*The* 1967 *War was over*

*All the land of Palestine was occupied*

*In every patch of land there was a tragedy   
In every house a sad old man*

*In every village there was poverty*

*And in every camp an orphaned child!   
They reckoned the case was over*

*And thought they had gotten rid of us   
Once and for all!*

*They thought that after all the suffering   
We had lost our patience*

*Or given up our steadfastness.*

*A million times did we tell them:*

*No to Camp David*

A million NOs to it and to all those behind it

No to autonomy:

It is futile and deformed!

No to elections

They take our rights away

They replace our rulers

And divide us more and more.

Our demand is one:

An independent state

That only-will last forever

FORMATIVE STAGES OF THE INTIFADA

The formative stages of the popular uprising (intifada), which erupted on 9 December 1987, emanate from the forty years of national deprivation and from the twenty years of Israeli occupation and the Israeli policies that aimed to terminate the existence of Palestinian people on their land. The roots of the intifada go far back to the establishment of the all-Jewish state of Israel on the land of Palestine, which completely excluded all others. The Zionist founders of the State of Israel simply denied the rights of any other people in Palestine in order to justify the existence of their own state and to be able to maintain its security. Israel's refusal of UN Security Council Resolution 194, which called for the repatriation of Palestinian refugees, as well as other resolutions, was a reflection of the Israeli policy of rejecting and denying Palestinian national rights. The multitude of laws of the Israeli occupation (totaling over a thousand) were not only aimed at keeping the Palestinians under Israeli rule and deprived of their rights and enslaved to Israel but were also aimed to humiliate them and strip off their identity and keep them under inhumane circumstances.

For Palestinians, Palestine embodies their humanity. The intifada was merely a means for them to reclaim their humanity, and for years since the occupation it was an eruption just awaiting the suitable historical moment to

go off Palestine disappeared from the political map after 1948 when Israel was established on around 80 percent of the land area of Palestine and after the annexation of the West Bank to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt.



Immediate Cause of the Intifada

On 8 December 1987, just one day before the eruption of the intifada, an Israeli truck driver in Gaza deliberately hit an Arab car, killing several of its passengers and seriously wounding the others. The next day, over 6,000 people from Jabalia refugee camp, from which three of the people killed in the truck accident had come, participated in the funeral procession. The procession turned into a huge demonstration. As usual, the Israeli military forces met the demonstrators with live ammunition, tear-gas bombs, beating, and arrest. Scores of demonstrators were injured and one was killed; Hatem Al-Seesi was the first martyr of the intifada. When news of this incident leaked out, sweeping demonstrations erupted all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

SPONTANEITY OF THE INTIFADA

The intifada erupted spontaneously and without any central organization or interference from the Palestinian Liberation Organization. It had no preset plans, though there was a widespread desire among all the Palestinians to overthrow Israeli rule in the territories occupied in 1967. Very soon, however, the intifada had a national command representing the popular and revolutionary committees in all cities, villages, and camps. This leadership comprised the four major factions of the PLO: Farah, the Popular Front, the Democratic Front, and the Communist Party

The Palestinians were totally convinced that the road of continued struggle was the only means available to them to end Israeli occupation to establish their independent state, and to achieve their right of self-determination. The Palestinians were looking forward to the time

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| THE INTIFADA IN PALESTINIAN FOLK SONGS  The demands of the intifada were reflected in Palestinian folk songs:  *The demand for self-determination*  *The right of return and the state*  *Through the Intifoda we go*  *To the International conference*  The intifada did not resort to military power. In fact, the militarization of the intifada was rejected by the entire popular forces. This is portrayed by the following folk song:  *Demonstrations and confrontation* | *Graffiti writing and hanging flags*  *The Intifada is moving forward*  *It is continuing and getting stronger*  The intifada clearly condemned the position of the United States and its bias to Israel. According to one folk song:  *To the American veto, the Zionist says:*  *"You are my partner!"*  *O my comrade sing with me*  *No for imperialism*  Although the intifada was totally nonviolent, Israel responded with very cruel oppressive measures, including bone breaking, expulsion, and imprisonment without charge or trial. |

Results of the Intifada

The continuous struggle of the intifada yielded a strong political position for the Palestinians and the Palestine Liberation Organization. The intifada was considered an attrition war against the occupation. As such the intifada resulted in the loss of Israeli lives and damage to the Israeli economy, in addition to the negative effect on the morale of the Israelis.

More significant, the intifada put the Palestinian question on the agenda of the United Nations as an issue to be resolved urgently. Equally important, the intifada reinforced the position of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a symbol of struggle and as the representative of the Palestinian people after it had been displaced and weakened by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

THE INTIFADA BEGINS

On December 8, 1987, an Israeli truck crashed into a Palestinian car in Gaza and four Palestinian passengers were killed. The Palestinians claimed that the collision was intentional-that it was malicious murder. At the funeral of those killed, the crowd attacked an IDF post in Gaza and threw stones; the rioting resumed the next day and continued over subsequent days. This incident is said to have marked the start of the Palestinian war against Israel: the *intifada* (uprising).

The intifada initially featured throwing stones and Molotov cocktails at IDF soldiers and vehicles, crowds gathering to confront the IDF in Gaza, blocked streets, snatched weapons, and so forth, on a daily basis. The intifada was initially driven by Palestinian women and children.

SPONTANEITY OF THE INTIFADA

The intifada came as a surprise to Israel, Jordan, and even the PLO. Each side, in its own manner, crafted a response to this new phenomenon. The IDF was forced to overhaul its policies and the conduct of its soldiers in the occupied territories. The army was not suitably equipped to deal with serious mass protests involving stones and Molotov cocktails thrown at soldiers. The Palestinians (including teenagers and children) showed great courage and attacked soldiers on the street, in their armored vehicles and at their military outposts. The surprise was so great that an appropriate response to the Palestinians' irregular methods of warfare was not found. Because they were reluctant to use force against men, women, and children who fought only with stones, the soldiers found themselves in dangerous situations: surrounded, under attack, and wounded, sometimes totally helpless.

Results of the Intifada

The intifada was a turning point in the relations between Israel and the Palestinian people. For the first time, the two peoples stood face-to-face as partners in the necessity to resolve the conflict between them. This accelerated the opening of channels of dialogue between the two peoples, which eventually led to the signing of the Oslo Accords.

