

State of Palestine

Association of Palestinian
Local Authorities



الاتحاد الفلسطيني للهيئات المحلية
Association of Palestinian Local Authorities

دولة فلسطين

الاتحاد الفلسطيني
للهيئات المحلية

21 March 2024

Sorrowful reminder on International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Palestinians have endured 75 years of racial discrimination

On the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, amidst the 2024 theme of 'A Decade of Recognition, Justice, and Development,' we assert from Palestine that none of these ideals are being realized amid a flood of bloodshed and genocide. For more than 75 of years the Palestinians suffering from Israel's apartheid practices, which served as a tool of Zionist colonialism, aiming to establish Israeli Jewish sovereignty while gradually eliminating the native Palestinians, by enacting discriminatory laws and policies to maintain its oppressive system, and reflected in the construction of apartheid wall, systematic killing, siege of Gaza Strip, forced displacement, arrests, house demolitions, settlement expansion and seizure of Palestinian lands.

This year, this day arrives, and the Palestinians are slaughtered under genocidal war specifically in a brutal way in Gaza, which spared no one, including women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, on the hands of a racist Zionist war machine before the eyes of the world who are calling for human rights, In the context of an Israeli media strategy promoting a speech of intolerance, hatred, and racial discrimination against the Palestinians and dispossess them from their humanity, this approach was embraced and executed by previous and present Israeli governments, by erasing and expelling the Palestinians from their homes and lands.

The systematic genocide and crimes against humanity committed by the Israeli army against civilians in Palestine brutally and indiscriminately have resulted in over 100,000 casualties, Undoubtedly, this constitutes ethnic cleansing and reaches the apartheid crimes, under the UN Apartheid Convention, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and it contravenes the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination specifically Article 3.

This day also coincides with **Mother's Day** in Palestine; where two mothers lose their lives every hour in Gaza, while 60,000 pregnant women endure childbirth without pain relief. Over 17,000 children are left parentless, 96% of pregnant women face health risks due to unsafe drinking water, and 87% secure food for their families amidst rubble and garbage.

It's a **call for solidarity** to demand a collective effort to press to declare an immediate ceasefire and stop further massacres against the Palestinian people, it's a call for an end to discrimination and violence, and to advocate for the fundamental rights and dignity of all individuals.

The Association of Palestinian Local Authorities – APLA

