

**Submission to the UN Human Rights Council “Commission of Inquiry” on Israel  
created May 27, 2021 by resolution A/HRC/RES/S-30/1**

**Organization:** HARIF on behalf of the descendants of Jewish refugees from the Middle East and North Africa – victims of Arab and Iranian discrimination and repression on the basis of Jewish identity.

**Biography:** HARIF is a UK charity representing Jews from North Africa and the Middle East (UK no.1186454), and dedicated to promoting their history, culture and heritage. Over 2,000 years of history in the Middle East and North Africa came to an abrupt and tragic end just 50 years ago. Jews departed for Israel and the West, leaving an enormous cultural and economic void behind. In another 20 years, few Jews who were born in these countries will still be alive. A vital chapter of Jewish identity, history and culture – an entire civilisation – will be lost. HARIF is here to make sure it is not forgotten.

**Issues to which our submission applies:**

- (1) “Underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict in and between the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem [*sic*], and Israel; as well as systematic discrimination and repression based on national, ethnic, racial or religious identity;”
- (2) “Facts and circumstances regarding alleged violations of international humanitarian law and alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law leading up to and since 13 April 2021;”
- (3) “Identification of those responsible;”

**Submission:** (This submission itself does not constitute an endorsement of the “Commission of Inquiry” or its mandate.)

**Abuses of human rights**

**Jews ‘collectively punished’ as ‘Jewish minority of Palestine’**

State-sanctioned persecution by Arab League (See NY Times of 16 May 1948)

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

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FIFTEEN

## JEWS IN GRAVE DANGER IN ALL MOSLEM LAND

By MALLORY BROWNE  
Special to The New York Times

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., May 15—For nearly four months, the United Nations has had before it an appeal for "immediate and urgent" consideration of the case of the Jewish populations in Arab and Moslem countries stretching from Morocco to India.

Even four months ago, it was the Zionist view that Jews residing in the Near and Middle East were in "extreme and imminent danger." Now that the end of the mandate has precipitated civil war or even worse developments in Palestine, it is feared that the repercussions of this in Moslem countries will put the Jewish populations in many of these states in mortal peril.

Reports from the Middle East make it clear that there is serious tension in all Arab countries. The Jewish populations there are gravely worried at the prospect that an Arab-Jewish war may

### Nine Hundred Thousand in Africa and Asia Face Wrath of Their Foes



servants in the employ of the Syrian Government have been charged. Freedom of movement has been "practically abolished" and frontier posts have been established to control movement of Jews.

In Iraq no Jew is permitted to leave the country unless he has a permit worth \$5,000 (\$20,000) and the Government will guarantee his return. No foreign Jew is permitted to enter Iraq even in transit.

In Lebanon Jews have been forced to contribute financially to the fight against the United Nations partition resolution of 1947. Acts of violence against Jews are openly admitted by the Government, which accuses Jews of "poisoning wells," etc.

#### Danger Emphasized

Giving many other details of the situation, this report declares "the very survival of the Jewish communities in certain A

### Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries

### Arab League Draft Law regarding Jews in Arab Countries

1947

[https://zionism-israel.com/hdoc/Arab\\_League\\_Law\\_Jews.htm](https://zionism-israel.com/hdoc/Arab_League_Law_Jews.htm)

As reported in a 1948 New York Times article by Mallory Browne, Jews in Arab countries faced great perils when Israel became a state. Arab League countries contemplated discriminatory laws against their own Jewish citizens reminiscent of the Nazi Nuremberg laws. On Jan. 19, 1948, the World Jewish Congress submitted a memorandum on the whole problem to the Economic and Social Council, asking for urgent action during the spring session of the Council.

Three years after the Holocaust had wiped out European Jews, Arab countries seemed to be threatening to wipe out Asian and North African Jews. Apparently, the report was "debated," but no decisions were taken.

Below are excerpts from the draft law, provided by Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC). The law itself was apparently not adopted by the Arab League or by Muslim countries in that form; however, many Arab countries did adopt draconic discriminatory measures against their Jewish citizens, as well as ensuring that anti-Semitic sentiment and actions became unbearable. Jews were forced to flee to other countries either at the time the state of Israel was created, or in the subsequent decades. Of a population of about 900,000, only tiny and scattered communities remain. In Egypt, there are a few hundred Jews at most. In Afghanistan there is one Jew. In Morocco, a few thousand.

Ami Isseroff

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## Text of the Law Drafted by the Political Committee of the Arab League

### Summary

In 1947, the Political Committee of the Arab League (League of Arab States) drafted a law which was to govern the legal status of Jewish residents in all Arab League countries. This law had already been approved by Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, provided that, "beginning with a specified date, all Jews – with the exception of citizens of non-Arab countries – were to be considered members of the Jewish 'minority state of Palestine,' and that their bank account be frozen and used to finance resistance to 'Zionist ambitions in Palestine.' Jews believed to be active Zionists would be interned as political prisoners and their assets confiscated. Only Jews who accept active service in Arab armies or place themselves at the disposal of these armies would be considered 'Arabs.'" <sup>1</sup>

### Excerpts of Direct Quotes of the Law drafted by the Political Committee of the Arab League

- "All Jewish citizens...will be considered as members of the Jewish minority of the State of Palestine and will have to register ["within 7 days"] with the authorities of the region wherein they reside, giving their names, the exact number of members in their families, their addresses, the names of their banks and the amounts of their deposits in these banks..."<sup>2</sup>
- "Bank accounts of Jews will be frozen. These funds will be utilized in part or in full to finance the movement of resistance to Zionist ambitions in Palestine."<sup>3</sup>
- "Only Jews who are subjects of foreign countries will be considered 'neutrals.' These will be compelled either to return to their countries, with a minimum of delay, or be considered Arabs and obliged to accept active service in the Arab army."<sup>4</sup>
- "Every Jew whose activities reveal that he is an active Zionist will be considered as a political prisoner and will be interned in places specifically designated for that purpose by police authorities or by the Government. His financial resources, instead of being frozen, will be confiscated."<sup>5</sup>
- "Any Jew who will be able to prove that his activities are anti-Zionist will be free to act as he likes, provided that he declares his readiness to join the Arab armies."<sup>6</sup>

- “The foregoing...does not mean that those Jews will not be submitted to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this law.”<sup>7</sup>

1 Memorandum Submitted to the U.N. Economic and Social Council by the World Jewish Congress. (Jan. 19, 1948) Section I. (2) a. June 2, 1948. [ZlIC - This reference is in the document prepared by JJAC and is probably incorrect]

2 Text of the Law drafted by the Political Committee of the Arab League. Paragraph 1.

3 *ibid.* Paragraph 2.

4 *ibid.* Paragraph 3.

5 *ibid.* Paragraph 5.

6 *ibid.* Paragraph 6.

7 *ibid.* Paragraph 7. (Paragraph 1 & 2 indicate all Jews must register and disclose personal and banking information and that bank accounts will be frozen and utilized for anti-Zionist resistance.)