



منتدى المنظمات الأهلية الفلسطينية لمناهضة العنف ضد المرأة

Palestinian NGO Forum to Combat Violence Against Women (Al Muntada)

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## *Press release*

*Date: 19/5/2021*

### **Palestinians are Uprising against Racist Zionist Colonization towards Freedom and Justice**

The Palestinian NGO Forum to Combat Violence Against Women (Al Muntada), Amal Coalition to Combat Violence Against Women in the Gaza Strip, and Fada Coalition- Palestinian Women Against Violence, strongly condemn the Israeli military aggression and the use of disproportionate and excessive force against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, resulting in more than 210 deaths including 36 women and 63 children, in addition to more than 5687 Palestinians injured. Such acts constitute war crimes which are committed by the Israeli occupying authority in the Gaza Strip and other parts of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) aiming at the ethnic cleansing and racial discrimination against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) in general.

The Israeli occupation forces continue to use all kinds of heavy and internationally prohibited weapons against civilians in their homes by targeting civilians and civilian objects. The occupation, that has been imposing a military blockade on the Gaza Strip for the last 15 years, started its military operations since May 10<sup>th</sup> using disproportionate, indiscriminate and random bombing of the Gaza Strip, particularly bombing houses over the heads of their residents leaving large numbers of casualties, injured, and displaced. The military operations specifically targeted civilian objects and infra-structures such as roads and public facilities thereby obstructing access for humanitarian aid and support to the victims in complete disregard of international law, especially provisions of international humanitarian law that regulates wars and armed conflicts.

These acts led to multiple and different forms of harm , including deaths, wounds, amputation of limbs, panic, horror, and many others among the most vulnerable groups of the population such as women, pregnant women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities who lack the minimum levels of care and support. The attacks led to loss of properties, the destruction of houses, buildings, civilian public facilities, and the obstruction of public life in violation of the protection granted and guaranteed by the International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law especially the Forth Geneva Convention Relevant to the Protection of Civilians at Times of War.

The escalating Israeli occupation violations in occupied Jerusalem recently especially the forced displacement of Palestinians from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, in addition to repeated assaults on Muslim and Christian holy sites, and attacks on worshippers in Al Aqsa mosque especially during the Holy month of Ramadan, the most violent of which was the barbaric attack on May 10<sup>th</sup> has further fueled the situation. All this is taking place amidst utter silence from the international community that left Palestinians under Israeli occupation fire. This triggered popular protests in all parts of the Palestinian territories in more than 200 flash points throughout historic Palestine to show solidarity and defend Sheikh Jarrah residents and the holy sites, rejecting ethnic cleansing and harassment policies against Palestinians.

In light of the military aggression waged by the occupation against the Gaza Strip, and its escalating violations in the rest of the Palestinian territory against Palestinian civilians, Al Muntada, Amal and Fada Coalitions denounce all Israeli occupation crimes and racial discriminatory policies against Palestinians in the oPt and inside Israel. We reaffirm full support of the right of Palestinian people to defend themselves and to their inalienable right to self-determination in their independent state, just like all peoples' of the world. We also condemn Israeli occupation's policies of racial discrimination and ethnic cleansing in the occupied Palestinian territory, demanding the following:

- 1. The international community to take serious measures and actions that would contribute to ending the Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian territory, and hold it accountable for all the crimes committed throughout it.**
- 2. The international community to exert pressure to facilitate delivery of urgent needs to Gaza in terms of medicine, medical supplies, fuel, and any other emergency needs in light of the aggression, as well as to provide safe passages for relief and humanitarian aid.**
- 3. The UN mechanisms and Special Procedures to take action towards holding the Israeli occupation accountable for use of excessive force, collective punishment and discriminatory policies against Palestinian civilians in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip. In this context,**

we call on the UN Human Rights Council to immediately organize for an exceptional session to address the war crimes that are currently being committed against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, and take necessary measures, including the formation of a fact-finding mission to the Gaza Strip to investigate and make Israel accountable for all war crimes and atrocities caused by this military aggression on the Gaza Strip. Also to call on the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities in preserving International peace and security by calling on Israel as an occupying power to immediately stop its military aggression on the Gaza Strip and ensure the security of Palestinian civilians.

4. The international community to immediately act by providing international protection for all the Palestinian people in all areas against these attacks and war crimes.
5. The feminist, human rights and civil society organizations to document and expose all Israeli occupation crimes against Palestinian women in all areas towards holding Israel accountable.
6. All Arab and international feminist organizations to lobby with their governments towards ending the Israeli occupation and holding it accountable, provide international protection for Palestinian women, as well as support Palestinian women and feminist organizations representing them in Gaza Strip.
7. All feminist and liberation organizations and movements to support the right to self-determination and the liberation cause of the Palestinian people. We salute all institutions, organizations, frameworks, and individuals who announced their support for the Palestinian people against the occupation and its practices.
8. The international community to take all necessary measures to put an end to the crimes committed by the occupation in line with international treaties and conventions and stop providing the occupation with internationally prohibited weapons used by the Israeli occupation in its crimes against the Palestinian people.

*-Ends-*