



Statement of Arab Philosophers on Palestine

For more than seventy-five years, the Palestinian people have been living under direct occupation, which commenced with the support of UK-led imperialist powers, for the creation of a settler colonial entity with the main goal of weakening and fragmenting the Arab nation. Since the middle of the last century, wars of displacement and settlement were waged, resulting in the fragmentation of Palestine and the dispersion of its people, with the support of the US and its traditional allies. However, what happened, and is happening, since October 7, 2023, in the current war on Gaza, has exceeded all levels of brutality that a human mind may imagine.

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The world is witnessing a new episode of genocide, which was experienced by indigenous peoples of the American continent and by the Jewish people themselves under the Nazis in Germany [and elsewhere in Europe]. With European-American support, the Israeli occupation forces, is killing hundreds of innocent civilians every day, depriving them of food, water, and medicine, bombing hospitals on the heads of the wounded and doctors, and cuts off electricity power and deny them treatment supplies. This is done to force Palestinians to leave their lands, and empty the Gaza strip of its population, and fortify the Zionist occupiers in the settlements.

As Arab philosophers, with the principles of rational thought that we practice, and we believe that we share with humanity, to build a universal culture that guarantees every human on this planet his basic rights, especially the right to life, we condemn this brutal crime against the Palestinian people, and subsequently against humanity. Basically, no rational person can accept such genocide and talk about humanity, universality, truth, justice, and life. *These values need a philosophy that revives the value of man today.*

Accordingly, we denounce the principle of occupation, which results in depriving the Palestinian people of their land, and the principle of brutal killing of civilians, which deprives an entire people of their right to life, and the principle of the siege imposed on defenceless citizens, which deprives them of their natural rights to safe living.

Morally, scientifically, and consciencely, we denounce opinions advocated by any thinker who makes excuses for the Israeli occupier. We are shocked by statements made by 'Western philosophers' who have long advocated the principles of freedom, rights, rationality, and communication, for supporting the organized crime practiced by the Zionist gangs, which created a "state" in 1948 on a land that is not theirs, and are supported by a rogue recognition and grudging support by some countries of the "civilized" world, where these philosophers live, in continuing the killing, violence and genocide.

Besides declaring our firm for the suffering Palestinian people, we call on thinkers and philosophers from all over the world to join the call of Arab philosophers, to undo this grievance and halt criminal acts of the Israeli occupation in Palestine. We call on them to issue statements and publish opinions that support the right to decent living, which is based on principles that promote human brotherhood, justice and manifest belief in the equality of all human beings.

An arrogant, discriminatory, racist view still governs the mentality of some philosophers of major Western countries towards humans in general. We call on every thinker to respect others' ideas and thoughts, around the world. Thinking about the other should not be considered as defining one's identity in relation to the self "I-Western" position in the world, and be based on one's country's influential foreign policy, which determines current international relations. Rather, a thinker must contribute to a permanent establishment of morals, and not compromise the right of decent living for all.

Therefore, we express our shock at the declaration made by a group of thinkers and philosophers in Germany, led by Jürgen Habermas, who demonstrated their global success in criticizing reason with the aim of reforming it and enrich the project of modernity. How do such people adopt hostile attitudes and legitimize the war of extermination carried out by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian people? Where are the noble humanitarian attitudes? And where is the unfinished project of modernity?

To restore respect to humanity, modernity, and its noble principles, we affirm the necessity of rejecting any guardianship over reason, especially political ones that legitimizes war crimes against all peoples, including the Palestinian people. This is one of the priorities of completing modernity projects that lead to the completion of building a common human world based on recognition of the other, and the belief in the need of striving to achieve a lasting peace among nations.

The duality of thought and attitude is a trap for every thinker. Hence, the contradictions of some Western philosophers and their public statements and attitudes regarding the Palestinian issue, in which they express their support for the Zionist movement, demonstrate their defeat before their universal philosophies, in which they examined, and devoted their lives thinking on, the possibilities of coexistence. Their bias can only be seen as a victory for the local over the global. Rather, it is a submission to the major political forces that their countries represent. Economically greedy politics is an enemy of philosophy, as philosophy is a friend of man. Meanwhile, greed is what makes political administrations in major countries subject to corporations and the policies of profit, which care nothing about man's humanity. It even has a veto power in the UN Security Council!

Here, concepts of human rights disintegrate because they only find their meaning in Western geography. These concepts lose their credibility with the practice of *international double standards*; a practice which makes humanity exclusively relative and restricted to a specific group of individuals. Consequently, this is an ample failure of the project of open society and global citizenship, which free philosophy strived to establish, in defence of the right to a dignified human existence.

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