



WFFP Statement of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and Affirmation of their Right of Resistance October 2023

The world seems surprised that on the 7 October 2023, armed resistance fighters from Gaza conducted a surprise incursion into adjacent areas of Israel after loosening thousands of rockets on Israel to deadly effect. Yet the world should not be surprised as Palestinian resistance has been constant, creative and multi-fold. We should be reminded of the words of Frantz Fanon who explained, “We revolt simply because, for many reasons, we can no longer breathe.”

2023 has seen repeated violence, detention and murder committed against Palestinians throughout occupied Palestine. Israeli forces have committed violent raids on Ramallah, Nablus and Jenin this year as well. Arbitrary arrests, indefinite detentions, political persecutions and locking up of juveniles continue unabated. Ongoing illegal occupation in violation of international law, housing demolitions, building of apartheid systems, supporting illegal settlement development throughout Palestine as a means to ethnically cleanse the Palestinian People, taking of vital resources such as water, theft of Palestinian culture and heritage to erase the Palestinian People’s deep connections to their Lands – the crimes and atrocities are too numerous to name briefly. Recently, Israeli aggression against the Palestinian worshippers at the Al Aqsa Mosque and disrespect of Christian worshippers in Jerusalem has further inflamed tensions.

And yet the international community, responsible for standing up for international law and fair and equitable application of these laws to all the world’s peoples, has said little and done nothing to not only condemn these numerous crimes and violence but to act to stop them. In fact, in recent years powerful entities including the United States and the European Union have been effectively supporting Israel despite its violations of international law and principles of humanity.

These injustices have very long historic roots- going back to the Nakba, the Catastrophe, of 1948 with the mass displacement, mass dispossession and creation of 750,000 Palestinian refugees at the creation of Israel. Palestinian territory – encompassing the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem – has been illegally occupied by Israel since 1967. Gaza has been called the world’s largest open-air prison, since 2007 when Israel has blockaded it by air, sea and land, suffocating the people, starving them of food and medicines and frequently attacking them with advanced weaponry.

This history reveals Israel to be a colonial, occupying, genocidal state that has repeatedly refused to end its occupation, dismantle its colonisation and abide by international law. Denying people their right to self-determination is equal to living in an apartheid regime.

Palestinians have a right to resist, including through armed struggle. This right is articulated in United Nations resolution 37/43, dated 3 December 1982, “reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial and foreign domination and foreign occupation by all available means, including armed struggle.”

Peace is possible but not through Palestinian ethnic cleansing. Peace is possible through an international community that holds Israel to account and compels it to end the occupation and the other violations of

Palestinian rights. Peace will only come when the Palestinian People can breathe, live safely and raise their children in their historic lands in the ways all people wish to live- in freedom with dignity.

Oppressors often look invincible, but they are really very fragile. They are weak in comparison to the strength that arises from righteous resistance and the passion of the people who are determined to live free from the oppressor's boot on their necks. South Africa proved that before and Palestine will prove it too. Images from 7 October broke the illusion that Israel worked hard to manufacture of its total domination and projection of supremacy. We see this as a significant turning point and call on all justice-minded organisations and individuals to stand with us as we stand with Palestine.

We the members of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples' [WFFP] are steadfast in our deep solidarity and support for the Palestinians' right to liberation and self-defence against Israeli terror. **We also stand in solidarity with our fisher people in Palestine.**

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