

# Declaration of Principles and National Rights

November 2007

Out of our serious concern for our national cause and legitimate rights, which have been under direct and systematic attack from the Israeli Occupation and the United States, who wish to liquidate the Palestinian struggle by taking advantage of the split that has weakened us in the face of the huge pressure that they and their allies have brought to bear;

We the undersigned, political and mass movements, civil society federations and networks, private sector institutions and national figures, inside and outside Palestine, assert the following:

**First: that the inalienable rights of our people must be the central principle for any Palestinian political action. These fundamental rights should never be a subject for negotiation and must not be compromised:**

1. The right of refugees to return to their homeland and properties, from which they were expelled, in accordance with United Nations Resolution 194. This right is a basic human right that is not negotiable and therefore cannot be based on an 'agreed upon solution';
2. The right to self-determination, an end to the military occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state enjoying full sovereignty;
3. Occupied Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine, free from colonies and colonial settlers;
4. The departure of all Israeli settlers from our land, which was occupied in an act of aggression in 1967, and the removal of the apartheid wall and all the colonies, which are illegal and stand in defiance of international law and international agreements.

**Second: that any political step or negotiations at a local, regional or international level should be under international supervision, based on principles of justice and international law, and aimed at the implementation of the inalienable and historical rights of our people, and the establishment of a timeline for such implementation, not negotiation on the rights themselves.**

1. Because the Annapolis meeting is not based on these principles, and because it does not aim for the implementation of international law, we call on the PLO and the Palestinian Authority not to participate in this meeting; we further call upon Arab countries to boycott Annapolis and not to facilitate the United States' desire to expand its aggression in the region and its attempt to crush all the forces opposed to its domination in the region.

2. In the event that the PLO and PA decide to attend the Annapolis conference, they must not bow to the American and Israeli demands for concessions on these fundamental rights under any circumstances, under any justification.
3. We warn all individuals and organizations who attempt to meddle with the inalienable rights of our people and to promote normalization with the occupation and its institutions under slogans of “peace” and “dialogue”. These normalization efforts and initiatives must be widely boycotted by Palestinian society, and all normalizers must be exposed and shamed.
4. We call for a boycott of all bilateral, regional and international conferences or meetings not based on the principles stated above, now or in the future.
5. We stress the unity of the Palestinian people in all parts of our homeland and in the diaspora, and the unity of our national rights and cause

**Third: We categorically reject any attempt to recognize Israel as a “Jewish state”, as this would necessarily mean:**

1. Exempting Israel from the crimes of ethnic cleansing perpetrated against our people over the past sixty years;
2. Waiving the right of return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland and their properties, from which they were expelled in 1948 and in the years after;
3. Justifying and reinforcing the Israeli system of racial discrimination and apartheid against Palestinian citizens of Israel, as a prelude to expel them from their homeland on the pretext of preserving the Jewish State;
4. Reinforcing the Zionist ideology which is based on racism, ethnic cleansing and colonialism.

Therefore, we consider that any recognition of this kind is equivalent to conceding the right of return, which would entrench the exile and dispossession of our people and put an end to our cause. Anyone contemplating taking this path will bear the resulting historical responsibility.

**Fourth: We assert the need to embark on serious and immediate action to find a solution to the recourse to armed internecine conflict in Gaza, through national dialogue, in order to end the division in Palestinian society in order to:**

1. Reunite the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in one entity, and to agree to start preparations for early legislative and presidential elections based on the National Accord document;
2. In parallel with the above, start implementing the Cairo Agreement regarding the reform of the PLO through activation of the Preparatory Committee for the

election of the Palestinian National Council with the participation of all Palestinian national and Islamic forces.

National and Islamic Forces	Refugee and Citizenship Rights	Handala Cultural Centre
National Committee for the Commemoration of 60 Years of Nakba	Union of Palestinian Women Committees (UWC)	Yabus Art Production Centre, Jerusalem
Palestinian Grassroots Anti Apartheid Wall Campaign	Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)	al-Marsad al-Arabi for Human Rights
The Union of Social Youth Centres in the Refugee Camps / Palestine	Union of Health Work Committees (UHCW)	Palestine Company for Media and Communication
The Higher Committee for Prisoners' Affairs	Ma'an Development Centre	Haifa Cultural Centre, Tulkarem
Union of Arab Community-Based Associations (Ittijah), Palestine '48	Palestinian Farmers' Union	Committee to Defend the Rights of the Internally Displaced in Israel, Nazareth
The Executive Office of the Grassroots Committees, Gaza	Palestinian Right of Return Defence Committee / Balata refugee camp, Nablus	Arab Cultural Committee, Nazareth
Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU)	Health, Development, Information and Policy Institute (HDIP)	League for the Care of Arab Affairs in Yaffa
Union of the Women's Centres in the West Bank Refugee Camps	Defense for Children International / Palestine (DCI – Palestine)	Friends of Arab Children Committee, Haifa
Gathering of Expelled Villages and Cities People / Ramallah	Yaffa Cultural Centre – Balata refugee camp, Nablus	The Arab Institute for Human Rights, Nazareth
National Committee to Defend the Right of Return / Ramallah	Civil NGOs Gathering, Nablus	Al Ahali - Popular Development Centre, Nazareth
General Union of Palestinian Women	Palestinian Counseling Centre	Friends of the Detainees and Prisoners Association, Nazareth
Badil – Palestinian Resource Center for	The Local Committee to Protect the Environment in Nablus	New Morisiquion Committee, Nazareth
	The Society of Hawa' Centre, Nablus	Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
		Centre to Defend Freedom and Civil Rights, Ramallah

Centre for the Return of  
Palestinians, Bethlehem

al-Anq'a Cultural  
Centre, Hebron

The Coordination  
Committee of Civil  
Societies Working in the  
Palestinian Gatherings,  
Lebanon

Returnees Committee,  
Lebanon

Returnees Committee,  
Syria

Family of Editors of  
Freedom Magazine,  
Syria

The Palestinian Centre  
for Archiving, Syria

194 Committee, Syria

Besan Centre for Social  
Development, Syria

Palestinian Women's  
Civil Committee, Syria

The Palestinian Cultural  
Centre, Syria

Union of the Right of  
Return Committees,  
Syria

Right of Return  
Committee, Switzerland

Right of Return  
Committee, Denmark

Right of Return  
Committee, Sweden

Right of Return  
Committee, France

Right of Return  
Committee, Greece

Right of Return  
Committee, Holland

National Organisation to  
Confront  
Fundamentalism  
Towards Liberalism

Popular Arts Centre

Nidal Center

Civil Coalition in  
Defense of Jerusalem

Young Women's  
Christian Association,  
Palestine (YWCA)

Young Men's Christian  
Association, Palestine  
(YMCA)

Collaborative  
Committee for the  
Development of Animal  
Farming

Youth Development  
Committee

The Project of  
Rebuilding

The Forum of Cultural  
Graduates

Alternative Tourism  
Centre, Bethlehem

Refugee Centre, Aida  
Refugee Camp,  
Bethlehem

The Twinning  
Committee Between  
French Cities and  
Palestinian Refugee  
Camps

The Executive Office of  
Refugees

Popular Committee of  
Deheisha Refugee Camp

Popular Committee of  
Aida Refugee Camp

Popular Committee of  
Tulkarem Refugee  
Camp

The Society of Phoenix  
Centre, Deheisha  
Refugee Camp

Avant-Garde Cultural  
and Theatre Training  
Centre, Aida Refugee  
Camp

Committee of Refugees  
and Right of Return,  
Syria

Sons of Nations to  
Defend the Right of  
Return Centre, Syria

Farah Childhood Centre,  
Syria

Guevara Youth Centre,  
Syria

Palestinian Youth  
Organisation, Syria

Palestinian Women's  
Committee, Syria

The Returnees Band for  
Art and Palestinian Folk  
Tradition, Syria

The Campaign to Free  
Ahmed Sahdat, Canada

The Right of Return  
Committee in  
Vancouver

Taqaful Network to  
Support Palestinian  
Refugees, Canada

Palestine Solidarity  
Campaign, Geneva

European Confederation  
for the Right of Return

One Democratic State  
Committee, Gaza

The Committee of  
University Teachers in  
Palestine, Gaza

Arab Cultural Forum,  
Gaza

Progressive National  
Democratic Gathering,  
Gaza

Social Media Centre,  
Gaza

Union of Independent  
Workers Committees,  
Gaza

Progressive Students  
Front, Gaza

United Palestinian  
Progressive Youth, Gaza

Palestinian Cultural  
Centre, Gaza

Popular Gathering for  
Right of Return, Gaza