

Speak up for Palestinian Women's Rights, for Accountability and Justice

Seventy-four years after the Nakba, the Palestinian people continue to be deprived by the Israeli settler of their fundamental human rights to nationality, self-determination, movement, education, health, freedom and dignity. The so-called "Deal of the Century", breaching International laws and conventions, has aggravated the consequences of the occupation in terms of protection, peace and security, while Israel's discriminatory policies and practices fuel the [rise of violence against women and girls](#). Moreover, Israeli Knesset elections last March have shown increased support for right-wing parties that support settlement expansion and annexation of Palestinian land.

What are we to feel if we imagine the daily lives of the Palestinians in occupied territories: Residency revocations that separate husbands from wives, parents from children, and extended families from one-another, denegation of the right of return for refugees - although internationally guaranteed, bloody repression by the Israeli settler of peaceful civilian demonstrations - 195 Palestinians killed (including 41 children) and nearly 29,000 injured during the Great March of Return organized in Gaza Strip in 2019, violations of the General Provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of the United Nations and [the Convention against Torture](#), and arrogant disregard for the [International Human Rights Law](#).

What are we to feel if we imagine the daily struggle of the Palestinian people to survive: the Israeli occupation, with the separation wall, the checkpoints and the land policies comprising confiscation, zoning and land registrations, constitutes one of the main barriers to access and control of land and productive resources for the Palestinian people who are denied a source of economic support and independence. They not only suffer from economic control but also from further discrimination particularly affecting unemployment rates which deepens the poverty of women, mainly those who are the family bread winners.

The plight of women doesn't end there. Over 10,000 of them were arrested since 1967 and, since the beginning of this year, 41 female prisoners have been locked in Israeli military prisons. They are denied their right to fair trial and exposed to psychological and physical torture, rape, sleep deprivation, medical neglect, threats of arrest of family members, house demolition, and deprivation of basic physical needs.

Now In light of these ongoing breaches of human rights and the specific impact they have on Palestinian women, and while the world stands united to find all health and environmental measures to confront the pandemic of the Coronavirus - COVID-19, the Palestinian Working Women Society for Development, the Palestinian Federation of Women's Action Committees, and EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI-IFE) call for an international campaign for the urgent release of 200 Palestinian children and 43 women languishing in the Israeli occupation prisons. These women and children have not been provided with the bare minimum requirements for their health and safety that they are entitled to, and should be able to return to their families to enable them to be part of the support structure that families around the world need at this time of global health crisis.

We ask with them the Palestinian Authorities, the Palestinian and International Women's rights organizations, and all democratic entities to join this campaign to address the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Human Rights Council and other international bodies in order to pressure the Israeli government to release these prisoners and respect the World Health Organization's warnings and instructions related to COVID-19.

We call on the United Nations (UN) to continue rejecting the US "Deal of the Century" and any other plans that violate the rights of Palestinians as enshrined in international conventions and treaties and to guarantee immediate protection for Palestinians in the occupied Territories.