

America's Treatment of Palestinians Has Grown Horrendously Cruel

No words can describe the anger and anguish I feel as a Palestinian in America watching this unfold.

By [Razan Azzarkani](#)

Global Research, May 24, 2018

[OtherWords](#) 23 May 2018

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#), [Law and Justice](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

*On May 14, **Ivanka Trump**, **Jared Kushner**, and **Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin** [smiled for pictures](#) in front of the new U.S. embassy in Jerusalem with Israeli **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**. “Big day for Israel,” **Donald Trump** [tweeted](#). “Congratulations!”*

[Meanwhile](#), just miles away in Gaza, **Yazan Ibraheem Mohammed Al-Tubassi** lay dying after repeatedly being shot by Israeli troops during protests at the Gaza border fence. Elsewhere, relatives of **Taher Ahmed Madi** — another shooting victim — carried his body home from the hospital to prepare for his funeral.

No words can describe the anger and anguish I feel as a Palestinian in America watching this unfold.

Along the Gaza fence, Israeli troops have [gunned down thousands of unarmed Palestinian protesters](#), killing 60 and injuring over 2,700 in a matter of days. Many were teenagers, women, and children.

The protests weren't about the relocation of the U.S. embassy. They began several weeks ago to mark the anniversary of the Nakba, or “catastrophe” — the mass exodus and ethnic cleansing of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians since Israel's founding in 1948.

Every year, while Israelis celebrate the establishment of their state, millions of Palestinians mourn the end to their existence as they knew it.



Source: Shutterstock

For the Trump administration to choose this day for the relocation of the embassy while Palestinians were being murdered just 60 miles away is horrendously cruel. The United States has proven that it isn't only indifferent toward Israel's treatment of Palestinians, but has actively green lit the violence of the past few weeks.

In 1948, my grandparents, whose families had lived in Palestine for hundreds of years, were forced out of the only home they ever knew. Practically overnight, they were made into

refugees and forced to make the almost 200-mile journey to Jordan on foot.

Leaving behind their belongings, family, and memories, they settled in Jordan, hoping the international community would help them one day return to their homes.

My grandparents, who never stopped talking about their life in Palestine, never saw it again. They passed away in Jordan, leaving the key to their house in Palestine with my family. We still have it today, serving as a reminder of our roots — and of the abuse my family and so many others have suffered under Israel.

Still, I'm reminded that my grandparents were fortunate enough to make it out alive. The millions who have been forced into Gaza cannot say the same. They aren't free to come and go as they choose, but remain locked in the world's largest open air prison — cut down if they so much as approach the "border fence" with Israel.

Inside they suffer [unimaginable conditions](#).

Only 10 percent of Gazans have access to safe drinking water, almost half of the population is unemployed, and over 70 percent live in poverty. They get only a few hours of electricity a day. Not to mention the psychological effects of living under siege, and the daily fear of attacks by Israel.

Now, politicians across the U.S. are [voicing their support](#) for the embassy relocation, while other countries announce their decision to [follow America's lead](#).

It's infuriating to see my own country actively condoning brutal violence against my people while other countries sit back and watch. How can Palestinians ever trust a "peace process" led by an administration that degrades them this way?

I keep hearing people say that Gazans need to "protest peacefully" as Israeli snipers gun them down methodically. They're being given two options: Either suffer inhumane treatment or get killed protesting it. It's not much of a choice.

No one would passively accept a life like this. Why should Gazans?

*

Razan Azzarkani is a Palestinian American living in Virginia and working at the Center for Global Policy. Distributed by [OtherWords.org](#).

The original source of this article is [OtherWords](#)
Copyright © [Razan Azzarkani](#), [OtherWords](#), 2018

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Razan Azzarkani](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca