

Date: May 14th, 2024

Ref: RM 1/7-80276

Subject: 76 years of Nakba - May 15th 1948-May 15th 2024

Dear Friends & Partners,

Greetings from Ramallah, Palestine

Every year on the occasion of Al-Nakba we write to you explaining that Al-Nakba is not a punctual event that happened at a certain time of our history but for, Palestinians, it is the ongoing catastrophe that affects our life in every single aspect, taking away every day a little bit more of our freedom. This catastrophe translates through the usurpation of our land, oppression of our people, the killing of civilians and imprisonment of our youth, restriction on our mobility and the siege and famine of our children, women and elders. Every year Al-Nakba becomes a greater nightmare to every single Palestinian whether living in a Palestinian town or city refugee camp, in exile or in an Israeli prison. Every year that goes by our Palestinian identity is aggressed furthermore and our existence is threatened.

On the 7th of October a New path of suffer and pain began for my people when the Israeli army launched its most brutal aggression on the innocent Palestinian people of Gaza and West Bank since then I have implored you constantly to act each at your level to stop the biggest human crime of our times, our municipality has shared with our friend cities and networks consistent reports about the hideous destruction and annihilation of the people and communities of Gaza.

Today after more than 34971 Palestinians killed, including 15,000 children, more than 78,641 injured, and 70% of the infrastructure destroyed. sadly, the genocide on the Palestinians of Gaza continues while the entire global community has not been willing to stop it. The inability for our global community to take concrete action towards the biggest documented crime of humanity ever recorded should make us all wonder as civil servants what we can do to solve our inability in the face of calamity and catastrophes.

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As a mayor of a city under occupation fighting fear with hope, I firmly believe that Local Authorities must have a larger role in our country's politics and as every other aspect of governance heads towards decentralization, diplomacy as well ought to. On the 76th year of the continuous Nakba the Palestinian people has been enduring, I call upon you, dear colleagues and honorable Mayors of your respected cities, networks and organizations to take a concrete action to stop the suffering of my people and stand to the righteous side of history through the following concrete actions:

1. Call for a meeting with your higher authorities, to make a point on your country's actions towards the Israeli genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza and demand them to call for an immediate ceasefire and declare their recognition of the Palestinian State.
2. Call upon your councils and members to vote for a decision of boycott, divestment, and sanction of Israeli interests in your city.

I want to assure you, Honorable friends, that my team and I are fully at your disposal to assist in any way necessary to take a strong stance for justice and peace. We eagerly await your prompt action.

Sincerely,

Issa Kassis
Mayor

