



## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

### **ICSFT CONDEMNS THE SENSELESS KILLING OF RAZAN AL-NAJJAR BY ISRAELI SNIPER**



#### **RAZAN AL-NAJJAR – 21 YEARS OLD VOLUNTEER MEDIC**

One more deadly day was registered as part of the recent escalation of violence seen in the recent wave of demonstrations in Gaza, known as the Great Return March<sup>1</sup> launched on March 30, against the Israeli blockade on Gaza and demanding the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homes.

Last Friday, June 1, Razan al-Najjar, a 21-year-old Palestinian volunteer paramedic for the Gaza Health Ministry, was killed by live fire shot by Israeli soldiers near Khan Yunis at the border fence

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<sup>1</sup> Over 1.8 million Palestinians are currently trapped inside Gaza while a decade-long blockade starves them of basic supplies, economic opportunity, and ultimately, any sense of hope for a better life



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in the Gaza Strip. Other 40 were wounded during the Israel-Gaza border demonstrations on the same day, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

Najjar is the second woman to die since protests began on the border at the end of March. The first was a teenage protester. Last month, the New York Times interviewed Najjar in Gaza. She was one of the female medics responding to medical emergencies during the protests.

**“We have one goal – to save lives and evacuate people,” she said in the video. “And to send a message to the world: Without weapons, we can do anything.”**

She was wearing the white uniform of a medic when Israeli soldiers shot her in the chest. Medical workers, dressed in the same white uniforms, marched during her funeral procession, holding Palestinian flags and her photo. Her father walked holding his daughter's own medical vest, once white, now stained red with her blood.

The United Nations said that “those responsible for outrageous human rights violations must be held to account.”

But on Friday, the United States vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution that would have condemned Israel's “**excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate force**” against Palestinians. USA Ambassador to the UNSC Nikki Haley remarked “no country would act with greater restraint than Israel” and preceded to block a U.N. inquiry into the deaths in Gaza. An independent investigation is absolutely necessary when more than 100 people have been killed in protests.

According to the UN Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has a right to peaceful assembly and to return to their country. Moreover, the use of lethal force is illegal under international law except in cases of imminent threats to life.

Under the international community's pressure the Israeli military made the usual fake announcement on Saturday that it would investigate her death but that its troops worked “in accordance with standard operating procedures.”



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At least 119 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the weekly border demonstrations in Gaza.

Concurrently, hundreds of people participated in protests in solidarity with Gaza in the Israeli cities of Haifa and Tel Aviv.

In her interview with the New York Times before she's killed, Najjar said that Gaza needed more female medics like herself. "Najar volunteered to help the medical teams back when the marches started and was hurt from gas inhalation several times" said the Palestinian Health Minister Dr. Jawad Awaad.

"The strength that I showed as a first responder on the first day of protests, I dare you to find it in anyone else," she said.

ICSFT condemns in the strongest terms the indiscriminate killings of innocent Palestinian protestors by the Israeli forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, in particular those killed in the past weeks of the Great Return March as the most recent victims of the occupying Israeli force.

UN must hold Israeli accountable for these targeted killings of civilian protestors and aid workers.  
**Israeli's days of complete impunity must come to an end!**