



EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed

Open Letter to His Excellency Antonio Guterres

October 31, 2023
His Excellency
Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

Your Excellency,

For over than three weeks, the civilians in the Gaza Strip have been under heavy Israeli shelling and bombing from the sky, sea, and land. The Israeli forces are targeting civilians and civil establishments with no respect to international conventions and treaties. Hospitals, schools, bakeries, residential houses, and all other civic facilities are being demolished due to the Israeli heavy attacks. Approximately 8 thousand Palestinians have been killed. The majority are women and children. 825 families are entirely wiped out and removed from the civic registry. A restricted siege is imposed on the Gaza Strip with a denial of entry of food, water, medicine, and fuel. The absolute majority of hospitals and medical centers are out of functioning due to the Israeli attacks.

The Israeli practices violate the Geneva Fourth Convention; consequently, these practices stand as war crimes according to the Rome Statute-1998, which considers violating the Geneva Fourth Convention as war crimes that should be discussed by the International Criminal Court.

Your Excellency,

Women are the most affected by the Israeli attacks. Women have lost all sense of safety as they are targeted directly by the air strikes. As we are approaching the anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security, and taking into consideration the advanced step of the United Nations (UN) to adopt the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA) as a tool to protect women, we urge Your Excellency to interfere in obligating Israel (the Occupying Power) to abide to the International Law and the International Humanitarian Law. In particular, we urge the UN to take measures to ensure that the WPSA are applied to Palestinian women.

As the UN is the Official Party responsible for implementing the WPSA, we address Your Excellency to take immediate measures to ensure the protection of Palestinian women and obligate Israel to stop its attacks and violations of International Law and the International Humanitarian Law, and the violation of WPSA in particular.

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