



29 November. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

In the context of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, United Nations expresses its concern over the oppression to which the Palestinian people have been subjected by the State of Israel since 1947. The latest incidents in Sheikh Jarrah and in the Bedouin villages of Khan-El Ahmar and Kfar Adumim this year have further aggravated tensions between the two sides and the hope for a peace dialogue does not seem attainable.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established in 1975 to *offer its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations*. Since 1977, on 29 November each year, the United Nations has commemorated the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.¹

The decision of that date relates to resolution 181, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1947. It is known as the "partition resolution", which provided for the creation of a "Jewish State" and an "Arab State" in Palestine, with Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum* under a special international regime. Of the two States envisaged in that resolution, only the State of Israel was eventually created.²

That is why, on this day, the United Nations stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people, denouncing those rights that have been violated by the Israeli authorities, together with their allies, over the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In this way, the United Nations offers its support to the Palestinian people through a network of more than 1000 civil society organizations from all regions of the world active on the question of Palestine has been established. Some of the programs focus on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, such as the right to self-determination without external interference, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and properties, from which they were evicted.

¹ "Día Internacional de Solidaridad con el Pueblo Palestino 29 de noviembre", *Naciones Unidas*, <https://www.un.org/es/observances/International-day->

[of-solidarity-with-the-palestinian-people](#)
(noviembre 25, 2021).

² Idem footnote 1



Source: AFP, Middle East Eye

In the context of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, civil society organizations are meeting to promote programs for the struggle of the Palestinians. In this case, we will focus our attention on UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East) and its work in Spain.

This organization is the Spanish national committee of the United Nations Agency for Refugees in Palestine. It was established in 2005 and was the first committee of its kind in the world. Its aim is to raise awareness and make Spanish citizens aware of the situation of Palestine refugees in countries such as Jordan, Lebanon or Syria. Its work is based on providing basic services such as education, health, social services, and emergency aid to this population.

Another important institution in relation to the Palestinian population is the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). It is responsible for providing aid and developing projects in other countries. The Master Plan for Cooperation 2005-2008 identified the Palestinian Territories as a priority country. The objective of Spanish cooperation in this context is *the creation of a Palestinian State through the fight against poverty, aid for the economic and social development of the country, strengthening its State structures and institutions and supporting civil society to create peace and democracy.*³

³ “La Cooperación Española con los Territorios Palestinos”, *Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)*, <https://www.aecid.es/galerias/descargas/noticias/DOS>

[SIER AECID EN PALESTINA 08.pdf](#) (november 25, 2021)



The various humanitarian organizations, both on the ground and in other countries, all showed great commitment to protecting the rights of the Palestinian population. We must also highlight the presence of NGOs and pressure groups that try to curb those companies complicit with the Israeli state.

An interesting case study, of which most of us are possibly unaware, is that of Kfar Adumim and Khan Al-Ahmar. These are a Palestinian population living in the West Bank of Palestine, near Jerusalem. The inhabitants of this village are Bedouins and now face deplorable conditions, such as difficulty in accessing water, lack of access to electricity, etc.

In 2018, Israel's Supreme Court approved the demolition of this town, despite pressure from European countries, human rights organizations and activists to prevent this from happening. Following this, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladeov, expressed concern about the events in this West Bank village. ⁴

To date, however, no agreement has yet been reached between the Israeli authorities and the Bedouin inhabitants. According to an agreement negotiated under former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, its residents agreed to evict their people in exchange for permanent residency status in Israel. The relocation would be in a village in Negev. With the change of government in Israel, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett pledged to resolve

the conflict and transfer the residents, but the problem is still present and without any solution in sight. Months ago, the Middle East was once again the focus of attention, as a result of the Israeli court's decision to evict four families in Sheikh Jarrah, a neighbourhood in East Jerusalem.

A 2019 Amnesty International report denounced that governments must regulate the role of large online travel agencies, such as Airbnb, Booking.com, Expedia or TripAdvisor, not to operate in Israeli settler territory and not to promote tourism in the Occupied Territories area. In this way, the intention is to prevent the revival of the settlement economy, since indirectly the illegal Israeli settlement enterprise would be sustained. ⁵

In 2005 a campaign of political activism was launched, under the name of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), aimed at pressuring the Israeli government to comply with international law standards, recommendations and resolutions of international bodies such as the United Nations on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The BDS is having a huge impact, as it questions international support for what they call a regime of occupation, colonialism and apartheid on the Palestinian people. ⁶

The main objectives of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign are based on ending the occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall; the recognition of the

⁴ Awad, A. (2021, 30 november). "La ONU expresa su preocupación por la inminente demolición de la aldea beduina de Jan Al Ahmar, Cisjordania", *Europa Press*, <https://www.europapress.es/internacional/noticia-onu-expresa-preocupacion-inminente-demolicion-aldea-beduina-jan-ahmar-cisjordania-20180916171622.html> (30 november 2021)

⁵ Editorial staff, "La ONU publica un listado de empresas extranjeras que operan en los asentamientos israelíes

en Palestina", *El Diario*, noviembre 25, 2021 https://www.eldiario.es/internacional/onu-empresas-estadounidenses-europeas-asentamientos_1_1135815.html

⁶ "¿Qué es BDS?", *Boicot, Desinversiones y Sanciones*, <https://bdsmovement.net/es/what-is-bds> (november 25, 2021).



fundamental right to full equality of Arab citizens- the respect and protection of the rights of Palestinians to return to their homes and properties (more than 7,250,000 people), as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.⁷

In addition to the boycott itself of Israeli and international companies operating in the area, banks, churches, pension funds, universities or individuals are also called upon to withdraw their investments, like George Soros, the Bill Gates Foundation or the Israeli subsidiary of the telecommunications company Orange. Israel is being pressured to stop the arms trade, the free trade agreements and pressure is being put on it not to become a member of the United Nations or FIFA.⁸

António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, warned that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, represents a major challenge to international peace and security.⁹

The Secretary-General stated that he was "encouraged" by the recent contacts between senior Israeli and Palestinian officials, but adds that containing the situation is not enough, but that the conditions for constructive dialogue must also be created, with the aim of improving the lives of all Palestinians under occupation.¹⁰

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⁷ idem footnote 6

⁸ idem footnote 6

⁹ Editorial staff, "Las violaciones de los derechos de los palestinos ponen en riesgo la solución de los dos

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¹⁰ idem footnote 9



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