



## **Palestine Facts**

[US CUTS UNESCO FUNDS AFTER PALESTINE VOTE, 2011](#)

[PALESTINIANS BID FOR UN MEMBERSHIP, 2011](#)

[GEOGRAPHY & POPULATION BASICS](#)

[EARLY HISTORY OF PALESTINE](#)

[HISTORY THROUGH WORLD WAR I TO THE BRITISH MANDATE](#)

[PALESTINE DURING THE BRITISH MANDATE](#)

[INDEPENDENT STATE OF ISRAEL](#)

[ISRAEL FROM 1948 THROUGH 1967](#)

[ISRAEL FROM 1967 THROUGH 1991](#)

[ISRAEL FROM 1991 THROUGH THE PRESENT](#)

[FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)

[SEARCH PALESTINE FACTS](#)

## **KFAR KASSEM INCIDENT IN 1956**

### **What happened at the Arab village of Kfar Kassem in 1956?**

On October 29, 1956, on the eve of the [Sinai Campaign](#), the Israeli army ordered all Israeli Arab villages near the Jordanian border placed under a wartime curfew that was to apply from 5 p.m. until 6 a.m. the next day. Any Arab on the streets was to be shot. The order was given to Israeli Border Police units at 3:30 before most of the Arabs from the villages could be notified. Many of them were at work at the time.

At Kfar Kassem, villagers began to arrive from work to their homes after the curfew. Israeli Border Police opened fire on them. A total of 47 Israeli Arabs were killed (some sources say 51 dead). The news of the killings was censored and the general Israeli public did not learn what happened until several weeks later when Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion announced the findings of a secret inquiry. The event was shocking to the Israeli public who demanded, and got, a full investigation. Prime Minister Ben Gurion said the act, “struck at the holiest principles of human morality”, perhaps reminded of Nazis who claimed they were “just following orders”.

The extensive investigation revealed that the local commander had issued an illegal order. As a result, about two years after the event, eleven border policemen were charged with crimes and eight were convicted of murder on the grounds that it is immoral to fire on unarmed civilians and no possible military order could justify that act. Among the convicted were the unit's commander who had instructed his soldiers to “kill anyone who violated the curfew.” Major Meilinki and Lt. Daham were sentenced: the former to 17 years and the latter to 15 years. Those who were imprisoned had their terms reduced; no one served more than three and a half years in jail.

The Israeli Supreme Court made a new ruling on the right and duty of soldiers to disobey unlawful orders. That ruling has been incorporated into Israeli martial law. On the 43rd anniversary of the incident (1999), Israeli civics teachers were instructed to lead a one-hour discussion on Kfar Kassem in their classes. Israel wants its future soldiers to understand the need to identify and disobey an illegal order in accordance with the Supreme Court ruling.

In contrast to Israel's Arab opponents, Israel takes the responsibility to protect civilians non-combatants very seriously indeed. Kafr Kassem has not been forgotten by Palestinian Arabs who refer to it inaccurately as a purposeful massacre. Israelis have not forgotten it either, as an example of a continuing need for a disciplined army, directed by civilian authority, that will live up to the high moral standards of the country.

**Note:** Many possible spellings: Kafr al-Qassem, Kufur-, Kufur-, Kafr-, Qassem, Qassim, Kassem, Kassem, ...

 [iRemember](#) | [Daily News](#) | [أجر الأخبار والتحديثات](#) | [Images](#) | [Videos](#) | [BLOGGERS & ACTIVISM](#) | [Specials](#) | [REPORTS](#) | [Posts](#)

[Occupied Palestine](#) | [BLOGGING 4 HUMAN RIGHTS & LIBERATION OF PALESTINE!](#) | [Jihad brigades Resistance warn Israel over 'truce violations'](#) <http://t.co/oVFmyVpV> #palestine [19 minutes ago](#)  
[I am Photos Aqsa Settler Terror All Attacks #PalHunger #GazaUnderAttack](#)

## Kafr Kassem massacre could not be forgotten by statute of limitations

🕒 October 31, 2012 by [occupiedpalestine](#)

[\[ PIC 30/10/2012 - 12:41 PM \]](#)



NAZARETH, (PIC)– The Palestinians of occupied territories in 1948 and the people of Kafar Kassem city could not forget the massacre where they remained steadfast despite the Israeli attempts to expel them.

Fifty-six years have passed since the heinous massacre committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the people of Kafr Kassem town, an Arab village located on the border of 1948-occupied Palestine with the West Bank.

On October 29, 1956, the Israeli army ordered that all Arab villages near the Jordanian border be placed under a wartime curfew. The order was given to border police to 'shoot on sight' any villagers violating the curfew before most of the Arabs from the villages could be notified. Any Arab on the streets was shot despite that many of them were at work at the time.

The Israeli decision resulted in 49 Arab civilians dead, including women, children and elderly people.

Kafar Kassem's villagers and the Palestinians of 1948 occupied territories did not forget what Prime Minister Golda Meir said commenting on the brutal killing by Israeli occupation soldiers: "The old will die and the young will forget."

However, the village's residents did not forget the massacre and they mark its anniversary each year by not going to work, marching through the village's streets holding the martyrs' pictures and reading poems commemorating the martyrs of the massacre.

Legally based, the human rights organizations believe that the massacre is a war crime could not be subject to any statute of limitations, where calls are increasing for the prosecution of the occupation on the massacre as an ugly war crime carried out by the occupation forces.

At that time, the Israeli court had fined those who committed the massacre for only one penny in total disdain for humanity as a whole, the fact that could not be tolerated over time.

The people of the village of Kafr Kassem, along with all Palestinians of 1948 occupied territories mark each year the anniversary of the massacre of Kafr Kassem, which took place on 29 October, 1956, killing 49 Palestinians, including women and children without mercy or pity.

(end)

## RELATED

Remembering The Israeli Massacre In Kafr Qasim – Oct 29, 1956 – [Overview & Testimonies](#)  
All Israeli massacres - [Overview](#)



## Kfar Kassem

(October 29, 1956)

---

On October 29, 1956, on the eve of the [Sinai Campaign](#), the Israeli army ordered all Israeli Arab villages near the Jordanian border placed under a wartime curfew that was to apply from 5 p.m. until 6 a.m. the next day. Any Arab on the streets was to be shot. The order was given to the Israeli border police at 3:30 before most of the Arabs from the villages could be notified. Many of them were at work at the time. Villagers began to arrive from work to their homes in Kfar Kassem and Israeli troops opened fire on them. A total of 47 Israeli Arabs were killed. The news of the killings was censored and the general Israeli public did not learn what happened until several weeks later when Prime Minister [David Ben-Gurion](#) announced the findings of a secret inquiry. Eleven border policemen were eventually charged with crimes and eight were convicted. Those who were imprisoned had their terms reduced; no one served more than three and a half years in jail. The brigade commander received a symbolic penalty — a fine of 10 *prutot* (a coin equal to 1/1000 of an old Israeli pound).

In 2006, Israel's Education Minister, [Yuli Tamir](#), ordered schools to commemorate the event. In addition, the mayor of Kfar Kassem announced plans to open a museum commemorating the massacre.

---

Source: Shipler, David. *Arab and Jew*. NY: Penguin Books, 1987; *Haaretz*, (October 25, 2006)

