

Dear Mrs. Michelle Bachelet,

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Your excellency, while Palestinian people are suffering from another round of crackdown, violence and aggression by the Israeli occupying power, they receive little political support of their inalienable right to self-defense. Regrettably, the international community, including your office, failed to offer effective and adequate protection from clear and blatant violations of the Palestinians' fundamental rights, including rights to life, peace and personal security by Israel occupying power.

In the numerous UN resolutions and reports, it is recognized that the Palestinian people have been suffering from continuous intentional discriminative collective punishment, ethnic cleansing, forced evictions, destruction of their property, annexations, occupation, the racist Apartheid policies and behavior of Israel and the violation of all their human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Recent violence, which was triggered and spread by Israel, put the Palestinian people, in particular in Gaza Strip, on the brink of extinction. The recent blatant and ruthless actions by the Israeli Security Forces and its leadership, claiming purported self-defense, forced Palestinian people to experience massive killings of the civilian population, including innocent children and women, and the targeting and destruction of the little remaining from previous attacks on civilian buildings and infrastructures in the Gaza Strip. This all has been done persistently and violently under the disguise of countering and eliminating Hamas's presence in those objects.

We welcome recent cease fire and those who condemned Israel for escalation of violence, as well as attacks and killing of hundreds and maybe thousands of Palestinians by air raid and shelling in Gaza. At the moment, it is difficult to estimate the real numbers of civilian casualties and their suffering, especially because of the continues Israel's efforts to silence and scare journalists and stifle local representatives of civil society and human rights defenders, including though its Air Force recent turning into a pile of rubble the tower housing media offices. Clearly, this was done deliberately, so that the world would hear less or nothing of what is happening in the sieged and blockaded Gaza.

While local civil society activists and human rights defenders put their lives at stake to document the killing, violence and aggression by Israel, Instagram and Facebook encouraged by Israel are blocking and removing the Palestinians' content under the disguise of countering incitement to violence and terrorism, while in reality being an accomplice with Israel to erase the traces of the recorded and well documented evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In this context, we are expressing our grave concern over the new round of killings, violence and aggression by Israel against occupied and oppressed Palestinian people. While we welcome the recent cease fire, we believe the world community does little if not nothing to effectively stop occupation, recognize the right to self-defense and statehood, and restore peace in OPT. This round of escalation of violence is the clear indication of the need to take decisive actions to prospect innocent civilian people in OPT. In this regard, we urge the UN High Commissioner, the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures mandate holders, the General Assembly, and the Security Council to ensure necessary conditions for the decisive and swift actions in liberating and supporting the Palestinian people, against the continuous day light killing, as well as illegal, degrading and inhuman collective punishment.

Furthermore, we are expressing serious concern over various concerted efforts to prevent the world community from hearing voices from Gaza, through *inter alia* persistent legacy of the Israeli Security Forces' attacks against the journalists, civil society activists and human rights defenders. We call on the UN High Commissioner, the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures mandate holders to take effective measures to cease and effectively prevent Israel's and other efforts in silencing and influencing the social media in preventing the witness testimonies, voices and the video evidence content created by Palestinian people to reach the world community.

Considering the alarming situation is Gaza, we call on Your Excellency to use all your capacity and resources at hand to effectively stop occupation of Palestinian people and their territories, help to recognize their right to self-defense and statehood, and restore peace in OPT.

In addition, we urge on Your Excellency to use all your capacity and resources at hand in supporting and conducting effective, transparent and independent investigation of the case against Israel, which was brought to the International Criminal Court by the State of Palestine. We urge the UN Human Rights Council's members to ensure allocation of necessary and if needed additional resources to the High Commissioner on those matters.

We remind Your Excellency that Israel's invocation of self-defense was denied by the International Court of Justice in 2004 in its advisory opinion on the separation wall, as the court recognized that Israel had failed to prove that the rockets fired from Gaza were missiles launched by a sovereign state in accordance with the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations Organization.

Finally, we encourage Your Excellency to continue and increase effectively yours and your Office's efforts in taking the international community from darkness and evil of considering Israel above the law and fostering its impunity for the persistent and blatant pattern of violations of international law, international humanitarian law and all UN resolutions urging Israel to stay committed to its obligations under the international law.

Kind Regards,

Association d'amitié Euro-Arabe Syrian Medical Committee

Arab Women's Union in Norway

Communauté Palestinienne en Belgique

European Alliance for the Solidarity with the Palestinian Detainees

Follow up Committee for the Support of the Lebanese Detainees in the Israeli Prisons

Forum Démocratique Palestinien en Europe

Geneva Council for International Affairs and Development

German-Palestinian Women's Union

Group 194, Sweden

International Organization for Supporting the Rights of the Palestinian People

Khiam Rehabilitation Center for the Victims of Torture

Organisation for Defending Victims of Violence

Palestinian Community in Germany

Palestinian Community in Mönchengladbach

Palestinian Democratic Assembly in Denmark

Palstinain Democratic Gathring in Denmark

Palestinian Friendship Association Wuppertal

Palestinian Women's Association

Palestinian Roman Center

Palestnske forretning I vest Agder-Norway

Protection et Aide aux défenseurs des droits de l'homme (PADDH)

Right of Return Committees in Denmark

Right of Return Committees in Norway

Union of the Palestinian Community's, Institution's and Events in Europe