



The Old Ones will die, and the Little Ones will forget.....Ben Gurion

(Translation of the Arabic Address)

To all of you; Jerusalemites, Brethrens, country men and women, friends who joined us today to give us support, or who wrote to us in solidarity, to the ones who are denied entry to Jerusalem and who are thinking of us at this very minute: to all of you; thanks for being here.

We are gathered here today to affirm that we belong here, and our houses stand as witness. We are also gathered here to remember brothers and sisters who died on this soil as freedom fighters, or as victims of terror and blind hatred, and, to think of those who were forced to leave their homes, or were tricked into doing so, and were dispersed into the four corners of the world, never to return because they are forbidden to do so by the state of Israel.

We are here today, sixty years later, to speak in our names and in the name of those who were forced to emigrate abroad, and are still not allowed to return. And, in the name of those who are not allowed to enter Jerusalem from neighboring Ramallah and Bethlehem: We are here to say: "This is my Home".

Why? Mainly because our right to return, and, our right to our property are basic individual and collective rights which cannot be annulled by occupation, or by any treaty concluded by proxies.

We are sometimes told that Palestinians who took residency abroad, or, who obtained a citizenship of a foreign country lose their right to return. To those we answer: “look around and see how the Jews are allowed to return according to the Israeli law of return of 1950, though they are citizens of a myriad of other countries.

Our own right of return is guaranteed by UN resolution # 194, which was reissued 135 times. The right to return is kin to the right to private property, and both are not dissolvable by either an Occupying Power, or loss of sovereignty. These same rights were afforded to the Jews after World War II without even a reference to International Law.

In Arabic we say: no right is lost when people are keen on claiming it. In this spirit we would like to affirm the following:

“We still claim our right to return and our right to compensation. The one does not suspend the other. Our individual and group right of return is immutable; no one is able to relinquish it by proxy.

We are also here to reject totally a new “European” attempt to transfer the management of the Palestinian Refugee problem from UNRWA to UNHCR. Because this cancels the role of UNRWA which is specifically stipulated in resolution 194, and equates Palestinian refugees inalienable right to that of a refugee who flees his/her country because of either a flood or a dictatorship.

UNCHR was created after resolution 194 was passed. The International legislatures were quick to exclude the Palestinian refugees from its mandate. Now some European countries are trying to circumvent International Law.