**Pakistan will not recognise Israel**

[**Masud Ahmad Khan**](https://nation.com.pk/Columnist/masud-ahmad-khan)

May 18, 2021

It was the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917 where Britain publicly pledged to establish a national home for Jews in Palestine after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. As a result, a large-scale migration of Jews into Palestine took place. Some 750,000 Palestinians were expelled from their homes and the declaration set the stage for the full-scale ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

After being created a Jewish state, it fought its first war in 1948, followed by the 1956 occupation of Gaza strip and Sinai Peninsula. In 1967, Israel fought a six-day war with its neighbours, then a war of attrition in 1968 with Egypt. In 1973, Egyptian forces crossed the Suez Canal and attacked Israel, which resulted in the occupation of some Arab land and Israel expanded her border to the Suez Canal and river Jordan and also occupied Golan Heights and East Jerusalem. During the 1967 and 1973 wars, Pakistan fighter pilots shot down 10 Israeli fighter jets while fighting for Syria and Egypt.

[French media praises Burak Yilmaz for leading Lille to Ligue 1 title](https://nation.com.pk/24-May-2021/french-media-praises-burak-yilmaz-for-leading-lille-to-ligue-1-title)

On March 26, 1979 Israel and Egypt signed the famous peace treaty in Camp David (US) and Israeli forces vacated Sinai Peninsula. Egypt was first Arab country to recognise Israel followed by Jordan in 1994 and recently by the UAE and Bahrain. After the creation of the Israeli state, the founding Prime Minister David Ben Gurion sent a telegram to Quaid-e-Azam to establish diplomatic relations with Pakistan. No response was given to this telegram by Quaid-e-Azam. In 1950, during the visit of the first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan to the US, the premier was promised all possible military and economic assistance in case Pakistan recognised Israel.

Pakistan has denounced Israel since its inception in 1948. A Pakistani cannot visit the Jewish state because its passport is “valid for all countries of the world except Israel”. The Israeli cooperation with India is at its peak since February 1950, when India recognised Israel. Israel in collaboration with India planned an attack against Pakistan’s nuclear facility in Kahuta. According to Israel Defence, Israel went as far as building a complete model of the Kahuta facility in Negev desert in south Israel to train its pilot. The attack was planned from Jamnagar in Gujrat (India) however, it did not materialise when Pakistan conveyed that this move will be taken as an act of war.

[Pakistan set to introduce home-made 'PakVac' COVID vaccine](https://nation.com.pk/24-May-2021/pakistan-set-to-introduce-home-made-pakvac-covid-vaccine)

Again in 1998 there were reports that Pakistan spotted Israeli F-16s in the air days before the nuclear tests of May 1998 were carried out. Indian Mirage jets, which attacked Balakot’s trees, were armed with Israeli made SPICE 2000 smart missiles. During the Pakistan-India standoff, famous journalist Robert Fisk wrote in The Independent, “Israel is playing a big role in India’s escalating conflict with Pakistan”. Turkey was the first Muslim country in 1949 to recognise the state of Israel and both countries gave priority to their trade and diplomatic ties. With Erdogan in power, Turkey is now distancing itself from Israel and according to Erdogan, Israel is a threat to peace in the region.

There has been a shift in the Arab world’s approach in recent years. The Arab states are normalising their relations with Israel for political and economic gains. Recently the UAE and Bahrain established diplomatic relations with Israel and some other Arab countries are also likely to recognise Israel. During the time of Saudi King Abdullah, he gave the “land for peace formula” which was widely appreciated. According to the plan, Arab countries would recognise Israel after its withdrawal from the occupied territories including East Jerusalem; and a just settlement of the Palestine refugee crises.

[Pak rejects speculations over presence of US military, air base inside country](https://nation.com.pk/24-May-2021/pak-rejects-speculations-over-presence-of-us-military-air-base-inside-country)

According to a recent survey published in TRT World conducted by the Qatar-run Arab Center of Research and Policy Studies; 88 percent of Arabs disapprove of the recognition of Israel. The survey was conducted across 13 Arab states from November 2019 to September 2020.

Pakistan and Israel are two countries in the world created in the name of religion, Pakistan for Islam and Israel for Judaism.

On several occasions Prime Minister Imran Khan has made it clear that “unless a just settlement of the Palestine issue is found according to the wishes of Palestinians, Pakistan could not recognise Israel”. On another occasion, Imran Khan made it clear that “our policy on Israel is clear. Quaid-e-Azam had said that Pakistan can never accept the state of Israel until the people of Palestine get rights and an independent state”. Recently, the spokesperson of the ministry of foreign affairs refuted baseless speculations regarding the possibility of recognition by Pakistan. Famous Indian political commentator AG Noorani, in one of his articles, has mentioned a statement made by Ben Gurion “why should the Arabs make peace? If I was an Arab leader I would never make terms with Israel. That is natural; we have taken their country”. Unless the Palestine issue is addressed it is impossible for Pakistan to recognise Israel. Pakistan will only recognise Israel after the establishment of an independent Palestine state with Jerusalem as its capital.