



# IFE-EFI STATEMENT

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Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI

26 May 2018

## JUSTICE FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

For 70 years now over 5 million Palestinian refugees, 70% of the Palestinian population, have been forced, exiled and displaced to camps in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and worldwide. 11 years after total blockade of Gaza had made its population living in what has been called an “open-air prison”, a new wave of bloody repression marked the last Palestinian March to return.

The 14<sup>th</sup> of May has been the biggest one-day death toll since Israel’s 2014 invasion of Gaza: at least 60 Palestinians were killed and more than 2,700 injured as the Israeli army fired live ammunition, tear gas, and firebombs at civilian protestors assembled along the border with Israel. The massacre, lasting for almost eight weeks, took place in a context when the Israeli government feels omnipotent, with the unconditional support of the United States, and the passivity and silence of international community.

What about the EU diplomacy calling “the two parties to show restraint”, while continuing to having “upgraded” relations of cooperation with the Israeli government? What about a UN system failing in providing minimal protection to the population in Palestine, as elsewhere? How many years of suffering for Palestinian people? How many Palestinian deaths are needed to stop the Israeli government criminal policies? What is the value of a Palestinian life? What about the Palestinian fundamental rights; rights recognized by the international community and enshrined through several United Nations Resolutions? What is the legitimacy, the credibility of a UN international governance whose decisions are constantly and repeatedly violated, with constant and repeated impunity?

The ongoing aggression equals genocide. Once more Benjamin Netanyahu violates the international law and commits massacre against Humanity, demonstrating again that Israel will never renounce a unified Jerusalem capital of Israel. The celebration of the so-called “historical moment” of opening of a US embassy in Jerusalem by Trump’s daughter, while a huge massacre of civilians was perpetrated 100 km from there, has been a parody and a sinister demonstration of inhumanity and political cynicism that broke the heart of all people fond of justice.

**Euromed Feminist Initiative joins the voices of all protestors around the world and calls for:**

- The annulment by EU of the enhanced status with the Israeli government in respect of article 2 of the European Neighbourhood policies regulations not to agree on enhanced status with any Southern Neighbour State where human rights are violated.

- Immediate steps on UN level towards ending the Palestinian occupation and for the urgent protection of Palestinian people.
- The effective implementation of the Human Rights Council's Resolution to send an International Committee of Investigation on the Gaza killings; the engendering of the Committee's report to include Palestinian women and girls' voices according to the UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security and the publication of this report.
- The recognition of an independent Palestine State in 1967 borders, with full sovereignty and with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the respect of the right of the Palestinians to return to their home land, as a necessary step and a precondition for transparent and participatory comprehensive peace process in the whole region.

Euro-Med Feminist Initiative

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*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.*

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