



Human Security of Palestinians Demands Global Protection Actions

The Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSd) condemns in the strongest of terms the Israeli Occupation's escalation of its continuous repressive measures against and violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people under the cover of the worldwide Covid-19 outbreak. The latest iteration of these repressive measures is the murder of Palestinian detainee Nour Al-Barghouthi (23 years) from the village of Aboud detained in Al-Naqab prison. His murder was the preventable result of the prison's systematic medical neglect of Palestinian prisoners. Furthermore, he was deprived of seeing his mother for more than four years as a measure of collective punishment, the prison's systematic pursual of which ignored multiple international, regional, and local campaigns that called for Al-Barghouthi's release. The Israeli occupation continues to ignore the demand to release Palestinian male and female prisoners to prevent their infection with Covid-19. Presently there are over 5000 prisoners including 41 women in Damon prison, and wounded, ill, elderly and child prisoners. This is in direct violation of all relevant international conventions and agreements, in particular, the Fourth Geneva Convention which expressly forbids an occupying power from detaining the occupied outside of the occupied territory, as this is an additional means of control which seeks to bureaucratically isolate these prisoners from their families.

Furthermore, PWWSd condemns the decision by Israeli occupation minister Naftali Bennett on the 18th of April to cease testing of samples potentially affected with Covid-19 in the Gaza strip that through international health organizations were to be transferred to and tested in laboratories in Israel. This move is unconscionable in light of the years-long blockade Israel has imposed on Gaza and the consequent fragile health infrastructure of the Strip. Additionally, PWWSd condemns the abhorrent way the Israeli occupation is treating Palestinian workers in Israel by depriving them of necessary medical attention to prevent infection by Covid-19 and even repeated instances of physically dumping these workers at checkpoints without any testing or medical attention. This is not only unacceptable to the dignity of these workers from a human rights perspective but also works to spread the virus even further throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. These despicable practices are joined by recent measures taken by the Israeli occupation to impose sovereignty on Jerusalem, including obstructing efforts in Silwan neighborhood to track and prevent the spread of Covid-19 in direct defiance of directives by the World Health Organization and as part of a continued pattern of contempt by the Israeli Occupation towards international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This is compounded by how repeated attacks by the Israeli Occupation Forces and illegal Israeli settlers against Palestinians have not paused even in the midst of a pandemic; these attacks include night arrests, beatings, and the bulldozing and confiscation of land in strategic areas to implement the recently announced annexation plan. Under the newly elected Israeli government, annexation is underway as part of the so-called Deal of the Century in which Israel and the United States of America unilaterally decided the fate of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza in complete disregard



of the rejection of this “deal” by Palestine and the international community.

In light of the Israeli Occupation’s continuous oppressive measures against Palestinians that aim to worsen the Covid-19 crisis for Palestinians in particular, we at PWWSA call on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to immediately intervene against Israel’s violence and protect the Palestinian people in accordance with the Secretary-General’s call for all countries to cease hostilities and prioritize dealing with the Covid-19 crisis. Furthermore, we call on the international community and various human rights organizations as a whole to hold Israel accountable for its offenses against the Palestinian people and its repeated violation of human rights principles. PWWSA considers failure on the part of the international community to hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention and UN resolutions pertaining to the security and protection of women and girls, as enabling new waves of violence and threatening world peace at a time of crisis where the rights of people as groups and as individuals must especially be upheld. These rights include the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to an independent state with east Jerusalem as the capital.

occupied Palestine

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