

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION



ICSFT stands with the People of Palestine on The Great Return March -

Western backed occupiers must pay attention today!

Since the 1967 occupation of the rights and territory of the Palestinian people, by the US-backed Israel, the **Palestinians have been abused, controlled, violated, tortured, demeaned and murdered.** These crimes are extensive, severe and backed by its western allies, specifically the US. They have been perpetrated through a variety of means, including through extrajudicial killing, arbitrary detention, displacement, crippled or non-existent humanitarian service.

In view of these atrocious violations the courageous people of Palestine started a peaceful demonstration today, Land Day, which marks the day - March 30, 1976 - when six unarmed Palestinian citizens of Israel were killed by Israeli forces during protests against the Israeli government's decision to expropriate massive tracts of Palestinian land. March 30 is a historic day for Palestine, and for human rights across the Middle East, and indeed the world. It is the day of The Great Return March, when courageous Palestinians rise up and protest to demand their rights. The March is addressing the **refusal of Israel to allow the return of millions of**

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refugees to their 1948 homelands. Today's march kicked off six weeks of a sit-in demonstration along the border leading up to the commemoration of the Nakba on May 15.

The marchers are demanding the right of return to villages that are rightfully theirs, but are currently occupied by Israel.

The protests will end on May 15, marking the 75th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (Catastrophe), when 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly displaced by Israeli forces in 1948 war.

The ICSFT stands with the Great Return March, and strongly condemns the violence and abuse faced by Palestinian women, men and children, the complicity of the international community and the UN in allowing Israel to continuously perpetrate war crimes, the targeting of journalists, arbitrary detentions, continued displacement, a crippled health system, and lack of self-determination.

The continuing blockade is a war crime that must be stopped. We deplore the lack of legal remedy or accountability for Palestinians within the occupying Israeli system!

ICSFT stand with Palestine, and stands with the Great Return March. We commend the notable courage and perseverance of human rights defenders and protestors, and urge the international community should hold Israel accountable for its grave violations as we have the moral responsibility to fight injustice!

¹ Source: https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/palestinian-history-180216202248594.html **ICSFT in special consultative status with the ECOSOC** / Center Oecumenique des eglise 150, Route de Ferney 1211, Offices: 191&192, Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: +41227884808/ 5&6- Fax:+ 41227884807- Website: www.icsft.net- Email: uncoordinator@icsft.net / info@icsft.net