



The Arab Women's Committee of the League of Arab States

Statement

in regards to the effects of the current escalation in Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories on the Palestinian people, especially women and children

In the name of God, the most gracious, the most merciful

The Arab Women's Committee of the League of Arab States expresses its deep concern, strong denunciation and strong condemnation concerning the dangerous escalation practiced by the occupying power in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially in the Gaza Strip, and the devastating humanitarian, social and psychological effects it is having on the proud Palestinian people, especially the women and children of Palestine.

The violations, crimes and abuses of the brutal Israeli aggression is considered as a collective punishment against the struggling Palestinian people, and plan to deliberately create a new and complex refugee crisis by pushing 2.3 million Palestinians to emigrate and seek refuge.

Yes, the Palestinian people are subjected to forced displacement, loss of homes and property, families losing their stability, and face difficulties in accessing basic services such as health care, education, and protection. It is certain that the continuation of the criminal measures taken by the occupying power against Palestinian men and women, such as cutting off electricity, food, water and fuel from the Gaza Strip, will increase the extent of their suffering.

We say this as the number of martyrs of the Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip exceeded 3,200 martyred citizens, including more than 940 children and 1032 women, in addition to 7,696 citizens with various injuries, including 2,450 children and 1,400 women.

We also condemn the bombing of Al-Ahli Al-Mea'medani Hospital, located east of Gaza City, by the occupation forces, which resulted in the fall of a number of Palestinian martyrs. According to initial reports, the numbers indicates that at least 500 martyrs lost their lives as a result of this attack, which is considered a war crime against unarmed civilians. This unethical act completely contradicts international laws and basic humanitarian ethics that prohibit targeting medical facilities in times of conflict. These urgent events call for a transparent international investigation and prosecution of those responsible for this dreadful crime, and to ensure serving justice to the victims and their families. At this critical time, the international community must act unitedly and firmly to stop these violent acts and bring peace to the region, where the Palestinians are suffering from years of conflict, siege, and ongoing violence.

Let history record that 66% of the victims of the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip are children and women. Human losses as a result of violations and crimes of the occupying power are still on the frightening rise. Denial of women and children access to food and basic services, and attacks on civilian areas and infrastructure – including hospitals and schools – put their lives at risk. We are facing the subjection of 2.3 million Palestinian people to devastating and deadly conditions as a result of the total cutting off of water, electricity, fuel, medicine and food.

We are witnessing, according to international law, a violation of the right to life, violence, forced displacement, and arbitrary detention. The International humanitarian law and the international human rights law have prohibited and criminalized the practices of the occupational forces in Palestinian territories, which have exceeded in scope what we have witnessed with our own eyes and what history has told us. Yes, this escalation constitutes a violation of international charters that protect human rights and ensure the protection of women and children. Let historians record the bloody practices of "Israel" at a time when the United Nations, and with it the whole world, seeks to consolidate the contents of the International Declaration of Human Rights on the 75th anniversary of its adoption. Let the United Nations record how women and children are treated in Palestine by the occupying power, at a time when the international community seeks to consolidate the requirements of the “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women” (CEDAW) of 1979, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989. Let everyone witness how the occupation violates women and takes away childhood.

The above is synonymous with what was contained in the speech of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres, as the speech stressed that “this new crime has exceeded every reasonable limit, and that it will lead to limitless suffering to our Palestinian brothers and sisters in the Gaza Strip, in addition to the apparent violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the occupying power from forcibly transferring the population or deporting any of the persons under protection in the occupied territory”.

His Excellency the Secretary General of the League of Arab States also followed up and commented after the tragic bombing of Al-Ahli Al-Mea’medani Hospital and asked, “What kind of inhumane mind is the one who intentionally bombs a hospital with its defenseless residents? Our Arab mechanisms document war crimes, and criminals will not

get away with their actions. The West must stop this tragedy immediately.” He referred in his comment to all relevant United Nations organizations and mechanisms.

We the Arab Women’s Committee of the League of Arab States:

We condemn all acts of violence against women and children and call for an immediate cessation of acts of Israeli aggression;

We reject the calls for the forced displacement of the Palestinian people from Gaza;

We stress the need to address these tragic situations and commit to protecting human rights, women and children in the occupied Palestinian territories.

We urge the international community to increase diplomatic pressure to stop the violence and Israeli colonialism, and to reach a peaceful solution that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people to live in dignity and freedom in line with international humanitarian law and human rights law.

We call on all parties concerned to take immediate action to ensure the protection of women and children and provide them with the necessary care, including psychological and social support, and to provide the necessary means to meet their basic needs and ensure their access to medical, educational and protection services.

We call on the international community, humanitarian organizations and international institutions to respect international humanitarian law and provide the necessary support to the Palestinian people, especially women and children, by providing the necessary humanitarian aid, funding and resources to alleviate their suffering and rebuild the destroyed infrastructure and educational and health institutions.

We call on everyone to show solidarity and work in the spirit of justice and peace to achieve a peaceful political solution to the Palestinian issue and end the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Standing united and working together are the keys to achieving peace and justice in the region.

***** The statement of the Arab Women's Committee of the League of Arab States
has ended *****