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PWWSD condemns Israeli forces' attack against the Gazan peaceful march in Commemoration of Land Day

The Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development condemns the attack conducted by the Israeli forces on Friday 30 March 2018, the day that marks the Land Day. Tens of thousands of Palestinians, mostly refugees, in the Gaza Strip decided to march peacefully towards the borders of historic Palestine, from which they were uprooted during AlNakba in 1948. They demanded their Right to Return in accordance to UN Resolution 194, in addition to inquire to break the siege on Gaza Strip, imposed by the Israeli military colonialist occupation for longer than 10 years.

In return, the illegal Israeli forces conducted indiscriminate and systematic use of lethal force against the peaceful march, which resulted in killing 17 Palestinian men, women and children, and 1479 injuries.

These acts form an immense violation of International Law, International Humanitarian Law, and Human Rights Law. The silence of the international community, before an indiscriminate use of force against peaceful and innocent Palestinians living under siege imposed by an illegal occupation, outlines the immediate need for the Security Council intervention to protect Palestinians and take measures to end the Israeli occupation through implementing the UN resolution concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This strategy must be based on the principles of accountability and the end of impunity in order to enforce a just peace and human security for occupied Palestinians.

Palestinian refugees form more than two thirds of the Gaza Strip's inhabitants, and are still denied their right to express and march peacefully. It is a shame that such occupation is still violating the international standards, increasing terrorism and violence through its acts, while not being stopped, nor held accountable.

The Gaza blockade must end immediately, Israel must be held accountable for such acts. Israel is able to keep committing these criminal acts and violations during the silence of the international community.

PWWSD stresses the necessity to boost all efforts towards:

- Ending the illegal Israeli occupation.
- Lifting the siege of Gaza Strip.
- Protecting the citizens of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank
- Strengthening the steadfastness of Palestinians, starting from internal reconciliation and overcoming all differences.