

In Solidarity with the People of Palestine

We are writing to raise our deep concern regarding the future of the people of Palestine. This is a time of daily conflict between the Palestinian youth, who are fed up with the long time occupation of their homeland on one side, and the fully equipped Israeli Army on the other side. The Palestinians are responding to an absolute abrogation of their human rights. Since September 28, 2000, on a daily basis, approximately 3 to 6 Palestinians have fallen victims to the oppression by Israel's Army. The massacre of Palestinians has become a matter of daily occurrence - thousands of them have been wounded in this conflict.

Israel does not recognize any of the international guidelines or the resolutions issued by the United Nations. It has not recognized the United Nations Security Council's resolution 242 to leave the Occupied Territories of 1967, nor has it recognized the legitimate rights of Palestinians to self-government. Israel is not willing to abandon the colonization of the Occupied Territories and it does not respect the commitments it has made during seven years of negotiations with Palestinians (following the Oslo Treaty). Palestinians are fed up with their ongoing poverty, humiliation, discrimination and the besieging of their cities by Israel. They have become more determined in pursuing their humane and just demands.

The great powers of the world, especially the United States, have employed a discriminatory policy against the Palestinians. In fact, they always ignore the obstinate actions of Israel. As a result, all the crimes and violations against the Palestinians have never been treated with any punishment. Palestinians are standing up to demand their human and national rights and are struggling for independence and the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem.

We under-signed, are Iranians who have experienced long years of exile, migration and oppression; we are in strong solidarity with the struggle of the people of Palestine. We believe that the Palestinian cause is neither religious, nor racial, nor ethnic: it is political. It is the occupation of a people's land and the forced eviction of its people from it. Israel's occupying forces must act according to the resolutions of the United Nations and retreat from the Occupied Territories. They have to return freedom to the Palestinians.

In this conflict we are taking sides. When a right is explicitly being crushed, it is a crime not to take sides.

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Signatures of Iranian writers, artists, lawyers, political activists and human rights defenders:

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