

## PALESTINE CHRONOLOGY

### 2011

#### JANUARY

**Jan. 1:** Suriname recognizes the State of Palestine in the 1967 borders.

**Jan. 3:** President Abbas attends the groundbreaking ceremony for Palestinian Embassy in Brazil.

**Jan. 7:** Chile recognizes Palestine as a free, independent and sovereign state.

**Jan. 13:** Guyana recognizes the State of Palestine.

**Jan. 18:** Russia reaffirms its commitment to an independent Palestinian state.

**Jan. 19:** Despite objections from the US, Arab States formally submit draft resolution to the UNSC condemning settlement activity.

**Jan. 23:** Confidential "Palestine Papers" - internal *documents* from the 1999-2010 Israel-Palestinian negotiations- are leaked by *Al-Jazeera*.

- The Turkel Commission (Israeli inquiry into the 31 May 2010 Gaza flotilla raid) releases its findings, acquitting the Government, the military and the soldiers involved, saying "the actions carried out by Israel... had the regrettable consequences of the loss of human life" but " were found to be legal pursuant to the rules of international law".

**Jan. 24:** Peru recognizes Palestine as a sovereign state.

**Jan. 25:** Ireland upgrades the Palestinian representation to full diplomatic mission.

**Jan. 29:** Paraguay recognizes Palestine as a sovereign state.

**Jan. 30:** *Cyprus recognizes Palestine* as an independent *state* on the lands occupied in 1967.

#### FEBRUARY

**Feb. 5:** A Quartet meeting in Munich reaffirms that negotiations should lead to an end of the occupation, resolve all permanent status issues and achieve a two-State solution. It also reiterates support for concluding the negotiations by September 2011.

**Feb. 14:** After PM Fayyad tenders his government's resignation, Pres. Abbas asks him to appoint a new cabinet.

**Feb. 18:** The UNCS votes 14:1 (US) for a resolution condemning Israeli settlements, co-sponsored by over 120 Member States.

**Feb. 24:** After a meeting with Luxembourg FM Jean Assleborn PM Fayyad announces that he is determined to work towards ending the split between Fateh and Hamas. Hamas, however, stresses it would not join a new Fayyad government.

#### MARCH

**March 3:** Israeli DM Ehud Barak tells *Channel 10 TV* that the current make-up of the Israeli Government was not suitable for advancing peace with the Palestinians.

**March 7:** British Foreign Secretary William Hague says the UK would upgrade the status of the Palestinian delegation to full diplomatic mission level.

**March 9:** Danish Foreign Ministry upgrades Palestinian delegation to Palestinian mission to Denmark.

**March 15:** Hamas leader Haniyeh invites Pres. Abbas to Gaza in order to continue unity discussions.

- Uruguay recognizes the State of Palestine without specifying borders.

**March 20:** The Palestinian leadership announces that it will ask the UN to recognize a Palestinian State within the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital with full .

**March 28:** Pres. Abbas asks the PLO Constitution Committee to begin drafting amendments to the PLO Charter that would include all Palestinian factions in the organization.

**March 29:** The Knesset passes by 37 to 11 a law enabling the court system to revoke the citizenship of anyone convicted of spying, treason or helping the enemy during times of war.

## **APRIL**

**April 1:** Judge Goldstone writes in the *Washington Post*: “I regret that our fact-finding mission did not have [Israeli] evidence explaining the circumstances in which we said civilians in Gaza were targeted, because it probably would have influenced our findings about intentionality and war crimes.”

**April 5:** The *New York Times* publishes details of the “Peace with our enemies” initiative that calls for the 1967 lines to be the basis for a two-State solution, including a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as capital, and financial compensation for Palestine refugees as well as return to Palestine, not Israel. The plan was signed by 40 people, including former Shin Bet Chiefs Yaakov Peri and Ami Ayalon, former Mossad Chief Danny Yatom and former IDF Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, General (Res.) Amram Mitzna, former Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Yuval Rabin, son of slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

- A new IMF report states that the PA’s financial institutions ready for statehood.

**April 10:** The Arab League calls on the UN to impose a no-fly zone over Gaza and lift the Israeli siege.

**April 13-15:** The AHLC meeting convenes in Brussels, attended by Quartet envoy Tony Blair and PM Fayyad. The PA is reportedly requesting nearly \$5 billion in investment to launch a Palestinian State.

**April 27:** After talks with Egyptian mediation in Cairo, Fateh and Hamas initial a reconciliation agreement, which provides for the establishment of a technocrat government to prepare for parliamentary and presidential elections, for Gaza’s reconstruction, for PNC elections and for a joint security committee.

## **MAY**

**May 1:** After the PA-Hamas agreement, Israel suspends routine tax transfers (NIS 300 million) to the PA.

**May 5:** During talks with PA President Abbas in Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel warns against recognition of a Palestinian State as unilateral steps are not helpful.

**May 6:** Cyprus upgrades the status of the Palestinian Delegation to Diplomatic Mission of Palestine.

**May 15:** As dozen people were when clashes erupted on Israel’s borders As thousands of Palestinians attend coordinated *Nakba* Day protests by marching from the Syria, Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank clashes erupt at Israeli borders, leaving at least 10 protestors killed and over 100 wounded.

**May 18:** A new World Bank report commends the PA for its work in creating strong public institutions, while recommending continued reforms to prevent corruption and ensure better public services.

**May 19:** In a major Middle East policy speech, Pres. Obama says borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps.

**May 23:** The EU Council welcomes intra-Palestinian reconciliation and urges resumption of direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations leading to a comprehensive solution.

**May 28:** After an Arab ministerial meeting in Qatar, the Arab League endorses a Palestinian bid to seek recognition at the UN of a Palestinian State within the 1967 borders

**May 28:** Egypt permanently opens Rafah crossing point after a four-year blockade.

**May 31:** Spain announces recognition of a Palestinian State before September 2011.

## **JUNE**

**June 5:** Protests throughout the WBGS and the region mark the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Israel's occupation.

**June 6:** Lesotho recognizes and Malawi reiterates recognition of a Palestinian State within 1967 borders.

**June 12:** Guinea-Bissau announces support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

**June 16:** Turkey says it would vote for a UN resolution recognizing the Palestine State.

**June 19:** Fateh and Hamas delay unveiling of new government over disagreement on the Prime Minister.

**June 22:** Armenia announces support the Palestinians' demands for freedom, independence and statehood.

**June 27:** The Palestinian leadership officially decides to approach the UN in September to become a full member and attain statehood recognition.

**June 29:** In Brussels, the UN International Meeting in Support of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process calls on the EU to support Palestinian statehood at the UN in September.

## **JULY**

**July 1:** After pro-Palestinian websites had called on activists to fly to Israel on 8 July to protest against Israeli policies towards Palestinians, PM Netanyahu orders authorities to block the entry of pro-Palestinian activists planning to travel to Tel Aviv over the weekend in a protest "fly-in".

**July 11:** The PCBS says the total Palestinian population in the territory in mid-2011 was 4.17 million – 2.58 million in the West Bank and 1.59 million in the Gaza Strip.

- The Knesset approves a law effectively banning Israelis from calling for boycotts of any part of the country or its settlements on occupied Palestinian land.

**July 14:** Arab League Sec.-Gen. Nabil Al-Arabi say the League will submit to the UN a request for recognition of a Palestinian state.

**July 18:** Norway upgrades the Palestinian diplomatic representation to Palestinian Mission.

- Syria recognizes a Palestinian state within the June 4, 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital.

**July 18:** Norway upgrades the Palestinian diplomatic representation to Palestinian Mission.

**July 27:** Pres. Abbas confirms the PLO's intention to approach the UN with its statehood bid, saying "[A]fter the failure of the Quartet to lay out foundations for the negotiations, which are a halt to settlement building and using the 1967 borders as a basis for the Palestinian state, it is now too late for negotiations ... there is no time – we are going to the UN."

## **AUGUST**

**Aug. 2:** The Israeli Supreme Court orders the dismantling of Migron, the largest illegal settlement outpost in the West Bank.

**Aug. 15:** Israeli DM Barak approves 277 new apartments in Ariel settlement.

**Aug. 16:** The Quartet expresses concern over Israel's announcements to advance planning for new housing units in settlements

**Aug. 18:** Four successive attacks by Palestinians kill 7 and injure 30 Israelis along the Israel-Egypt border north of Eilat. Israel retaliates with air strikes that kill at least 6 Palestinians in Gaza.

**Aug. 24:** China and India confirm support for the Palestinian bid for UN recognition.

**Aug. 25/26:** El Salvador and Honduras recognize Palestine as an independent State.

**Aug. 30:** Saint Vincent and the Grenadines announces its recognition of a Palestinian State.

## SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 8:** Palestinians launch "Palestine 194" campaign to support the bid for full UN membership.

**Sept. 12:** A new World Bank report ahead of the meeting of AHLC meeting in New York says that there had been substantial progress in implementing the PA's two-year institution-building program but an acute fiscal crisis, accompanied by declining economic growth, might undermine the achievements.

**Sept. 18:** The AHLC meeting in new York commends the PA for its implementation of the government program over the last three years.

- Shortly after, the Quartet meet in New York, reiterating appeals to the Israelis and Palestinians to resume direct bilateral negotiations without delays or preconditions.

**Sept. 23:** Pres. Abbas presents the bid for statehood of Palestine before the UN General Assembly.

**Sept. 28:** The UNSC send the Palestinian application for full UN membership to the Committee on the Admission of New Members.

**Sept. 29:** A European Parliament resolution calls Palestine's bid for statehood "legitimate" and says that a solution should be found within a year.

## OCTOBER

**Oct. 3:** USAID projects are put on hold after the US Congress cuts aid to PA following the Palestinian statehood bid.

**Oct. 4:** The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) grants the PNC "Partner for Democracy" status. This is only the second time the position, usually reserved for parliaments from regions adjacent the Council of Europe - was granted

**Oct. 5:** The UNESCO Executive Board recommends submission of the Palestinian request for full membership.

**Oct. 9:** PM Netanyahu says he is seeking ways to legalize unauthorized settlement outposts built on Palestinian land.

**Oct. 11:** The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights urges Israel to stop settler attacks on Palestinian civilians in the West Bank.

- Israel and Hamas finalize the terms of a prisoner exchange deal: soldier Gilad Shalit in exchange for 1,027 Palestinian prisoners.

**Oct. 18:** The first 477 Palestinian prisoners out of a total 1,027 that are part of the Hamas-Israel prisoner exchange deal are freed. With the second group due for release in mid-December. Of the 477, 217 are released home without conditions, while 55 were released home with security conditions and 205 were either deported abroad (41) or transferred to the Gaza.

**Oct. 31:** As first UN agency, UNESCO votes with 107 members in favor, 14 against (incl. US, Canada, Germany and Holland) and 52 abstentions to admit Palestine as a full member. In response, the US stops funding UNESCO.

## **NOVEMBER**

**Nov. 30:** Iceland becomes the first western country to recognize Palestine as an independent state.