

A Free Palestine

Palestine was **forcibly and violently occupied by the Zionists**, who have no right to the land and homes that they have stolen. Just like the Crusaders before them, **their philosophy is one of violence and intolerance**, particularly towards Muslims and Christians. The land of Palestine can only be free by totally removing this vicious entity, just as Salahuddin ended the Crusader occupation of Jerusalem.

Once this is complete, the just and merciful **Shari'ah of Islam can bring true harmony and peace** to the Holy Land, just as it did for centuries – allowing a harmonious city where Muslims, Jews, and Christians have access to their holy sites, the right to practice their religions, and even to have their own religious courts.

‘From The River To The Sea...’

What does a Muslim Palestine look like?



So how do we achieve this goal of justice? Check out Pamphlet #5 – “How You Can Free Palestine”

Pamphlet #4

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► For decades, activists have made the call for a liberated Palestine, “from the river to the sea”. Recently, **some have made the claim that this is a genocidal chant** made with the intent to remove all Jews from historic Palestine. Others, in an attempt to make the call more moderate, have stated that it’s simply a call for removal of apartheid walls, and freedom of citizenship for Palestinians. **Islam’s solution** for a free Palestine, from the river to the sea, is a unique one which has a **proven record of providing peace and justice** over centuries.

Conquest in Islam

The concept of ‘conquest’ in Islam is most clearly seen through the example of Rasulullah ﷺ. **Quraysh had oppressed the Muslims for years**, boycotting and driving them out of Makkah, and preventing them from visiting the Kaabah. They eventually agreed to a peace treaty with the Muslims, but they breached this treaty as well. In response, the Prophet ﷺ **gathered an army, and marched towards Makkah**. When he ﷺ entered, he announced to the people that they would be safe, telling them,

“Today I will speak to you as Yusuf (AS) spoke to his brothers. I will not harm you and Allah ﷻ will forgive you for He is Merciful and Loving. Go you are free.”

Makkah was conquered **without a bloody battle**.

Centuries later, after Jerusalem had been captured by the Crusaders for 88 years, it was Salahuddin Al-Ayyubi who finally defeated them in the Battle of Hattin. After liberating Al-Quds and Palestine, **Salahuddin gave free pardon to the Christians** living in the city. Only the combatants were asked to leave the city on payment of a nominal ransom – and, in most of the cases, the Sultan provided the ransom money from his own pocket and even provided them transport.

Salahuddin not only **spared the lives of 100,000 Christians**, but also guaranteed their safe departure along with their property and belongings. What is important to understand is that Salahuddin was in a strong position to seek revenge for his people – but he did not go down this route, because **his faith taught him mercy and justice**.

Jerusalem under Islamic Rule

When Umar ibn al-Khattab (ra) conquered Jerusalem in 16 AH, it was the **first time** in the long history of the blessed city that it **changed hands without a bloodbath**. As part of their surrender agreement, the Christians placed a condition that Jews continue to be forbidden to enter Jerusalem, and Umar accepted. However, the treaty signed which was called “al’uhda al’umariyya” (Covenant of Umar) offered members of all faiths safety and protection for their beliefs and their holy places.

Later, **Umar reversed the 400 year Christian ban on Jews**, allowed them to return to Jerusalem and granted Christians free use of their holy sites. Thus, he turned Jerusalem into a city where Jews, Christians, and Muslims lived in tolerance, peace and harmony.

This continued to be the case for centuries, **until the Crusader occupation of Al-Quds**, who did the exact opposite of Umar (ra). They slaughtered Muslims and Jews, before denying them their rights in Al-Quds – until the liberation by Salahuddin.

“ **Christians and Jews, described as the 'People of the Book' in the Quran, found tolerance, security, and freedom in Ottoman lands**

Salahuddin re-instated the Islamic policies which had been implemented by Umar (ra), **allowing Jews and Christians the right to their own places of worship and their own courts**. This policy was continued by Muslims for centuries, as seen, for example, under Ottoman rule – who administered the ‘nation (millet) system’, the fundamental feature of which was that people of different faiths were allowed to live according to their own beliefs and even legal systems.

Christians and Jews, described as the ‘People of the Book’ in the Quran, **found tolerance, security, and freedom in Ottoman lands**. They were considered as dhimmis, or ‘protected persons’, meaning the Islamic State was obligated to protect their lives, properties, and right to practice their religion.