



## IFE-EFI STATEMENT

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Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI

8 April 2018

### **GAZA: Stop the massacres, immediate lift of the blockade**

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of March, Israeli forces killed at least 16 Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip and wounded 1416 people, according to authorities. More than half of them have been hit by live fire, including people staying far from the border. Not surprising that the United States put their veto on a UN Resolution calling for condemnation of Israeli crimes and investigation on these events.

This happened as tens of thousands demonstrated across the occupied territories and Israel on "Land Day" to protest against land confiscations and denounce Israeli policies to take over Palestinian land. Protests have taken place every year for the last 40 years during the "great march of return", starting on "Land Day" and culminating on the Nakba Day, marking the displacement of Palestinians by Israel in 1948. The right to return of the Palestinian refugees is enshrined in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 that Israel accepted (as a condition of its belonging to UN) but always refused to implement.

The organizers of the protests have called for six weeks demonstrations along the border of the besieged Palestinian enclave and Israel in response to the recent decision of the United States President Trump to move the American embassy to Jerusalem, to the many years of criminal acts of violence by the Israeli military against Gaza and the 12 years inhuman siege as a "collective punishment" imposed on Gaza population. They reacted to the increasing numbers of settlements in the West Bank and Jerusalem, the continuous arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings, the house demolitions, and the on-going restrictions on people's mobility, in spite of the silence of the world.

Palestinians show their unshaken determination and their movement highlights once more the historical role of Palestinian women in the fight for their national, civic and political rights. The march for the return will last until the mid of May. How many Palestinians will be killed until then?

With Israeli political discourse veering further to the right under Prime Minister Netanyahu, Palestinians have grown increasingly disillusioned regarding the likelihood of negotiations or an improvement in their living situation in Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Israel itself.

Euromed Feminist Initiative has condemned the unilateral decision by U.S. President Donald Trump to recognize **Jerusalem as the capital of Israel**. Today we condemn the escalating violations and the Israeli persistence to refuse the establishment of an independent Palestinian State according to the 1967 borders, with its East Jerusalem as a capital.

Euromed Feminist Initiative calls upon all States to continue pressuring the Israeli Government and the U.S. administration to respect the international law and the fundamental rights of the Palestinian

people, as a necessary step to end the occupation of Palestine and a precondition for transparent and participatory comprehensive peace processes in the whole Middle East.

*Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI advocates for gender equality and women's universal human rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, for political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of peoples to self-determination.*

Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI  
20 rue Soufflot 75005 Paris France; P.O. Box 17345 Amman 111 95 Jordan SIRET: 48854169900010