STATEMENTS AND COMMON ARGUMENTS MADE BY ISRAELI LEADERS

* Immediately after the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel conducted a population census in the West Bank. Anyone who was absent on the day of the census lost the right to live in the West Bank.
* About 360,000 Palestinians were ethnically cleansed in 1967, 250,000 from the West Bank, 100,000 from the Golan Heights and 11,000 from the Gaza Strip..
* Israeli Prime Ministers Ben-Gurion, Begin, Shamir, Sharon, Netanyahu and the ruling Likud Party Platform to name but a few sources, have all held that Israel’s eastern border extends to the Jordan River or beyond.
* Former opposition leader Tzipi Livni, laying out Israel’s true motives: “Israel takes more land [so] that the Palestinian state will be impossible . . . the Israel policy is to take more and more land day after day and that at the end of the day we’ll say that is impossible, we already have the land and we cannot create the state.”
* Yuval Diskin, Retired head of Shin Bet (Internal Security Agency): “[The Netanyahu] government has no interest in talking with the Palestinians, period. It certainly has no interest in resolving anything with the Palestinians, period.”

**The reason hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled their homes in 1948 is because they were instructed to do so by the region’s Arab leaders. Therefore, Israel is not responsible for the Palestinian refugee problem:** This argument implies that if Arab leaders had not instructed Palestinians to flee, the Jewish army would have allowed them to stay. If that had been the case there would have been more Palestinians in Israel than Jews, spoiling the Zionist dream of a Jewish state.

From a historical perspective, in 1959 Professor Walid Khalidi proved this claim to be a fabrication. His findings were independently corroborated two years later by Irish scholar and U.N. diplomat, Erskine Childers. By examining the archives of Arab governments and newspapers and the reports of the CIA and BBC, which monitored every Arab radio broadcast of 1948, both men demonstrated that no such instruction had been given. On the contrary, Arab broadcasts appealed to people *not* to leave their homes. When asked by the U.N. to account for this claim, Israel could not produce a single iota of evidence. Disinformation like this has influenced westerners to dismiss the Palestinian people’s al-Nakba or Catastrophe and slander them as propagandists and liars.

**Jews were expelled from Arab countries in approximately the same numbers as Palestinians expelled from what is now Israel:** This argument has been gaining momentum among diehard supporters of Israeli policy. The main thrust of the argument is to demean the suffering of the Palestinian people. Those who promote this argument only care about Jewish suffering. Palestinian suffering is irrelevant. This narcissistic argument makes Palestinians responsible for Jewish emigration from Arab lands, which they had nothing to do with, while ignoring that the emigration was a reaction to Israel’s ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians. The ultra-religious Shas party has admitted that in exploiting this argument its goal is to foil any possible peace deal with the Palestinians.

The fact is that a majority of Mizrahi Jewish emigrants left their homes of their own accord, many because they heeded Israel’s offer of free transportation and housing. Israel recruited many of these émigrés in order to build a solid Jewish majority. Many of them had enough time to gather their possessions. Many were compensated with properties stolen from Palestinians. Those Jews who were expelled and who did lose property have always been free to file claims with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

There is a great deal of evidence that Israel carried out false flag operations in Arab countries in order to scare Arab Jews into immigrating to Israel. In both Cairo and Baghdad and possibly in other Arab cities, Israel’s Mossad planted bombs in Jewish areas so that Jews would fear that Arab terrorists were intent on killing them. It worked. Most Iraqi and Egyptian Jews left their homes and moved to Israel.

**Camp David Summit, 2000:** Here are quotes from two members of the American team at Camp David. Aaron David Miller served six Secretaries of State as advisor on the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Quoting Barak’s chief negotiator at Camp David, Miller said: “in the words of . . . Schlomo Ben-Ami the prime minister’s idea of the concessions required of Israel for such a sweeping accord ‘fell far short of even modest Palestinian expectations.’”

Former ambassador to Israel, Ned Walker, said: “Of the ideas discussed at Camp David . . . there is no way in hell the Palestinian people would have accepted this thing.”

In his book, *The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace,* chief US negotiator, Dennis Ross, who Israeli negotiators considered more pro-Israel than they were and who has been described as “Israel’s lawyer,” published a “Map Reflecting Actual Proposal at Camp David.” The text that accompanies the map states: “While no map was presented during the final rounds at Camp David, this map represents the parameters of what President Clinton proposed and what Arafat rejected: Palestinian control over 91% of the West Bank in contiguous territory and an Israeli security presence along 15% of the border with Jordan. This map actually understates the final Camp David proposal because it does not depict the additional 1% territorial swap that was offered from Israeli territory.”

Ross’s 91% figure is misleading. Former President Jimmy Carter [*Palestine Peace Not Apartheid*] explained that the Clinton proposal (commonly referred to as the Clinton Parameters) was “the best offer to the Palestinians,” better than anything Barak had offered at Camp David. Under its terms, Israel would maintain control of portions of East Jerusalem and the Jordan River valley and Palestinians would have no “direct access eastward into Jordan.” The West Bank would be split “into at least two non-contiguous areas and multiple fragments,” some of which would be uninhabitable or unreachable. And 80 percent of Jewish settlers would remain in 209 settlements on about 10 percent of West Bank land. Carter further explains that “the percentage figure is misleading” because it does not take into account zones with radii of about four hundred meters that surround each settlement and are inaccessible to Palestinians; roadways connecting one settlement to the next and to Jerusalem; “life arteries,” ranging in width from five hundred to four thousand meters, that provide sewage, water, communications and electricity; about one hundred military checkpoints that “block routes going into or between Palestinian communities, combined with an uncountable number of other roads that are permanently closed with large concrete cubes or mounds of earth and rocks.” Even with these inducements, Barak “stated that Israel had twenty pages of reservations.”