

Registration No. 2795/2012

**OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION** 



# Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine, and no place for a US Embassy

Protesters in Palestine continue to be slaughtered by Israeli military, with ammunition paid for by the United States and other Western backers. Innocent women, men and children are being murdered in cold blood. They are doing

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



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nothing to deserve to be murdered. They are just doing what is lauded by the very same states that are backing their deaths: they are recognizing that they inherently have the right to safety, to self-determination, to sufficient, healthy food, to clean drinking water, to education, to freedom from physical, sexual, verbal assault, and more. And, most importantly they are saying that they have the right to their own homelands.

They continue to live with dignity and strength, and protest with courage, in the face of annihilation and murder. All they want is what is inherently theirs: Palestine is and has always been their rightful home. And Jerusalem is, and has always been the capital.

The Israeli occupiers that continue to violate their basic humanity are pushing their violence and oppression further, with the backing and support of the United States:

On May14th, the United States Embassy will officially be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This move is an extension and fulfilment of Trump's declaration that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel in December, 2017, stating "Jerusalem is the capital the Jewish people established in ancient times. Today Jerusalem is the seat of Israel's government."



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In response to the opening of the Embassy, the US government said the following:

"By recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the seat of its government, we're recognizing reality," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. "I also stress, as President Trump has said in December, the boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem remain subject to negotiations between the parties, and we remain committed to achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace that offers a brighter future for both Israel and the Palestinians."

The Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat tweeted that the embassy move is a "historic event", and stated that Jerusalem is "the eternal capital of the Jewish people. **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



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This is not a dream. It is reality. I am proud and moved to have hung this morning the first new signs that were prepared for the US Embassy,"

ICSFT is appalled by this turn of events, and the extreme and horrific hypocrisy of the United States in these acts. At the United Nations councils and bodies, including the Human Rights Council, the United States spews lip service to human rights. It presents itself as the most human rights advocating, free, open and just society. It positions itself as the champion of the rights of oppressed people. Yet, it still gives bullets to Israel that go straight into the innocent bodies of Palestinians simply trying to live. The US, Israel and all the supporters of the occupation need to be held accountable as per established international human rights and humanitarian standards and justice must be served without any further delay – 70 years too late. US's unilateral action of moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem against established international customary standards and in the absence of a negotiated settlement between Israel and the Palestinians is a clear hypocrisy and sure to fuel tensions, and make it more difficult to reach a durable peace.

ICSFT demands that the international community act on its own standards, and recognize that the people of Palestine deserve self-determination, freedom, and the chance to live lives of dignity in the true capital of Palestine, Jerusalem.

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