

State of Palestine

Association of Palestinian
Local Authorities



الاتحاد الفلسطيني للهيئات المحلية
Association of Palestinian Local Authorities

دولة فلسطين

الاتحاد الفلسطيني
للهيئات المحلية

10th December 2023

APLAs letter to our Partners on the International Human Rights Day

The Association of Palestinian Local Authorities – APLA expresses gratitude to its partners who contribute to efforts to enhancing APLAs vision and mission towards Palestinian local Authorities to support and empower the local communities, this includes strengthening unity and resilience against occupation, as well as embarking on a journey to defend identity and reclaim rights, ultimately paving the way for a more stable future and justice.

In the context of commemorating International Human Rights Day on the 10th of Dec, this serves as an opportunity to shed light on the Israeli genocidal war against the Palestinians, particularly in Gaza, during the current Israeli war that began on the 7th of Oct 2023. In this war, neither human nor stone are spared, as the occupation's violations have reached an unprecedented level, surpassing conventional legal terms such as interference or violation, its complete disregard for human rights.

The Israeli occupation has committed every crime stipulated by the International Criminal Court, Geneva Conventions, and any other crime in the ancient or new international law, including genocide, crimes against humanity, forced displacement, starvation, targeting hospitals, health facilities, shelters, and places of worship, acute shortage of food, medicine, cutting water, electricity, and fuel supplies, as well as bombing areas claimed it is "safe."

The Palestinians are being exterminated live, within earshot of the world, especially the international community, which calls for human rights and has formulated many laws and international treaties in the armed conflict and wars to protect civilians and their properties. Instead of that, it justifies and supports the statements that claim Israel's actions are merely self-defense, stripping this war from its historical context with full of provocations and pressures for more than half seventy five years in of the Palestinian-Israeli military and political conflict, and systematic human rights violations since the first day of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian lands, including massacres, forced displacement, Land confiscation, settlement construction, property dispossession, racial discrimination, cultural erasure, infrastructure destruction, and violation of sanctities, in addition to the separation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem.

Death and violence take various forms during the daily genocides and mass executions practiced against of Palestinians. Families are scattered after losing their homes, and finding a safe haven to escape the deadly indiscriminate shelling has become miraculous. The Israeli war machine has targeted homes, shelters, schools, hospitals, streets, public parks, leaving catastrophic effects on all levels, making human life almost impossible.

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Israel has violated the International Convention to Prevent and Punish the crime of Genocide against the Residents of the Gaza Strip because they are simply Palestinians, this includes murder, physical and mental harm, and undermining the basic living needs to survive. Over 80% of Gaza's population has been displaced, more than 75% of the martyrs, missing, and wounded from children and women, this violates Article (1) of the Genocide Convention, which states "the contracting parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime and obligated to prevent and punish", and Article (2) states "genocide means any act of mass killing or causing physical or mental harm committed with the intent to partially or completely destroy a national, racial or religious group. In addition, it is also a clear violation of international humanitarian law and reaches to war crimes against humanity without need evidence or proof.

The Gaza Strip also suffers human rights violation in the Palestinian local Authorities, which deprives the local community in Gaza from the basic services due to the bombing the quarters of local Authorities, and losing of human resources in its executive teams. In addition, to the destruction of infrastructure, water and sewage networks, waste collection capability, which leads to dangerous environmental and health consequences, extending to the schools and health centers, imposing a crisis on local authorities to continue providing these services under these circumstances.

APLA call all our partners and the free world, to dedicate the International Human Rights Day this year to highlight on the genocidal war practiced against the Palestinian people due to the violations of the Israeli Zionist occupation. This occupation practices the most heinous, ugliest, dangerous, and ancient violence in human history.

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