**Submission:** February 4, 2022

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**Organization:** Writer, Israel advocate

**Personal Information:**I am a mother and grandmother who cares about human rights and historical truth.

**NOTE:** This submission should not be understood as endorsing the Inquiry or its mandate. Israel has a right to protect itself, that Israel does not engage in war crimes.

**Issue(s) to which your submission applies:** I will address Issue #1 for the Inquiry:

            The underlying cause of the conflict is that Muslims are currently sovereign in 56 states but one Jewish state, the size of New Jersey, is too much for the 56-member Organization of the Islamic Conference to accept.

            The Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel – they are not occupiers. Jews are called Jews because they are indigenous to the land called JUDEA, which in modern times has been renamed the West Bank.

            The assertion that Palestinian Arabs are the indigenous population is central in their dispute with Israel. The message is that Jews stole and now occupy the land of the indigenous Arab population.

            However, thousands of Arabs are NOT indigenous to the land and arrived only after the Jews began to return to their ancestral homeland in the 19th and 20th century. Robert Kennedy noted in his articles published in the Boston Post after his visit to the Middle East in March 1948 that, “The Jews point with pride to the fact that over 500,000 Arabs in the 12 years between 1932 and 1944 came into Palestine to take advantage of living conditions existing in no other Arab state. This is the only country in the Near and Middle East where an Arab middle class is in existence.” <http://robertkennedyandisrael.blogspot.com/>

            West Bank phone books are filled with Arab place-surnames that attest to Palestinian places of origin. For example, al-Masri means from Egypt, Khamis means from Bahrain, al-Ajami means the Iranian, al-Shami means the Syrian, al-Lubnani means the Lebanese, etc.

            One only needed to have resided in Israel for 2 years before 1948, to be considered a refugee. Even UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, took into account, that many Arabs were simply going home in 1948, by defining Palestine refugees as “persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948.”

               Israel is the cradle of Jewish civilization. When Palestine becomes a state, it will be the 57th Muslim, 22nd Arab state in the world today. It's fine to support an independent Palestinian state - many of us do including me, but please don't support the demise of the world's only Jewish state, which is and has always been the plan of the Muslim states that today make up the 56-nation majority voting bloc in the United Nations.