

Context Cards

Each expert group receives one card. Read it before you watch, use it to complete Part 1 of the Listening Guide, and use the historical context to corroborate what you hear.

LIBYA

Gina Waldman

8 minutes · Talk at a Lehrhaus Judaica conference, San Rafael, California, 2013

youtube.com/watch?v=kOWcf1C6DvQ

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Gina Waldman was born in Tripoli, Libya, to a Jewish family with deep roots in the country. During the anti-Jewish riots that followed the Six Day War in June 1967, she escaped to Italy and later settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she became a human rights advocate and a cofounder of JIMENA.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Jews lived in Libya for more than two thousand years.
- In 1945, a pogrom in Tripoli killed more than 140 Jews. Riots in 1948 killed 12 more and destroyed 280 homes.
- Between 1949 and 1951, more than 30,000 Libyan Jews left for Israel. About 7,000 remained by 1967; after the June 1967 riots, nearly all were evacuated, most to Italy.

Listen for: This is a public talk, not an interview. How might speaking to an audience shape what she chooses to share?

EGYPT

Mark Levy

6.5 minutes · JIMENA Oral History, 2015
youtube.com/watch?v=i4yjBGUASO4

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Mark Levy was born in Alexandria, Egypt, to a family of Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews with roots in Turkey, Iraq, and Israel. He recalls life in Egypt, his family's flight, and meeting his Iraqi grandmother for the first time in an Israeli camp for Jewish refugees from Arab countries.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- By 1948, more than 80,000 Jews lived in Egypt, most in Cairo and Alexandria, including families from across the Ottoman world and Europe.
- After 1948, the Egyptian government confiscated Jewish property, imprisoned Jews, and imposed discriminatory measures.
- After the 1956 Suez War, thousands of Jews were expelled or pressured to leave, often with almost nothing. In 1950 and 1951, about 120,000 Iraqi Jews were airlifted to Israel, where many lived in transit camps called *ma'abarot*.

Listen for: His family connects several countries. What does his story show about Jewish ties across the region?

ADEN, YEMEN

Margalit Oved

5.5 minutes · JIMENA Oral History, 2011
youtube.com/watch?v=3w0lrek2VBE

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Margalit Oved was born in Aden in 1930 and was airlifted to Israel in 1949. For about fifteen years she was a principal dancer and choreographer with the Inbal Dance Theater, bringing Yemenite traditions to the stage. In 1967 she settled in Los Angeles, where she taught at UCLA and founded her own dance company. She died in 2026 at age 96.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Aden was a British ruled port at the southern tip of Arabia, home to a Jewish community connected to the Jews of Yemen's interior.
- In December 1947, after the United Nations voted to partition Palestine, riots in Aden killed an estimated 82 Jews and destroyed four synagogues and more than 200 homes.
- In 1949 and 1950, Operation Magic Carpet airlifted nearly the entire Jewish community of Yemen and Aden, about 49,000 people, to Israel.

Listen for: Listen for music, dance, clothing, and daily life. How did she carry her community's culture with her?

MOROCCO

Jacques Dahan

6 minutes · JIMENA Oral History, 2012
vimeo.com/55552697

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Jacques Dahan grew up in Morocco. JIMENA recorded his testimony in three parts: the Egoz disaster and the exodus of Morocco's Jews, Mimouna and Shabbat in Casablanca, and, in this clip, Jewish life in the villages of the Atlas Mountains.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- In the late 1940s, about 250,000 Jews lived in Morocco, the largest Jewish community in the Arab world, in cities and in mountain villages.
- Riots in 1948 killed 44 Jews. After independence in 1956, emigration to Israel was restricted. In January 1961, the *Egoz*, a small boat secretly carrying Jewish emigrants, sank and more than 40 people drowned.
- In the early 1960s Morocco allowed emigration, and about 100,000 Jews left for Israel within a few years. A small Jewish community still lives in Morocco today.

Listen for: How was Jewish life in the mountain villages different from life in the cities?

Sources: JIMENA Cultural Heritage country profiles and Oral History Program; Jewish Women's Archive (Margalit Oved); video descriptions from JIMENA and Lehrhaus Judaica.