



# INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

## **ICSFT DENOUNCES THE KILLING OF INNOCENT PALESTINIAN PROTESTORS**



*A protestor waving Palestinian flag*

As the mass Friday demonstrations, also known as the Great Return March, have continued since May 15, Israeli Special Forces infiltrated an area near the southern city of Khan Younis late on Sunday and killed seven Palestinians. Another Palestinian named Mohammed Abd al-Hay Abu Abada has been killed by Israeli fire during ongoing protests along the Israeli separation fence east of Gaza on October 29. The previous day Three Palestinian boys aged between 13 and 14 were killed in an Israeli air strike in the southeastern Gaza Strip near the fence. On October 26 Israeli forces have fired live bullets and rubber-coated steel rounds at Palestinians protesting along the fence of Israel, killing at least five of them and wounding a further 170. The list goes on. Systematic and gross human rights violations are daily realities for Palestinians.

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The Great Return March marks what Palestinians refer to as the Nakba, or Catastrophe - a reference to the forced removal of 750,000 Palestinians from their homes and villages to clear the way for Israel's establishment in 1948. Since March 30, Israeli forces have killed at least 210 Palestinians in the besieged coastal enclave and wounded more than 18,000 people.

Israeli forces frequently raid Palestinian homes in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem to arrest local Palestinians on claims of being “wanted” by Israeli security agencies.

Over 6,500 Palestinians are currently languishing in prisons throughout Israel, according to official Palestinian figures.

Additionally UNCTAD’s latest study concludes that Palestinians have been denied the human right to development after half a century of occupation and appropriation of land and resources. The situation is shown in a number of alarming indicators. According to the Palestinian statistics bureau, almost one in three people (29.2 percent) were living below the poverty level. With 53 percent of individuals in Gaza Strip found to be poor, the poverty rate for Gaza Strip was more than four times higher than that of the West Bank, which was 13.9 percent, reflecting the catastrophic effect of the 11 year and ongoing blockade on the Palestinians.

Palestinians are calling for an immediate end to occupation and blockade of the Gaza strip and the ethnic cleansing in Jerusalem and other places in west bank. And urge Israeli authorities to respect all United Nations resolutions and its obligations under international law recognizing their right to self-determination. Rights groups and human rights defenders are at the forefront promoting for these calls. Echoing for international solidarity and action as well.



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ICSFT urges the international community to take a strong stance in support of Palestinians and condemn the ongoing massacre by Israeli Forces. Israel must be held accountable for its human rights violations.

Further to this we call on and urge the international community;

- That immediate action be taken to provide international protection for the Palestinian people
- End the Israeli occupation of all the Palestinian Territories occupied in 1967
- Creation of a Palestinian State with East-Jerusalem as its capital
- A just and legal addressing of the Palestinian refugees question.