

State of Palestine

Association of Palestinian
Local Authorities

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الاتحاد الفلسطيني للهيئات المحلية
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للهيئات المحلية

Do you Still Believe in the Human Rights?

For more than 40 days, Gaza has witnessed a heartbreaking and relentless war, with overwhelming human costs. The Israeli airstrikes have taken a devastating toll, claiming the lives of more than 11,000 Palestinians, leaving tens of thousands severely injured, and reducing homes to rubble. Amid this tragedy, more than 1.5 million innocent civilians find themselves displaced and struggling to secure their safety. This dire situation is further compounded by Gaza's 16-year-long siege and decades of occupation, where the rights of Palestinians to life, equality, health, development, and movement are persistently undermined and violated.

Regrettably, there are moments when the international community appears to be selective in its application of the human rights, the global commitment to human rights should be unwavering and unbiased. Yet, with a heavy heart, we find it necessary to shed light on the overreach of Palestinians' human rights, it becomes painfully clear that some lives are deemed less valuable than others.

In Gaza, Citizens, including the most vulnerable, endure heightened suffering and danger. People have no access to clean water, food, electricity, and fuel. With out-of-service hospitals due to a lack of electricity and fuel; most hospitals are non-operational due to a huge number of Israeli attacks, resulting in the tragic loss of hundreds of healthcare staff. Amidst chaos, maternal and child health struggles, with 52,000 pregnant women facing hardships and hundreds of prematurely born babies relying on incubators for survival. Some of them have not survived the harsh conditions and have died, profoundly worsening the humanitarian situation in the Strip, leaving a multi-dimensional humanitarian disaster in its wake. Not only bombings, but also the hospitals witnessed an intrusion by Israeli occupation forces. Patients were subjected to 10 hours of interrogation, and numerous hospitals, similar to the earlier incident at AlShifa Hospital, citizens inside and around the hospital, including patients, were deliberately targeted.

It is disheartening to note that the suffering of Palestinians often causes indifference, hesitation to condemn, or worse, a willful blindness to their crises. While we champion human rights around the world, we must confront the undeniable disparities in our responses to human rights violations. Every life should be held in equal esteem, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or geographic location.

As we witness the harsh realities and consider the devastating impact of this crisis on the lives of the innocent, the dreams of individuals crushed, and the profound violations of basic human rights, we are compelled to pose a question to each and every one of us: **Do we still believe in human rights?**

The Association of Palestinian Local Authorities – APLA

