

From the Gaza strip, we call to the international community.

Urgent: The sun is shining above the Gaza strip, where some coolness already tells that rains are about to come. We will enter sowing season.

Seed-time in Gaza? Yes. Gaza is a living society, where workers, intellectuals, farmers, etc. are daily struggling to make their living. However, the Palestinian people is indeed suffering a dramatic situation as a result of political decisions, which initially endorsed a violent occupation. Now, you, top decision makers, are “de facto” allowing to extend it, keeping your eyes closed in front of the arrogant impunity of the might of weapons. Such refusal to face the ground reality results directly in this unbearable crime: farmers are being killed while working their land.

As you know, Gaza is a strip along the sea, highly urbanized, having hosted tides of refugees. Nonetheless Gaza has always been a beautiful agricultural area and neither the almost complete destruction of its famous orchards nor the systematic bombing of facilities and houses seated in front line, succeeded in eliminating agricultural activity. So strongly attached to its traditions and so needed for feeding Gaza.

Gazan farmers, forerunners for peace :Educating the new generations; supplying fresh food for the Gazan population; exemplifying the dignity attached to making one's own work. And though, Gazan farmers are caught under the bullets. fishermen, professionals, farmers, etc. are daily struggling to make their living.

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The security barrier, a highly technological item, is bristled with towers, equipped with automatic weapons controlled from remote headquarters. Jeeps and tanks continuously run along the fence. Bullets are fired from these towers, from these vehicles, upon farmers working their lands and huge bulldozers enter Palestinian land and smash the growing harvest.

This hideous reality, a reality that mankind may have expected to have left behind in our day, is the reality of an occupation. An occupation that despite all International Community statements keeps on spreading and destroying Palestinian land. Besides, it brings with it this monster: Israeli forces impunity. Nothing, but the will to spread terror on the civilian population, may justify to shoot at a farmer working his land. Nothing, but the long impunity covering it up with repeated lies, such as the automatic «they put a threat upon the fence» Put an end to this impunity! This is our call to you.

Call to the International Community:

Gaza 2013 seed-times: Zero dead, zero wound. Keep farmers farming safe!

Respected heads of United Nations, you are in position to enforce the safety for Gazan farmers and therefore you bear this responsibility:

- enforce a ban on any shooting to farmers while working its land.
- protect family farming all around Gaza strip, and foremost along the barrier (1/3 of Gazan agricultural land)
- Guarantee the respect and protection of all Gazan civil society