

Jews are an indigenous people of the Middle East having lived in the region continuously for millennia, fully one thousand five hundred years before the advent of Islam.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the breadth and scale of the near-total displacement of Jews from eleven Muslim countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf region ranks among the more significant cases of mass displacement in modern history.

For over 75 years, the world has ignored the uprooting of Jews from the Arab totalitarian regimes, dictatorships and monarchies. Under Muslim rule, Jews were subjected to a wide-spread pattern of persecution. Official decrees enacted by Arab regimes denied human and civil rights to Jews and other minorities; expropriated their property; stripped them of their citizenship; and means of livelihood. Jews were often victims of murder; arbitrary arrest and detention; torture; and expulsions.

From the 1,000,000 Jews in 1948 based in 10 Arab countries plus Iran, to-day, less than 1% remain. Most fled to Israel, the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people for millennia.

The legitimate call to secure rights and redress for Jewish refugees from Arab countries is not to negate the suffering or the rights of Palestinian refugees. Their claims, however, do not supersede the fact that Palestinians were not the only Middle East refugees.

For peace in the Middle East, truth and justice must prevail.

To that end, eleven Country Reports have been prepared to document the history and heritage, as well as the individual and communal assets lost by Jews displaced from 10 Arab countries and Iran. This second Report is on the Jews of Iraq.

In the spirit of the Abraham Accords, at a time of historic breakthroughs in political and economic ties between Muslim countries and Israel/Jews, the time has come for nations to unite in promoting peace and reconciliation among all peoples in the Region.

### **History of the Jewish Community of Egypt**

Egypt has played a significant role in Jewish history, with a continuous Jewish presence dating back to biblical times. Jewish communities thrived under Hellenistic, Roman, and early Islamic rule, particularly in Alexandria, which housed the largest urban Jewish population of antiquity.

Under Ottoman rule (1517–1798), Jewish immigrants from Spain revitalized Egypt's Jewish community, playing key roles in commerce and administration. However, discriminatory policies, such as the enforcement of distinctive clothing, continued. The 19th-century modernization of Egypt under Muhammad Ali and his successors improved the legal status of Jews, culminating in British rule (1882–1936), which granted Jews full civil rights and fostered economic growth. By the early 20th century, Egypt's Jewish population expanded due to immigration, reaching nearly 60,000. Jews who contributed significantly to Egypt's economy, establishing businesses, banks, and infrastructure.

However, rising Egyptian nationalism, combined with tensions over Palestine, led to increasing hostility toward Jews. The 1945 anti-Jewish riots and Egypt's participation in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war marked the beginning of Jewish expulsion. The 1956 Suez Crisis intensified persecution, with mass arrests, expulsions, and property confiscations. By the late 1950s, most Egyptian Jews had fled.

The Six-Day War (1967) resulted in the imprisonment and expulsion of the last major group of Jews, reducing the community to a few hundred. By the early 1970s, Jewish life in Egypt had virtually disappeared. Today, only a handful of elderly Jews remain, marking the near-total extinction of a centuries-long Jewish presence in Egypt.

### **Economic Analysis of The Jews of Egypt**

One purpose of this project is to provide a detailed and comprehensive appraisal and valuation of individual and communal property left behind by Jews displaced from Arab countries.

JJAC compiled the best evidence available on the scope of lost Jewish assets. This process included a thorough and comprehensive review of available documentation, discussions with community leaders and subject-matter experts, the collection of testimonial data, an analysis of each Jewish community's place within their respective country, and a consideration of previous valuation attempts.

This project's goal was to consider the totality of Egyptian Jews' financial losses, including their rural assets, urban assets, employment losses, moveable assets and private property, business losses and communal losses. The final result below is an aggregate valuation of Jewish individual and community losses from the Jewish community of Egypt:

Total Value per Asset Type According to Valuation Base Year (\$,1948)

Asset Type	Total Value
<b>Rural Assets</b>	135,872,213
<b>Urban Assets</b>	55,444,290
<b>Employment Losses</b>	142,703,685
<b>Moveable Assets &amp; Private Property</b>	366,354,053
<b>Business Losses</b>	351,387,840
<b>Communal Losses</b>	95,338,730
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,147,100,811</b>

Using a detailed, multi-step methodology involving, among other factors, inflation, interest rates, currency exchange, etc., the Jewish losses were actualized to show a present day value of all assets under consideration, reflected in 2024 US dollars (USDs).

On the basis of the combined total value of each asset category under consideration and the application of the methodology, the total value for all Egyptian individual and communal lost assets as of December 31, 2024 USD equals **\$59,816,315,234**.