



Reflecting on Nakba, Embracing Pentecost

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Testimony from Shadin Nassar, Tent of Nations

The Nakba did not end in 1948, it only began. The ethnic cleansing and forcible mass displacement of Palestinians became a strategy employed by Israel to expand its sovereignty and territoriality. Today, Israel continues to expropriate large tracts of Palestinian lands, displacing the Palestinian population and forcing them into shrinking civilian enclaves in favor of building illegal settlements housing settlers, which constitutes a grave breach of its legal obligations as an occupying power under international law. This system has entrenched spatial hierarchies that favor the settlers and reproduce the colonized. Nonviolent resistance, as embraced by Palestinians, is a strategy rooted in the principle of steadfastness, or "Sumud" in Arabic. At its core, Sumud embodies resilience, perseverance, and a commitment to justice. It serves as a reminder of the connection to the land, culture, and identity in the face of occupation, displacement, and systemic injustices. This approach has deep roots and has long been practiced by Palestinians, it also highlights the power imbalance between the occupied and the occupier, the colonized and the colonizer, with Palestinians using their collective presence and moral authority to challenge oppressive colonial policies and practices. As 76 years have passed, it is not enough to passively stand in solidarity with the Palestinian cause, but amplify the Palestinian voice and struggle, and demand an end to the ongoing Nakba.