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Israeli Declaration of Independence, Issued at Tel Aviv on May 14, 1948

The land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious, and national identity was formed. Exiled from Palestine, the Jewish people remained faithful to it, never stopping to pray and hope for their return.

Jews strove throughout the centuries to go back to the land of their fathers and regain their statehood. In recent decades they returned in masses. In the year 1897 the First Zionist Congress proclaimed the right of Jewish people to national revival in their own country.

This right was acknowledged by the Balfour Declaration in 1917. The Nazi holocaust, which engulfed millions of Jews in Europe, proved the urgency of the re-establishment of the Jewish state. This would solve the problem of Jewish homelessness and persecution.

In 1947, the United Nations adopted a resolution for the establishment of an independent Jewish State in Palestine. It is the self-evident right of the Jewish people to be a nation, as all other nations, in its own State.

Accordingly, We, the members of the National Council, representing the Jewish people in Palestine and the Zionist movement of the world, proclaim the establishment of the Jewish State in Palestine, to be called Israel.

The State of Israel will be open to the immigration of Jews from all countries of the world. It will be based on the ideas of liberty, justice, and peace taught by the Hebrew Prophets. It will uphold the full social and political equality of all its citizens, without distinction of race, creed, or sex. It will guarantee full freedom of worship, education and culture.

In the midst of wanton aggression, we call upon the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to return to the ways of peace and play their part in the development of the State, with full and equal citizenship and due representation in its bodies and institutions.

Our call goes out to the Jewish people around the world to rally to our side in the task of immigration and development. Stand by us in the struggle for the fulfillment of the dream of generations—the redemption of Israel.