

Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue



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The Palestinian people... Between «flimsy» human rights principles and «brutal» Israeli violations

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Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue

Email: info@fdhrd.org

The Palestinian people... Between «flimsy» human rights principles and «brutal» Israeli violations

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The Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue has always condemned all the oppression, domination and application of apartheid policies practiced by the Israeli authorities towards Palestinians, especially in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but condemnation alone is not enough, as binding international and regional actions are required towards these flagrant violations against Palestinians and force the Israeli authorities to limit them.

Israel was recognized by the international community through the United Nations, exemplified by its General Assembly Resolution (No. 273) of May 11, 1949, according to which Israel became a member of the United Nations on condition that Israel implemented UN Resolutions 181-194. Despite the passage of all these years, Israel has not yet complied with the conditions of the United Nations, in return recognition of Israel has continued, hence the story between the Israeli occupation state and international law, so that Israel flouted all resolutions of international legitimacy, did not respond to the calls of peace-loving countries or peoples, and placed itself in front of everyone based on double standards. The latest of which is the assassination of the prisoner Khader Adnan as a result of medical negligence, who is the 37th martyr of the prisoner movement, and we cannot overlook the brutal Israeli attacks that Palestinians were subjected to after the Israeli forces stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque, before the Holy Ramadan, as well as the storming of Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, Jenin camp, the assassination of journalist Shereen Abu Akleh, and the attacks. The government of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has adopted a policy of changing the legal and historical status of Jerusalem, which was embodied in storming the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque in preparation for dividing it spatially and temporally leading to the construction of the so-called Temple.

Therefore, Israel's violation of international law, resolutions of international legitimacy and all the rights of Palestinians is the biggest condemnation of Israel's practice of state terrorism, as it openly declares that it is building settlements and legitimizing informal outposts in the West Bank in clear violation of Security Council Resolution 2334, in addition to its control of the high mountains in order to steal water and deprive Palestinians of it..

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Perhaps the most prominent and important rights of the Palestinians are violated:

1. Right to life:

Although Article III of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** states that: "Every human being has the inherent right to life, liberty and security of person." Article VI of the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** makes clear that "the right to life is inherent in every human being, the law shall protect this right, and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life." The Israeli authorities continue their illegal practices of arbitrary killing and detention against the Palestinian people, in addition to committing the crime of uprooting a people from their land and displacing them by committing many massacres that amount to genocide, and replacing thousands of Jewish immigrants who were brought to Palestine from all over the world to settle there, in addition to the crime of racial discrimination (apartheid), which has become the most prominent feature of the Israeli occupation state, and which was manifested in its best form after the enactment of the Israeli Knesset on June 19, 2018. The Nation-State Law, which states that Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people, in clear disregard and discrimination on the basis of national religion between Jews and other residents, whether Muslim, Christian, or otherwise..

According to the report of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, between November 2018 and 31 October 2019, some 131 Palestinians, including 23 children, and five women were killed in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, and in the first six months of 2021, 42 Palestinians were killed by the occupying forces in the West Bank, of whom 15 were killed under conditions described as "calm", and 27 people were killed during Peaceful demonstrations or during military raids.

According to the UN, during 2022, at least 153 Palestinians were killed in the occupied West Bank by Israeli forces and settlers, including 34 children, and journalist Shereen Abu Akleh, and this year ranks as "the deadliest in this area of the OPT since the UN began systematically documenting deaths in 2005."

According to the Protection of Civilians Report, from 31 January to 13 February 2023, of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (oPt), the following:

- Israeli forces killed six Palestinians and injured 11 others with live ammunition during two exchanges of fire with Palestinians, one in Jericho and the other in Nablus. On 6 February, Israeli forces raided Aqbat Jabr refugee

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camp (Jericho), surrounded a building and exchanged fire with Palestinians, and during another search and arrest operation at the same location, Israeli forces destroyed two structures, including a two-unit residential building, and damaged a neighboring building, displacing six people, including two children. During the operation similarly, 14 Palestinians were injured, including two by live ammunition, and 13 others were arrested. On 13 February, Israeli forces stormed Nablus city, surrounded a building and exchanged fire with Palestinians inside.

- **Israeli forces killed two Palestinian children during crossfire searches and arrests with Palestinians in Nablus and Jenin.** On 6 February, Israeli forces raided Nablus city and exchanged fire with Palestinians, and on 12 February, Israeli forces carried out a search and arrest operation in Jenin city, exchanging fire with Palestinians, and during the same incident, two others were injured by live ammunition and three were arrested. **This brings the total number of Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank so far in 2023 to nine, compared to the corresponding period in 2022 when no children were killed.**
- **During the reporting period, Israeli forces injured 373 Palestinians, including at least 58 children, across the West Bank. Of these, 18 were injured by live ammunition,** and of those, 131 were injured during demonstrations against settlement expansion and access restrictions near Kafr Qaddum (Qalqiliya), Beit Dajan and Beita (both in Nablus). In four other incidents in Qaryut and Asira al-Qibliya (both in Nablus), 33 Palestinians were injured by Israeli forces after The settlers formed three Palestinian communities accompanied by these forces. Another 177 Palestinians were injured during search, arrest and other operations carried out by Israeli forces. They also injured 30 Palestinians during a demolition in the Jabal Mukaber area of East Jerusalem.

United Nations experts condemned the record number of killings of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem in recent months in the context of raids by Israeli forces, often targeting refugee camps. In 2022, out of 9,000 Israeli operations, 702 targeted refugee camps in the occupied West Bank. In 2023, more than 100 Palestinians were already killed in the context of these operations, including in Jenin, Nablus and Jericho.

During the current attacks, as of May 11, 25 martyrs have died since the start of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, including at least 5 children, and at least 76 were injured, thus during 2023, the Palestinian death toll rose to

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more than 125 Palestinians, while at least 19 Israelis and foreigners were killed throughout Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

2. Right to liberty:

In 2020, the frequency of arrests and punishments against Palestinian women prisoners increased, during which the occupation authorities arrested about 128 women, while the year 2021 witnessed an escalation in the intensity of arrests, during which the occupation authorities arrested about 184 women, and in 2022, the result was 172 arrests of women.

According to the Palestinian National Information Center "Wafa", the number of prisoners in the occupation prisons until the end of 2022 is (4700) prisoners, including (29) female prisoners, (150) children, and about (850) administrative detainees, including (7) children, two prisoners, and (15) journalists, while the number of sick prisoners reached more than (600) prisoners.

According to Amnesty International, ICHR received at least 130 complaints of torture and other ill-treatment against detention authorities in the West Bank during 2022.

Perhaps the most prominent example of such violations is the death of Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Khader Adnan in an Israeli prison after an 87-day hunger strike, Adnan had gone on hunger strike at least three times since 2011 to protest Israel's detention without charge. Despite his death, the Israeli authorities are still holding the prisoner's body, stressing that they will not return the body within the framework of the ceasefire agreement now.

The authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to impose undue restrictions on freedom of expression, foremost among them the assassination of journalist Sherine Abu Akleh, which is the most prominent example of repression against Palestinians in exercising their right to expression.

Sherine Abu Akleh, a Palestinian-American journalist and well-known Al Jazeera reporter, was killed by shooting on 11 May 2022, while performing her duty as a journalist covering the Israeli raid in the Jenin refugee camp. It has concluded many independent investigations carried out by various bodies and organizations including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, until well-targeted bullets fired by Israeli forces likely killed Abu Akleh And so far, the Israeli authorities have not opened a criminal investigation into her death or held anyone accountable.

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Therefore, the killing of Sherine Abu Akleh reflects the grave human rights violations that Palestinians have faced under Israeli occupation for more than 55 years. Their rights to self-determination, life and freedom of expression have been consistently violated and the Palestinian people live under the yoke of widespread impunity and lack of reparations for violations committed, **this means that the Charter of the United Nations is betrayed every day in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.**

With regard to digital violations of Palestinian content, Sada Social Center documented more than 105 complaints of digital violations through various social media platforms, where Palestinian accounts received a number of reports as violations of content policies, which caused restrictions on publishing and access, publication bans, preventing the filming of live broadcast clips, and deleting 59 Palestinian accounts and pages.

Since 2001, at least 18 Palestinian journalists have reportedly been killed by the IDF in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and no one has been held accountable for those deaths.

3. Right to freedom of religious practice:

Perhaps the most recent Israeli attack on worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque is the recent storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque by Israeli police to expel what they described as "rioters" who brought in "firecrackers, sticks and stones" and arrested more than 350 people on the Temple Mount. Israeli warplanes bombed the Gaza Strip early after rockets were fired from the Strip towards Israel..

The Red Crescent said in a previous statement that "the occupation forces prevent all ambulance crews from entering the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and assault them."

The Israeli occupation forces also prevented the access of a number of worshipers to Al-Aqsa Mosque, imposed restrictions on entry to perform dawn prayers, carried out arrests against Palestinians, and launched Israeli fighter jets air raids on sites in the Gaza Strip after launching rockets from the besieged strip on the south of the Israeli occupation, following the tensions at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

And other events that prove the extent to which the Israeli authorities have crossed all red lines and the end of the most basic right, which is the right to practice religious rites, under the pretext that there is a category of rioters infiltrated among the worshipers, thus killing two birds with one stone, that

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is, eliminating the rioters from their point of view, as well as eliminating the largest number of unarmed Palestinians.

4. Rights of the child

Although **article 38, paragraph 4, of the Convention** on the Rights of the Child states that "States Parties shall, in accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflict, take all feasible measures to ensure the protection and care of children affected by armed conflict," Palestinian children continue to pay a heavy price for Israeli arrests and raids over the years of occupation, according to UNICEF and Amnesty International statistics. Approximately 7,000 Palestinian children in Israeli prisons are tried daily and sentenced to death or life imprisonment, and the number of those arrested by the Israeli occupation authorities since 1967 is estimated at more than (50.000) Palestinian children, male and female, and about (882) children were arrested during the past year 2022, while the occupation authorities arrested more than (250) children since the beginning of this year, most of them from Jerusalem, and are still holding in its prisons and detention centers about (170) children in difficult conditions..

The aim of Israel's targeting of Palestinian children is the desire to target the source of the survival of the Palestinian people, and for this we consider Israel's crimes against Palestinian children one of the types of ethnic cleansing, and unfortunately these crimes are committed by Israel in light of the silence of the world conscience and international organizations, foremost of which is the United Nations..

Although **article 27, paragraph 3,** of the Convention on the Rights of the Child referred to the right of every child to adequate housing and urged the enforcement of this right and the provision of material assistance and support programs when necessary, the occupation army forces did not refrain from shelling and demolishing residential houses to the point of demolition, and also notified a number of other families to abandon their homes because of their proximity to the bombing sites. Those who were displaced with their families by the barbaric shelling and destruction practiced by the occupation soldiers, since the beginning of the intifada to the present day.

The Palestinian child is also subjected to severe psychological pressure, resulting from the repressive occupation measures, as the army uses the harshest forms of violence against the Palestinian people, which increased in

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frequency with the beginning of the first intifada, and this was embodied in the barbaric and brutal bombing of homes and facilities, storming compounds and building the apartheid wall, as the Israeli occupation did not leave a weapon without using it such as planes, tanks, missiles, various gases and air discharge from F-16 aircraft, which introduce terror and panic in the hearts of children and shake their corners and the place where they are.

5. Right to an adequate standard of living

Since the beginning of the intifada, the occupation authorities have imposed a comprehensive siege on the territory of the Palestinian National Authority, preventing thousands of workers from reaching their places of work inside the Green Line who support more than 120,000 families inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and hindering the movement of trade that prevailed in recession and these practices resulted in a severe economic crisis that negatively affected the standard of life of people and their standard of living, decreasing the income of the Palestinian family and its ability to buy, which led to the deterioration of the child's living, housing and food conditions and recreational as well.

In 2016, the Israeli authorities demolished 12 structures in the community, built without permits, displacing 16 people, and in March 2017, the authorities issued demolition orders for all structures in Khan al-Ahmar Abu al-Helou.

The Israeli authorities also continue their apartheid building and housing policies, through the arbitrary demolition of a number of homes and structures, resulting in the forced displacement of Palestinians, while at the same time encouraging the transfer of Israeli settlers to the occupied territory. Last year, Israel issued nearly 800 demolition orders against Palestinian-owned structures in Area C of the West Bank, while 1% of Palestinian building permits were approved. The Israeli authorities' efforts to forcibly displace Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah and other neighborhoods threatened with displacement, such as Silwan, also continue. This year, the Israeli authorities developed the Israeli settlement expansion project in Jerusalem, where 3,000 housing units are planned, in addition to promoting the construction of other settlements in Palestinian-inhabited neighborhoods. The actions of transferring the population of the occupying Power into the occupied territory constitute a clear and flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and amount to war crimes..

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In 2022 alone, the following:

- Demolition of 833 Palestinian structures in the West Bank, including areas east of Jerusalem.
- There were 793 settler attacks, 582 of which caused damage to Palestinian property and 211 caused injuries. Here you recall the incident of a settler stabbing a Palestinian with a knife in the chest until he was killed while defending his land in the Salfit area, in June 2022.
- Israel approved 116 settlement plans, targeting 9,700 dunums of Palestinian land with more than 13,000 settlement units, from the beginning of 2022 until the end of October, according to the Settlement Monitoring Institute.

According to the Protection of Civilians Report, from 31 January to 13 February 2023, of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Israeli authorities demolished, confiscated or forced their owners to demolish 30 structures in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank, including nine homes on the grounds that they lacked Israeli-issued building permits, which are impossible to obtain. Two of these structures were donated as humanitarian assistance. As a result, 55 Palestinians, including 31 children, and the livelihoods of more than 100 others were affected, January 2023 recorded the highest number of structures demolished in East Jerusalem in a single year since April 2019, with a total of 32 structures demolished compared to the monthly average of 11 structures in 2022.

6. Right to education:

Education is a basic, principled and moral right for all peoples of the earth, and **Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child** states that "States parties recognize the right of the child to education", and despite this, the Israeli authorities violate a destructive method, which is the demolition of schools, the European Union recently expressed its shock at the Israeli occupation authorities' demolition of the "Jub al-Dheeb" school, funded by the European Union, and stressed that the demolitions are illegal under international law, and that the right of children to education must be respected.

In 2021, the occupation demolished a school under construction in the town of Beit Hanina in Jerusalem governorate, and Al-Maleh Basic Mixed School in Tubas governorate, and last year, the occupation demolished um Qasa and Asfi schools in Masafer Yatta in Hebron governorate, and that all 32 schools of the challenge are threatened with demolition, in addition to the total number

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of schools threatened with demolition is 58 schools, and the military occupation authorities had demolished in 2018 four schools under the pretext of building without a permit, and by demolishing the challenge school, the number of Schools demolished by the Israeli occupation authorities to 11 schools, since 2016, i.e. since the demolition of Birin Elementary Mixed School in the north of Hebron governorate .

The Israeli military also rejects most new Palestinian construction requests in 60 percent of the West Bank, where it exclusively controls planning and construction, while facilitating construction for settlers. The military enforces this discriminatory system by razing thousands of Palestinian property, including schools, thereby pressuring Palestinians to leave their communities. When Israeli authorities demolished schools, they failed to take steps to ensure that children in the area had access to schools of at least the same quality.

Israeli military authorities have demolished or confiscated Palestinian school buildings or properties in the West Bank at least 16 times since 2010, 12 times since 2016, and repeatedly targeted some schools, Human Rights Watch said. According to the UN, more than a third of Palestinian communities in Area C, which makes up 60 percent of the West Bank, where the Israeli military has exclusive control over construction under the 1993 Oslo Accords, do not have primary schools. Currently, 10,000 children go to school in tents, huts or other structures without heating or air conditioning, and some 1,700 children have had to walk 5 kilometers or more to school due to road closures, lack of crossable roads or transportation, or other problems, according to 2015 UN estimates. Long distances and fear of harassment by settlers or the military lead some parents to remove their children from school, with a greater impact on girls.

Most West Bank schools at risk of demolition are located in Area C, and Israel justifies its demolition of schools and other Palestinian property there on the grounds that they were built without military permits rather than for security reasons. However, the military rejects the vast majority of Palestinian construction requests and has allocated 1 percent of Area C to Palestinian construction, even as construction continues with some restrictions in nearby Jewish settlements.

School demolitions are consistent with other measures that make communities unlivable, such as home demolitions and refusal to establish communities or

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provide them with services such as water and electricity, Human Rights Watch said.

In August 2017, Israeli forces confiscated prefabricated classrooms and other infrastructure at the primary school in the Bedouin compound of al-Muntar, in Area C east of Jerusalem. In this residential community, there are about 100 school-age children.

Finally, suffice it to cite a statement by the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights, Francesca Albanese: "The international community must take firm and principled action to protect the human rights and dignity of Palestinians in these times of increased violence in the OPT, with the new Israeli government threatening further annexation."

As the Forum for Human Rights and Development Dialogue, we condemn all Israeli brutal attacks against Palestine and its people.

We also call for the establishment of an international fact-finding mission inside the Palestinian territories under the control of the Israeli authorities, documenting the violations to which the Palestinian people are subjected, and then conducting an independent international investigation so that appropriate actions and decisions can be taken, while continuing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.

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