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By Palestine and the Middle East 11.08.2022

It is time for the UN to act to dismantle apartheid



Sources: Bds

In recent days we have **witnessed another televised massacre committed by** <u>Israel's</u> <u>apartheid</u> against the original Palestinian people in Gaza, in which more than 40 people have been killed, including 15 children, and hundreds injured. Most of our gazans are refugees from the 1948 Nakba, who suffered ethnic cleansing and were dispossessed by Zionist militias and later by the State of Israel and its army, and who are continually struggling to return home. At the same time, Israeli fascist factions, supported and protected by the apartheid regime, have invaded and desecrated the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. As we mourn our dead, care for our wounded, try to rebuild our homes, and resist aggression and its underlying system of oppression, we need international solidarity to be more intense and meaningful.

This time Israel's deadly aggression "**was not provoked,**" **as Israel itself admitted,** so it lacks the usual propaganda claim to act in "retaliation" that the biased Western media duly parrots. But a regime of settler colonialism and apartheid never retaliates; it is by definition an ongoing act of violence, aggression and oppression. Brazilian educator Paulo Freire <u>says</u>: "Once the oppressive relationship is established, violence is established. Hence, in history violence has never been initiated by the oppressed. ... There would be no oppressed if there had not been prior violence to establish their subjugation."

It is essential to remember that Israel's latest massacre took place in the context of the **criminal siege of Gaza, which is now 15 years old,** older than most of the children killed in Israel's repeated massacres since 2008. The siege deprives more than two million Palestinians, most of them children, of basic necessities such as clean water, work, reliable electricity, as well as adequate housing, medical care and education. As a result, morbidity, mortality (especially infant mortality), stunting and poverty rates have increased considerably, making life a living hell for the Ghazites. **Several human rights experts condemn Israel's blockade of Gaza as a crime against humanity,** while some activists and historians have called it "gradual genocide."

Israel can only carry out its continued deadly aggressions against the Palestinian people thanks to the open support of the United States, the United Kingdom and other European governments and the indirect support of other governments that remain silent or, worse, treat as if they were morally equivalent to the oppressor of apartheid and its oppressed victims. **His hands are also stained with the blood of Palestinian children**.

Para colmo de males podemos ver la grotesca hipocresía y <u>el doble rasero de</u> <u>Occidente</u> si comparamos su apoyo activo al sistema de ocupación y opresión de Israel desde hace décadas con su oposición generalizada y las sanciones a Rusia debido a su invasión de Ucrania hace solo unos meses. Después de todo, el régimen de ocupación militar, el colonialismo de asentamiento y el apartheid de Israel desde hace décadas no solo es "hecho en Occidente", sino que ese mismo Occidente profundamente colonial y racista lo arma, lo financia y lo protege de tener que rendir cuentas. El apoyo militar, diplomático y económico que Occidente ofrece al apartheid de Israel lo convierte en un auténtico socio en este crimen.

El fracaso total de la Corte Penal Internacional y de las Naciones Unidas, incluida la Asamblea General, a la hora de hacer que Israel asuma la responsabilidad de sus prolongados y continuos crímenes contra la humanidad los convierte también en culpables fundamentales de la reciente masacre de Israel en Gaza.

The systematic and prolonged nature of Israel's oppression and aggression against the Palestinian people leaves unapologetic those countries of the Global South that are normalizing or planning to normalize relations with this apartheid colonial regime. Corporations and institutions that continue to do business as usual with apartheid like this if it were normal must face serious consequences. There are no excuses for artists, academics, etc., who work or want to work with apartheid Israel. That work is nothing but a form of complicity with crimes against humanity.

As we continue to resist on the ground, we call on all people around the world who support us and work alongside us to **intensify the mobilization of solidarity** and take effective action to stop Israel's crimes with the aim of helping us end all of its violent regime of oppression.

We ask that:

Denounce the complicity of the mainstream media

Many of the mainstream media repeat the lies and stratagems of Israeli apartheid, and completely ignore the facts. Keep an eye on your media, ask journalists to respect our <u>7</u> points on ethical and professional principles of journalism in covering Israel's war in Gaza, protest fraudulent reporting, and help us make Palestinian voices heard.

Put pressure on your governments and the UN to act:

- Condemning the continued aggression of apartheid Israel,
- Imposing a two-way military and security embargo on Israel

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• Banning all trade and banking that profit from their business with Israel's illegal settlements

More urgently, next month the UN General Assembly meetings begin and Palestinian civil society is demanding that the UN urgently investigate Israel's crime against humanity that is apartheid, including by reviving its anti-apartheid mechanisms. Send demands to your government to support these calls for the UN to take concrete steps to dismantle Israeli apartheid, just as was done with South Africa [see here for a model letter].

Build more popular power by stepping up BDS campaigns

 Join boycott and divestment campaigns, or launch them, to hold corporations and institutions accountable for their complicity with Israel's regime of oppression. <u>Check here</u> for a list of the top BDS campaigns taking place around the world.

Source: <u>https://bdsmovement.net/es/news/tras-la-ultima-masacre-que-israel-ha-cometido-</u> <u>en-gaza-ya-es-hora-de-que-la-onu-actue-para</u>

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