizing from one place to another, or when the house of a family is demolished with no reason at all that actually justifies this event, having to witness how an effort of years are lost between their hands in seconds. The stories contented in these blogs are very sad and heartbreaking but these are the result of a cruel reality that Palestinians live every single day.

While one nation develops based in violence and aggressions, other nation is totally abandoned, forgotten and hopeless because they lost everything they had, their houses or even sadder their tents represent a "danger for the security" of Israel, all these things happen in front of the world. So, for that reason is that the job that Isabel and Cristina carried out was really important because their presence gave a bit of calm to the Palestinian of the town, where also were Jewish settlements which were illegal to the International Law and with very radical religious connotations because to their thinking they are the chosen people and God gave them the land (ibid). This kind of thinking allow the Jews to do whatever they want on those lands like intimidating people or even take them out of their own properties, it is allowed under the martial law which is valid inside the occupied territories of Palestine.

GRAPHIC # 17 LIVING UNDER OCCUPATION



Source: Blog de Isabel Maldonado. Available on: <http://cronicasentierrasanta.wordpress.com/>

It is true that the decisions and actions taken by the Ecuadorian government have meant a small, but very important impulse for the Palestinian State to reach transcendental achievements such as, its integration inside the United Nations as an observer state not a member, as well as its presence in other major organizations. This shows that Palestine has become very important for many countries that believe and safeguard the human rights of the oppressed people. Nevertheless, it is obvious that there is still a lot to do from the countries which are part of the International Community, and there is a long and complicated journey ahead. The efforts of the Ecuadorian state as the actions taken in favor of Palestine by the Ecuadorian citizens founded in the human rights concept are a sign that the expression “hope is the last thing you lose” has a lot a reality because as long as people believe in justice and fight for it nothing is lost.

The vile actions of Israel over the Palestinian territory and its population, as the rest of factors that detached from this conflict such as the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homes, the occupation, the wall, and other abuses in the zones,

make us think that the solution to the conflict is still far, because as far as Israel keeps ignoring all resolution of the UN and keeps violating the International and Humanitarian Law it won't be a short term road to peace. On the contrary, Israel will continue making up excuses of "security" and "right to self-defense" which will give authority to continue killing more civilians from Gaza or from other Palestinian territories which are under occupation, with the only purpose that the Palestinian citizens leave those lands. The Palestinian will keep defending themselves and resisting to the aggressions, situation that will stigmatize them as terrorists but the truth is simple "resistance is not terrorism"

Despite this cruel reality, Palestine has the support of many countries including Ecuador which recognized it as a State as well as its citizens who are disposed to give a hand to those who need the most. That is why it is important to recognize that actions such as, protests, or simply serve as ecumenical companion in the most dangerous territory of the world in favor of people who need help, are actions that show that Palestine has gained transcendence around the world because in these days most of the inhabitants which are part of this world stand up for injustice and raise their voices for the people who cant. We are all Palestine and the ones who believe in freedom and the right to life will fight with our means until we can see a free Palestine.

GRAPHIC # 18 “NO PEACE WITHOUT JUSTICE”



Source: Cristina Maldonado, 2013 Available on:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151753513119527&set=a.10150437233419527.359363.720369526&type=1&theater>

Conclusion

Ecuador just like the rest of Latin American countries had had a very rooted policy line to the United State policies, most of the former governments, for not saying all of them have emphasized in having and carrying out policies based in the different North American presidents. Ecuador was enormously bounded to the United States to the point of almost depend from this country, obligated to follow their parameters in politic terms as in economic terms, intervening in the most important decisions in the international sphere just like it was the Partition of Palestine 60 years ago.

The support of Ecuador to Palestine in former administrations we could say was limited or even absent because back then, Latin America and Ecuador depended

enormously from the United States, just like the Consultant of the Palestinian embassy in Ecuador, Abadallah Y.M. Younis said “Latin America was the back yard of the United States” this terminology helps us understand clearly that all Latin American countries were at the mercy of the United States; therefore, a decision so important as the Partition of Palestine which was going to unquestionably benefit to the greatest allied of the United States had to be supported by all Latin American countries including Ecuador.

The real support to Palestine by the Republic of Ecuador started in the administration of the Economist Rafael Correa. The international recognition of Ecuador to the Palestinian State with the 1967 borders marks the beginning of the great support that Palestine will get from Ecuador. The Ecuadorian government not only recognized internationally to the Palestinian State, but also, in 2012 voted in favor for the approval of the new status of Palestine as an Observer State not a Member of the UN. Moreover, the diplomatic relations between both nations have strengthen a lot, since currently Palestine has its own embassy in Ecuador which operates in the city of Quito, while Ecuador has its embassy in Ramalla, event that will let both nations extend their relations even more.

The solidary hand that Ecuador has extended to the Palestinian people has been very important and necessary for a nation succumbed in tragedy, not only for losing their lands but also for the humanitarian crisis lived in the zone with every armed conflict where thousands of Palestinians between men woman and children are killed, all this, without mentioning the situation of the refugees with no homes. The solidarity of Ecuador has been reflected through the citizens who raised their voices in protest against the Israeli abuses in every conflict and organized themselves with the purpose of gathering all necessary humanitarian aid for the times of crisis. Ecuador will continue extending its hand to these people every time they need, many projects between both nations are in process in politics aspects as well as cultural aspects which will strengthen the diplomatic relations between these two nations, The Republic of Ecuador will support Palestine in all decisions that lead to the final creation of their so desired state.

CHAPTER 3: POINTS OF VIEW ABOUT THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE AND THE INTERVENTION OF ECUADOR IN THE RECOGNITION OF PALESTINE AS A STATE

Having analyzed the facts that precede the Arab and Jew conflict since the very moment of the partition of the territory in two states, to the events currently occurred in the political sphere as well as the humanitarian area, it is important to make an analysis over the future of Palestine, taking into consideration the participation that Ecuador had had in this context and specially the participation of Ecuador in the recognition of Palestine as a state.

This last chapter focuses in the analysis of the future of Palestine, having as a main characteristic the opinions, and points of view of the people who have been interviewed and who I express my gratitude for their cooperation in this project. Their contribution will help the enrichment of this thesis. It is important to point out that the points of view will be related to the intervention of Ecuador in the recognition of Palestine as State, as well as, the intervention of the Ecuadorian government in the latest events which have taken place in the Middle East, especially in Palestine. Also, it will consider the actions carried out by the Ecuadorian citizens which are a very important component of the Ecuadorian State.

Finally, I will analyze the different projects or strategies that have together the Palestinian and Ecuadorian government in all different matters such as: political, social or economics. Also, I will make a short review of the diplomatic relations that uphold the Republic of Ecuador with the government of Israel either in political or economic aspects; which also represent an important piece of this project, to finally conclude with the observations about everything which have been investigated through this thesis.

3.1 A Future for Palestine?

Once more we can confirm that the future of Palestine is still uncertain and it is in hands of the United States and its allies. A new try of the Palestinian State to the UN

to be recognized as an independent state, and most of all, its petition to put an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories by the end of 2017 was forbidden in the Security Council by the United States who used its right to veto to stop the Palestinian petition (La Jornada 2014). The insensibility that demonstrates the International Community to the thousands of Palestinians who lost everything again in the recent arm conflict and who still losing everything as a result of the illegal Israeli occupation and settlements in their territories, shows us that the Palestinian struggle is long and with lack of interest by the developed countries in finding a fair and final solution to this conflict and to the social and humanitarian problems lived in this zone.

The Palestinian petitions are rejected again by the United States for more than 41 times, The United States simply does not recognize the existence of a Palestine State continuing its unconditional support to the genocidal policy and to the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands. Despite the huge international advances for the Palestinian people such as: its recognition as an Observer State not a member of the UN, as well as its acceptance to some international organizations such as the UNESCO and some others as the International Criminal Court, the Palestinian people are septic to the idea of having their own state. For more than sixty years the Arabs have seen how the International Community has approved resolutions about their national autonomy, their right to their lands, the problem of the refugees and their desire of returning home, but none of these resolutions have ever been accompanied with a real intention of being fulfilled by the Israel government staying just in simple resolutions written in a paper.

Unfortunately, for Palestine it hasn't been possible to apply a real act of justice over the territorial and humanitarian matter, which solutions is on the United States hands exclusively, because the peace process in this zone is being led by this country as the protector of Israel. Nevertheless, the interests of the United States and other developed countries are not focused in solving the Jew and Arab conflict, through long-lasting solutions where the Palestinian wellbeing precede, on the contrary, the actions taken through the years by the developed countries have been based on their personal interests and benefits in the Middle East zone. Through the sixty years that this conflict has lasted all the "actions" which have been carried the out, helped Israel to act arbitrarily and impunity committing illegal acts which attempt against

principles of Human Rights causing as result that the Palestinian people lost all their rights, even the simple ones such as their right to life, and the right over the control of their own lands. Currently, the Palestinians have the control only over the 18% of the territory that once was their home (Delgado no year) and this control is not even exclusive, Israel is the real one who has the total control of these lands.

Ecuador rejects again this type of actions not only by the United States but also by the International Community. Andrea Ayala who works in the Bureau of Direction of Africa and the Middle East in the Ministry of External Affairs of Ecuador in an interview she affirmed that Ecuador questions the inoperativeness of the International Community to the Palestinian situation, in her personal opinion she indicates that Ecuador as a country which participated in the approval of the resolution of the Palestinian partition, did it with the intention to have two states with a defined territory just like it was specified in resolution 181 of the United Nations which detailed what should had been the future of Palestine, obviously something different to what is happening now a days.

Nevertheless, Ecuador never imagined that Israel will act arbitrarily taking more territories of what originally was granted to them, using violence which Israel still using even now a days in the sight of the International Organizations such as the United Nations, which does not do much to stop this, and what is even worse is that the UN does not obligate Israel obey the resolution that establish the foundation of two states, having as a result the economic and political development of one nation while the other one sinks into misery right in front of the whole world.

It is a fact that comparing Israel and Palestine there is huge breach of inequality, not only referring to the social and territorial situation, but also economically speaking, because Israel during the last years has reached a great economic development, which has positioned Israel as one of the most industrialized countries, reaching a great advance especially in investigation and development field (IyD), placing Israel as one of tenth best industries of (IyD) according to the UN. Israel allocates almost 4.4% of its Gross Domestic Product to investigation and development. Thanks to this great boost Israel has as a result a powerful technological industry (Israeli Embassy in the Dominican Republic no year).

The technological industry of Israel has gained a significant development, turning it into a high tech industry. The high tech products exported by Israel represent 80% of its exportations, while the products of the traditional industry export only a 40%. The technological industry of Israel is so industrialized that its exportations of this industrial field represents an income of 17.3% in its Gross Domestic Product (ibíd.). However, the industrial boost hasn't been the only Israeli progress, the area of agriculture is also extraordinary because geographically Israel has many deserted areas and its sources of water are limited. In spite of that Israel has achieved a great development in the agricultural field thanks to the investigation and innovation techniques especially with the irrigation system. Despite of its limited water resources, Israel developed a drip irrigation system, which helped its agriculture from a 70 to an 80 percent (State of Israel Ministry of Industry Trade and Labor no year), turning Israel in one of the most developed countries in in the agricultural area.

For all its great technological advances, Ecuador sees Israel as a great allied for the internal development for Ecuador. The Ecuadorian interests with Israel are centered precisely in the industrial area where Ecuador has its international relations concentrated. Andrea Ayala denoted that since 1969 Ecuador has a relation of cooperation with Israel in terms of defense and technology because of that Ecuador has seen an important ally for its development and the innovation of the new universities and other projects which are in process such as YACHAI “the city of knowledge” same which is directed for science activities as well as economic activities through technological investigation, and innovation (YACHAY City of Knowledge 2013), similarly the field of agriculture development is also important and of great interest for Ecuador.

Nonetheless, while the Israel's economy grows both internally and externally; Palestine is the other side of the coin. Pursuant to the interview made to the Counselor of the Palestinian embassy in Ecuador, Abdallah Y.M Younis declared that Palestine depends economically of international aid not only as a result of the last conflict in 2014 but always. As if this were not enough, Israel is responsible for collecting the taxes from the occupied territories, money that afterwards must be transferred to the Palestinian authorities pursuant to what is stipulated in the Oslo Agreements, but Israel not always follows the agreements. On December 2014 Israel froze nearly 125 million euros in retaliation to the Palestinian request to be part of

International Criminal and the Rome Statute (La República 2015). The Israeli discontent is evident because the integration of Palestine to these organizations means that Palestine will be able to report Israel for war crimes and crimes against humanity not just for the attacks in the last conflict but for all acts of violence committed by Israel where thousands of Palestinian men, women and children were brutally murdered. Therefore Israel takes advantage of the situation and intervening on the Palestinian decisions on its favor.

The economic situation of Palestine is precarious, according to a report of the World Bank in 2013 “the territorial restrictions that Israel imposed in the West Bank are costing the Palestinian economy over two billion euros a year” (ABC. es Internacional 2013), which represents a significant amount of money for a country economically weakened and socially devastated where the majority of its people live below the poverty level. This situation happens because of the lack of possibilities that the Palestinian have to grow their own products in lands that even though it belongs to the Palestinian people, it is under the Israeli control. The report of the World Bank also reveals that “more than half of the land in the West Bank and most of its natural and agricultural resources are inaccessible to Palestinians”. According to the same report it affirms that if the situation was different and if “Israel liberate these lands, the West Bank economy could grow by 35 percent and a 50 percent drop from fiscal deficit, that would make Palestine less dependent of the international aid” (Palestina Libre. Org 2013). It means that Palestine could have a certain development in economic terms and even socially. But it is a fact that Israel will not free these lands because as Abdallah Y.M Younis said “Israel is destined to destroy you morally, physically and psychologically, because that is its aim”.

The economic situation of Palestine is so decadent and backward that Palestine does not even have a Gross Domestic Product, the commercial sector is developed only internally, and yet it is limited because of the Israeli intervention. Abadallah Y.M. Younis mentions that in the Gaza Strip the production of flowers and fruits are very important as well as the fishing activity, nevertheless, when the Palestinians try to take all these products to sell in Egypt or even to the West Bank, the Israeli police stop the traders in the border from 8 to 12 hours, when the products finally arrive to their destiny, they are already decomposed causing high monetary loss to the producers; or to the contrary, It can be the case that Israel wants to buy those

products but in a very low price to sell the products in a high price, as if they were the one who grow those products, affecting economically the Palestinians producers.

Likewise, Abdallah Y.M. Younis stated that in Palestine exists a high level of underemployment as well as a high rate of unemployment which keeps growing. Between 2012 and 2013 the unemployment raised on a 5.6% (International Labor Organization 2014) which does not help to obtain a sustainable economic development in Palestine, meanwhile, the Palestinians who have a job, work for the economic progress of Israel. According to a report of the International Labor Organization, in the Gaza Strip the situation is critical because Israel's blockade has paralyzed a great part of the economic activities, making the international aid vital for the subsistence of the Palestinian people in an 80% (Ibíd), to this situation we can add the restriction to the Palestinians of not only to the land but also to the vital resources such as water, because Israel for its sophisticated irrigation system uses the water resources which are outside the boundaries of 1948 specifically from the West Bank and the Golan Heights (Escuer 2010) making the Palestinian's lifestyle harder, in words of Abdallah Y.M. Younis "the Palestinian people are destined not to live, but survive".

Because Palestine does not have a developed foreign trade it is impossible to export its products. Furthermore, the distance factor is another problem for the foreign trade of Palestine, because of this situation currently the diplomatic relations between Ecuador and Palestine are directed only to the social, cultural and political sphere. Nevertheless, Abdallah Y.M. Younis claims that despite the economic limitation of Palestine, he is very satisfied with all the support and aid that he and his people have received from Ecuador. Even though, in terms of economy Palestine is limited to only one type of trade, Andrea Ayala affirms that Ecuador has the intention to make a cooperation line in the social sphere as well as in the economic sphere, but this is still in process. Ayala also indicated that Ecuador is working in the development of and projects which can be applied together with Palestine.

The moral support given by Ecuador to Palestine is big, just like Abdalla Y.M Younis expressed "Every conflict with Israel, Palestine loses over 1000 or 2000 people, but knowing that in the other side of the world there are people who stands up in protest against these acts of violence, comforts to the State of Palestine,

because we know we are not alone”. The counselor of Palestine who is the voice of the Palestinian people is deeply thankful with all actions taken not only by the Ecuadorian government but also of its people making reference to the protests against Israel in the last conflict.

Also, in political terms the support of Ecuador to Palestine has been convincing. The actions taken by Ecuador have allowed Palestine to achieve great advances on their struggle. The actions promoted by Ecuador in the international sphere, the same ones that were mentioned in previous chapters; such as the support of Palestine in the UNESCO and inside the UN for its recognition as an observer state not a member have made that the diplomatic relations between Ecuador and Palestine became stronger bonds of friendship between these two nations. Abdallah Y.M. Younis not only refers to Ecuador but to all Latin America as a block. The Counselor of the Palestinian embassy in Ecuador affirms that for Palestine Latin America “is the most important window to the whole world” because Latin America represents the votes that Palestine needs to obtain its international recognition.

Ecuador has also supported Palestine in the social and humanitarian area because Ecuador has always been solidary with the Palestinian tragedy. As a result of the last conflict where Israel made a disproportionate use of force, Ecuador through the Chancellery reached 20 tons of humanitarian aid which were sent to the Gaza Strip. The Counselor of Palestine in Ecuador reaffirmed his gratitude to the Ecuadorian government for its support and solidarity toward the people of Gaza and recognizes the Ecuador’s action of calling to consultations to its ambassador in Tel Aviv as an brave act because in a diplomatic language calling an ambassador to consultations translates in a maxima way of protest and rejection, of a certain situation. Andrea mentions that certainly, calling for consultation is a strong expression and “Ecuador has done in diplomatic terms the best it could” because Palestine represents and important ally and friend for Ecuador.

The Ecuadorian help to Palestine is also diffused through international organizations such as the *Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People* of which Ecuador is member of, through which has manifested internationally its support to Palestine several times. Abdallah Y.M. Younis said that this Committee is a very important entity for Palestine because the organization helps

to apply the Palestinian people's rights. He also mentioned that the actions of the Committee work to recognize those rights. Abdallah Y.M. Younis also said that Palestine sees Ecuador with gratitude "for taking the initiative on marking the points for the recognition of Palestine as a State with the 1967 borders", event that meant a lot for the Palestinians and their struggle and which worked as an incentive for the recognition of Palestine by other Latin American countries, this way these countries demonstrate the meaning of freedom and justice toward the oppressed nations.

Up to now there are few countries that through the years and during the last few months have shown solidarity with the Palestinian people, It seems that the acceptance of the existence of two states in the Middle East zone and especially to finally accept the injustice with which Israel operates in the region is the spotlight for the acceptance and recognition of Palestine as a state by many European countries including the tough ones. On October 30, 2014 Switzerland, without a doubt marked a milestone in its foreign policy because it was the first European country to recognize Palestine as a state, an event that represent a kind of victory for the Palestinian people. However, to this type of events of great courage, Israel will always react with negative actions with high content of blackmail. So, Israel protested calling to consultations to its ambassador in Stockholm (El Pais Internacional 2014). Despite to Israel's reactions, Switzerland was not the only country that has turned the history of Palestine in Europe. The Parliament of Great Britain, France, Ireland and Spain also announced their decision of recognizing Palestine as a state.

Although, these decisions open doors of new opportunities for the Palestinians, there is still a long way to go because in order for Palestine to be finally accepted and recognized as a state it needs the acceptance inside the Security Counsel of the UN. This situation makes things complicated because the United States as a full member of this bureau and a loyal allied of Israel does not give any sign on finding a final and fair solution to the conflict, making an excessive use of its right to veto; a right that in a very conflictive situation as the Israel and Palestine conflict should not be in charge of countries whose ideals are not neutral and whose interests are so rooted in the zone of conflict, ignoring the rights of the other party. On the other side, the International Organizations whose goal is the safeguard of the wellbeing of the nations also should act in favor of the purposes for which they were created.

In the case of the United Nations, it is true that the organization works in the humanitarian sphere, it should also work in the political sphere especially with Israel and the resolutions that have not been obeyed by the Jewish state, as well as the hundreds of times that Israel has acted against the human rights of the Palestinian people and which are still doing it now a days. The UN should work in benefit of the nations that need the most, ensuring peace and security of the world, which was the purpose for what it was created. But if we analyze the case of Palestine we can conclude that the UN failed in the accomplishment of its real purpose, in the very moment that instead of ensuring the wellbeing of the nations in need it did it in favor of the founding countries and their main interests, it is a reality. We could say that the UN has politicized in favor of the countries that created it. It is evident in the humanitarian drama of the millions of Palestinian refugees as the refugees from the rest of countries which are in conflict like Syria.

Ecuador will continue helping and supporting Palestine in any sphere this nation needs and which contribute to its self-determination. Ecuador and Palestine currently have a series of projects that for the moment are focused on the cultural and social area. Nevertheless, Ecuador does not discard the option to open these projects to other extensive areas in the future. All the recognitions made by Ecuador of the Palestinian state in one way or another have served as an example so other nations join the Palestinian struggle. Some Palestinian cling to the idea and hope of returning home, to get their lands back, and to have a territory and that hope is what keeps them in this fight that even though is not easy, little by little it opens more doors to finally achieve their goal.

It is important to mention that every fight, every voice raised in favor of the Palestinian people even in the most remote nations of the planet, counts because those voices contribute to their right. A clear example of this is the recent recognition of the Palestinian state by the Vatican and its maximum authority Pope Francis (BBC Mundo 2015). Finally, as Abdallah Y.M. Younis said “The future is unknown no one knows what it’s going to happen but as my dad said once, maybe I will not see it but you will. Similarity, maybe I will not see it but my children will, that is the continuity of this struggle until we achieve our goal” to have a free Palestine.

Conclusions

It has been more than 65 years since one of the worst decisions was made by an International Organization created and directed to protect and safeguard the security and integrity of the nations, because its decision was focused exclusively in benefit of the interests of the founding countries of this organization in the Middle East, since it does not exist any logical reason that until now the UN has not allowed the creation of the Arab state, that actually it is stated in the resolution 181 of the United Nations same that has not been obeyed as it should.

The countless abuses toward the Palestinians show the incompetence and the lack of interest with which the countries of the International Community, especially the developed countries and the UN have managed this situation. Since Israel has been the protagonist of an innumerable events and acts that have attended directly to the human rights and other crimes that commonly are sanctioned drastically but in the case of Israel are simply unnoticed and never sanctioned, and no country or international organization does anything to make Israel respect the resolutions.

It is evident that for Palestine it still a long and difficult way to go because the United States is the most important allied of Israel, the United States, a founding country of the UN and full member of the Security Council, body of the United Nations where the resolutions are approved or denied through the right to veto, right that only works to approve resolutions that benefits to their own interests and of its allies', and not with the aim of helping the most vulnerable nations which need fast and conclusive solutions. It would be very absurd to think that the solution for Palestine is near, since up to now it has been around 40 the numbers of Palestinian requests to the UN about the creation of a state and all these have been declined with the right of veto of the Unites States.

Through the years, Palestine has gained the support of various countries on its fight to be recognized as a state, including Ecuador which has given its unconditional support in political decisions concerning to Palestine and its role inside the UN, and other entities which are also part of this organization, and which also give Palestine a series of benefits. Likewise, Ecuador already recognizes Palestine as a state with the borders of 1967, a recognition made internationally, and the diplomatic bonds have

grown for a mutual benefit. It is evident that the position adopted by the Ecuadorian state has been of great help especially in the administration of President Rafael Correa, the support has been in the political and humanitarian sphere because the suffering of the Palestinian people seems to be endless as a result of the innumerable conflicts which have a disproportionate margin of violence.

Not only does the Ecuadorian government have pronounced in favor of the Palestinian people, in the contrary, the Ecuadorian citizens have also extended their solidary hands to the humanitarian drama of the last conflicts in the region. Not only the voices of protest against the violent policy of Israel were listened, but also the solidarity of the Ecuadorian people were reflected in the recollection of more than 20 tons of international aid for a nation that once more was devastated by the incontrollable violence of Israel. The Ecuadorian aid to Palestine is fundamental since every grain of sand counts.

As I said before the road is not easy and there is still a long way to go, but great events which mark in a positive way the situation of Palestine have taken place in the last few months such as the fact that many European parliaments have recognized Palestine as a state. This event scripts a point in favor of Palestine, because even though Palestine is not recognized as a state inside the UN, the fact of recognizing a state inside a Parliament internationally is considered as an indirect recognition of the existent of the state.

Despite all the devastating circumstances lived by the Palestinian people, hope is still alive in every one of them, in all the aid received, in every word of solidarity, gives them strength to continue their struggle for the survivors of each conflict and for the thousands of martyrs which have left every war. The world is learning to open its eyes and starting to see Palestine as an urgent matter which needs international attention, it is reflected in the recognitions of the new state, recognitions that give more opportunities to revert the past and to finally act with moral and justice and give Palestine what corresponds to it as a legal right: its own free and independent state.

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