

State of Palestine

Association of Palestinian
Local Authorities



الاتحاد الفلسطيني للهيئات المحلية
Association of Palestinian Local Authorities

دولة فلسطين

الاتحاد الفلسطيني
للهيئات المحلية

21st September 2024

International Day of Peace: The Illusion of Peace for Palestine

On the **International Day of Peace**, the world celebrates the ideals of peace—noble aspirations long sought by nations and people. Yet, this day arrives amid a landscape overwhelmed by wars, conflicts, and escalating humanitarian crises. As the calls for peace and justice echo globally, one pressing question lingers: Where is peace in a world ravaged by wars, torn apart by genocide, plagued by humanitarian disasters, forced displacement, and entrenched, systematic discrimination?

More than thirty years ago, the world hailed the Oslo Accords as a beacon of hope for peace between Palestinians and Israelis. Yet, the events that have unfolded in Palestine since then expose the stark and devastating failure to realize that peace. The gap between promises and reality has only deepened, as an unrelenting war continues to target the future of an entire generation, leaving behind horrifying figures that tell the story of a global failure in humanity. These figures are not mere statistics—they represent shattered human lives.

Talking about peace is a repetition of hollow words, devoid of meaning in the face of the international community silence with its effective forces, their institutions, and the human rights system it claims, in a war that has transformed children from symbols of the future into symbols of pain and suffering, used as fuel in a war they have no fault in, struggling to live with trauma and psychological harm. The worst thing is what children are exposed to in Israeli prisons, from sexual violence, rape, deprivation, beatings, attacks by dogs, in addition to those they seen their parents stripped of their clothes, beaten, and killed in front of their eyes, according to what the protection teams working with children in Gaza Strip reported.

All human values have collapsed in the face of an unprecedented level of genocide. In the recent Israeli war in Gaza, which has continued for more than eleven months, convoys of martyrs and the wounded, more than 41,000 martyrs (70% of whom are women, children, and the elderly), more than 100,000 injured, and 2 million displaced out of 2.3 million, 60% of residential units have been damaged, the economy has collapsed, and unemployment rates have reached their highest levels, 96% (2.1 million) facing high levels of acute food insecurity, suffering from a lack of electricity, sanitation, clean water, and communication networks.

Most hospitals are out of service and suffer from severe shortages of medicines and medical supplies, 923,000 cases of acute respiratory infections, 527,000 cases of acute watery diarrhea, 100,000 tons of solid sewage accumulated in the streets, 625,000 students are out of education, 80% of schools have been destroyed, and all universities have turned into rubble.

The international silence and inaction regarding what is happening in Palestine is a flagrant violation of human values and the fundamental principles upon which the International Day of Peace is based, and reveals the lowest level of degradation in humanity and the failure to honor life. Gaza today is a bleeding wound in the conscience of humanity, a distress call to everyone who believes in true peace. If the world does not act to stop this madness, any talk about peace will be only a falsification of reality.

The Association of Palestinian Local Authorities – APLA

