

A plea to stop the Israeli aggression on Gaza

Women's media and development Organization 17\10\2023

For more than 9 days, the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip have been enduring the most atrocious war waged by the Israeli military occupation against civilians, involving bombing, killing, destruction, and a blockade that includes cutting off all essential human necessities such as water, electricity, fuel, and food. It's worth noting that Gaza and its people have been under siege for 17 years. In parallel, the West Bank is also facing widespread isolation in cantons that resemble open-air prisons, guarded by heavily armed Israeli occupation soldiers and groups of armed Israeli settlers who commit acts of killing, burning, and terrorizing Palestinians in various parts of the West Bank and Jerusalem, all under the protection of the Israeli army.

More than 2,778 Palestinian civilians have been killed, with over 9,938 others injured, hundreds of them in critical condition, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. More than one million people have been displaced. Roughly half of Gaza's total population, approximately 600,000 people are displaced in the central region, Khan Yunis, and Rafah. Among them, around 400,000 people are located in UNRWA facilities, as stated in a United Nations statement on the tenth day of the war. These are not just numbers we recite; these represent the dreams and hopes of over 936 women and 853 children, whose dreams and hopes were killed along with them. This means that more than 9,700 people, many of them, will suffer from permanent physical disabilities. It means that more than one million people have lost their memories, savings, and the details of their lives, along with the destruction of their homes. This means that more than 50 Palestinian families have been entirely erased from existence and history. This ongoing aggression and relentless bombing, aimed at wiping out Palestinians in Gaza, in addition to its geographical and demographic consequences, is intended to destroy the Palestinian memory everywhere. Therefore, the psychological impact of this aggression will not end and will extend to several future generations.

All of this is the result of intense aerial, naval, and tank bombardments, along with the use of incendiary bombs and the targeting of residential neighborhoods and all civilian structures. This includes hospitals, healthcare facilities, food supplies, places of worship, educational institutions, medical and service personnel, and media outlets, along with unborn children who have been killed in their mothers' wombs. Widespread destruction has affected a vast number of residential towers, buildings, facilities, markets, and

infrastructure, including numerous suburbs and neighborhoods that have been reduced to ruins. In addition to the crime of tightening the blockade on over two million people living in the Gaza Strip, cutting off their water, electricity, fuel, food, medications, and medical supplies, will only worsen and intensify the humanitarian disaster and the suffering of the people, especially children and women. Those who do not die from the bombings will be at risk of hunger, water scarcity, the spread of diseases, and epidemics. This is in addition to the environmental disasters caused by the materials used in the bombings, which will have far-reaching and long-term ecological consequences, with catastrophic effects reflecting on health, land, and air quality.

As a Palestinian women's rights organization, we feel powerless and limited in our ability to reach Palestinian women in the Gaza Strip and assist them amidst this Israeli aggression. The brutal occupation violence creates complex problems, particularly violence against women, children, and the entire population.. It is imperative that this intense oppression is brought to a stop. And in this critical phase, we call upon international institutions, our partners, human rights organizations, and advocates for justice to take the following actions:

- Exert diplomatic pressure on the occupying state of Israel to stop its aggression in the Gaza Strip, ensuring its compliance with its obligations as an occupying power under international humanitarian law and all international treaties. This includes the protection of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip.
- We call upon the states that are parties to the Geneva Conventions to ensure that the occupying state complies with the provisions of these conventions, implements their protocols, and puts an end to Israeli violations that are inconsistent with the agreements and the rights of civilians under occupation.
- Ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid and the restoration of water, electricity, and fuel to the Gaza Strip.
- Guarantee the delivery of aid, medical relief, and enable everyone to access medical treatment inside and outside the Gaza Strip.
- Providing international protection for the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, particularly women and children, in accordance with United Nations Resolution 1325, which calls for the protection of women in times of war and armed conflicts.

We urgently appeal to stop Israel's ongoing aggression as an occupying power, and we're deeply concerned about the world's silence, if not its support. The international community has dedicated its military capabilities, intelligence resources, and various

media platforms to mislead global public opinion about the reality of what is happening in Palestine and the Middle East, covering up the war crimes committed by Israel against Palestinian people. We must work to hold Israel accountable for all its policies and practices, and compel it to adhere to international laws and treaties for the protection of human rights, and to enforce legitimate international resolutions.

Women's Media & Development organization condemns the crimes of the Israeli occupation against our Palestinian people, especially women and children in the Gaza Strip, and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the justice of our cause and our rights as the Palestinian people for freedom, self-determination, and the establishment of our independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

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