National Palestinian Prisoners' Movement

National and Islamic Forces

Letter from Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons and detention centers to the global boycott movement

We send you this letter with appreciation for the leading role of the boycott movement, which is based on a comprehensive moral and human position that rejects injustice and oppression; confronts racism and policies of discrimination based on race, religion or sex; upholds freedom, human dignity and values of justice; and seeks to counter support and complicity with the Israeli government by international forces.

In this context, the international campaign that you lead is demonstrating its effectiveness and growth, escalating pressure on the Israeli state and its institutions, and has become the main conduit of the voice of the oppressed in Palestine. We send this letter in order to put forward several ideas and proposals, highlighting the inclusion of the issue of the prisoners on the agenda of the boycott movement, and hope to enrich and develop our dialogue.

Our proposals are summarized in the following points:

First, the security corporations that serve the occupation government bear direct responsibility for the crimes committed against the Palestinian people. The boycott and prosecution of these corporations is a means of protection and defense of the Palestinian people under occupation, who face massacres and one aggression after another. In particular, we emphasize the importance of boycotting the security corporation, G4S, which supports the occupation and has established the closest relationship with it, as well as other companies providing similar services in this arena.

Second, we urge the inclusion of our cause, as prisoners of freedom and fighters for the freedom of our people, human dignity, and the right to a dignified life, within the program of the boycott movement as a major issue of paramount importance. In particular, we are prevented from education by the occupation state; education is today considered a basic right of every human being, and we are prevented permanently from the exercise of this right. More than a thousand prisoners are suffering from chronic diseases; their lives are in danger and they do not receive necessary medical treatment. Their care is not subject to any accountability, oversight or follow-up and operates according to the priorities of the Israel Prison Service management. This comes in addition to the use of isolation, the ongoing arrests of hundreds of Palestinians monthly, the arrest of democratically-elected representatives, women and children. Our children and families are exposed to a daily torture through the prevention of family visits, the imposition of impossible conditions and other abuses.

Third, we call on you in the boycott movement to raise the names of the intelligence officers of the occupation and the directors of prison management, to be accused and prosecuted before international courts for arrest and trial for the crimes they have committed, up to the crime of murder, against the rights of prisoners. This is also a project for legal and human rights organizations and there are many issues and violations against the prisoners that can be invoked.

Fourth, we call for the launch and expansion of an international campaign with wide support and participation to demand the freedom of prisoners, beginning with the sick prisoners, administrative detainees, women, and child prisoners, and to end the use of torture in prisons and detention centers.

Finally, we salute you as we see you as the voice of conscience that confronts the killing machine, injustice and oppression.

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