

## **Resolution to Commemorate 75 Years of Nakba and Rectify NLG History on Palestine**

*Submitted by : Charlotte Kates, [charlotte.kates@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.kates@gmail.com) and Suzanne Adely, [suzanne.adely@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.adely@gmail.com)*

Whereas, in 1948, 75 years ago, Palestine was cleansed of, at least, 75% of its indigenous Arab Palestinian population, in an on-going genocide, by Zionist forces seeking to establish the exclusivist colonial-settler state of Israel, an event known as al-Nakba (the Catastrophe) among Arab Palestinians; this took place through a deliberate, planned and militarily executed policy of the expulsion of over 800,000 Palestinians from their homes, lands, and properties in 78% of historic Palestine, the attempted destruction of Palestinian national identity and culture, and the imposition of military rule over the vast majority of historic Palestine, and over the objections and without the consent of the indigenous Arab people of Palestine, and

Whereas, the Nakba was followed in 1967 by al-Naksa, when the remaining 22% of historic Palestine, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as the Syrian Golan Heights and the Egyptian Sinai, were placed under Israeli military occupation, in an aggressive military assault which resulted in another wave of Palestinian refugees, with arms and materiel support by the United States, and

Whereas, a 1948 National Lawyers Guild resolution expressly supported the Zionist forces, including, the Zionist militia, the Haganah, by seeking to: “allow the shipment of arms to those [Zionist] forces within and without Palestine” and “equip Haganah and other recognized co-operating forces...to defend the Jewish State and help implement the partition plan.” This 1948 resolution also reveals the NLG “sent a delegation to the UN Security Council to...declare the actions of the Arab states a threat to peace” and “demand Britain [hand over their] strategic positions” to “local [Zionist] militia...to prevent Arab infiltration of men and arms into Palestine.”

Whereas, this 1948 NLG resolution sought to permit U.S. based Zionists to travel to Palestine to fight with Zionist forces against the indigenous Palestinian Arab population. The NLG adopted a further resolution in 1950, buttressing its 1948 resolution by “deploring US policy to prohibit arms sales to Israel,” and

Whereas, in the ensuing years, the National Lawyers Guild, due to the efforts of its Arab and Palestinian members, as well as many people of conscience of all backgrounds in the Guild, has engaged in significant work to expose, challenge and confront the occupation of Palestine and U.S. support for Israeli occupation and Zionism, and

Whereas, in 1977, Abdeen Jabara led the first NLG delegation to Palestine, Syria, and Jordan, which issued a groundbreaking report for its time highlighting the human rights violations targeting the Palestinian Arab population, and

Whereas, in 2001, the NLG again issued another significant human rights report on occupied Palestine, becoming one of the first Western legal organizations to use the term “apartheid” to describe the Israeli regime, in the same year as the Durban Conference Against Racism widely publicized this description and legal analysis, and

Whereas, in 2007, the NLG adopted a resolution in support of boycott and divestment from Israel, as well as its updated resolution in support of boycott, divestment and sanctions in 2019, and

Whereas, the NLG has now established a policy of clearly and unequivocally condemning Israeli state and colonial violence against the Palestinian people from Gaza to Jerusalem, in the West Bank and throughout historical Palestine and escalating our pursuit for legal accountability for Israeli colonial violence, ethnic cleansing, ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the crime of apartheid, in our global and local legal institutions, and

Whereas, the NLG has clear positions on upholding the right to return for Palestinian refugees, demanding the liberation of all Palestinian political prisoners, affirming and protecting the legal right of Palestinians to resist the colonizing power that seeks to annihilate them, defending the Palestinian community under attack in the United States, and demanding an end to U.S. aid to Israel,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the National Lawyers Guild apologizes unconditionally to the Arab Palestinian people, Nakba survivors, and all victims of Zionist colonization in Palestine for the NLG’s support for Al-Nakba and the illegal occupation of Palestine in 1948 by actively seeking to arm and support Zionist forces in 1948 and 1950, and

Be it further resolved, that the NLG officially rescinds the 1948 and 1950 resolutions mentioned herein, and

Be it further resolved, that the NLG will officially commemorate al-Nakba each year on May 15, through statements and actions, and

Be it finally resolved, that the NLG will fulfill its commitments above through active engagement with Palestinian communities and the Palestine solidarity movement in the United States, in

occupied Palestine and internationally, for the liberation of Palestine and its people from the river to the sea.

*Implementation of this resolution will be undertaken by the International Committee, which consents to this.*