

International network for the popular nonviolent Palestinian resistance

Call to join!

The Middle East today is a frontier for building a reality of coexistence and mutual respect between peoples, but the ongoing occupation of the Palestinian territories and the continuous violation of international law by the Israeli authorities is an obstacle that can only be overcome by strong action from the international community to restore legality and justice. At the same time, building peace requires the participation of local actors, who are developing a shared vision for change. The Palestinian popular nonviolent resistance is a growing grassroots movement that has been struggling for self-determination and a just peace solution for years, through a strategy based on creativity and joint action with Israeli and international activists.

We feel strongly that now, more than ever, it is time to take responsibility to end the Israeli occupation.

We, the undersigned, have come together from many countries to create an international support network for the Coordination of Popular Committees born out of the 4th Bi'lin conference (April 2009) and all initiatives of Palestinian grassroots nonviolent resistance.

The grassroots movement is an example not only for Palestinians, but also for people worldwide who believe in freedom, justice and self-determination. For many years, the activists from the grassroots movements have put their bodies on the line to fight against land confiscation, the uprooting of trees, the annexation wall and the settlements.

Israeli activists cross the wall to participate in these actions with courage and determination, building real connections between the two civil societies.

In these peaceful actions many have been killed, thousands injured and hundreds arrested by Israeli forces. Families in the villages are terrorized, children are traumatized by seeing their houses invaded and their relatives beaten and arrested during night raids.

The Israeli authorities are consciously working to break the unity created among Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals, to crush the nonviolent struggle in order to provoke a violent reaction from the Palestinians and to present themselves as victims.

Israel is not, and should not be, above the law. All states have a responsibility to both respect and apply international law.

We are creating this international network for Palestinian popular nonviolent resistance in order to:

- raise awareness and visibility among worldwide public opinion and policy makers about the daily life of the Palestinian people living under occupation and with the wall;
- improve the coordination among international civil society groups working in solidarity with this movement and establish a permanent channel of communication;
- strengthen the advocacy and lobbying capacity towards governments and parliaments worldwide to defend the objectives of the Palestinian movement, and call attention to these goals by international media;
- promote international initiatives to send civilian peace teams to the occupied territories, work to maintain a constant presence of international volunteers in the villages

and organize field visits of politicians, lawyers and journalists;

- foster non-cooperation and divestment from settlements in the occupied territories including East Jerusalem and from the Israeli war economy that profits from the occupation.

We call upon all those who care about justice and peace to join this effort to unite people, to tear down physical and mental walls and to uphold our humanity, like Palestinians and Israelis are doing together against violence, oppression and colonization.

Peace is needed by all, Palestinians and Israelis; peace will come with justice and implementation of international law.

Luisa Morgantini, former Vice President of European Parliament	Associazione per la Pace	Italy
Action for Peace		Italy
Association France Palestine Solidarity		France
Collectifs Urgence Palestine		Switzerland
Fanny-Michaela Reisin, President	International League f. Human Rights (FIDH)	Germany
Carla Biavati	Interventi Civili di Pace	Italy
Luca Gervasoni i Vila, Codirector	NOVA - Social Innovation Center	Spain
Nicole Ochando Szaroletta, Director	Servei Civil Internacional Catalunya (SCI- Cat)	Spain
Riccardo Carraro	Servizio Civile Internazionale	Italy
Martina Pignatti	Un ponte per...	Italy