

Enjoying the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in the State of Palestine

Documentary Report Submitted by Lawyers for Justice

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1. Introduction:

1. Lawyers for Justice Group (hereof referred to as the Group) submits this report to the Committee on the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights to respond to some questions raised in the list of issues presented to the State of Palestine (SoP) on its first initial report. The raised issues in the report are within the core work of the Group. The Group would like to share with your esteemed Committee some of the violations it documented and is following up in front of the judiciary authority. The group, since it was established, has been working on advocating human rights in the courts in the West Bank (WB). It documents the violations committed by the law enforcement Bodies (Security Forces) against the rights of companies, organizations, and individuals, aiming at contributing to improving and enhancing transparency in this regard.

2. The current report reflects the status of human rights in the Occupied WB and Sieged Gaza Strip (GS) and is dedicated to highlighting to which degree these rights are respected; and exploring the challenges that protecting human rights process, is facing. Any observer of human rights in the given areas, can notice the escalating profound violations of these rights. The violations are increasing within the political stagnation and the absence of Parliamentary or presidential elections since 2006. Another reason is blocking the Palestinian Legislative Council in addition to the diversity in the systematic oppression methods applied by the status quo authority in the WB and the ongoing restrictions imposed on the sieged GS. These practices are risky indicators that stimulate practical steps on the ground. Despite the intensive efforts of human rights defenders (activists, juries, institutions/ and local/ international organizations) and the ongoing follow-up, and the attempts to confront the oppression and violations, yet, the situation requires concrete intervention and tangible accountability.

2. Violating the Right to Form Syndicates and Unionist Work:

4. The unionist and syndicalism work in Palestine lacks any legal basis where there is no law to organize the syndicalism work. As a result, the trade unions and syndicates are in a case of confusion. The Palestinian Labor Law, which was issued in the year 2000, canceled the applied Jordanian Law, which served as the legal basis for the syndicalism work. Till nowadays, there is no alternative legal frame to organize syndicalism work.

5. The Palestinian Basic Law guaranteed the right to syndicalism and unionist work and the right to form syndicates, through Articles 25 and 26. Thus, such a right becomes an inviolable constitutional right. The union and syndicalism work and forming unions are practiced based on the Basic Law, and the Union of Public Employees was created on this basis. However, in the year 2014, the Council of Ministers issued a resolution numbered (17/24/50/ M.W/R.J), which considered the Union of Public Employees as an "Illegal Entity and not recognized legally". President Mahmoud Abbas issued a presidential decree in which he decided to dismantle the Union of the Public Employees where he based this decree on another decree issued in the year 2012 regarding the illegality of establishing the Union. Regardless of the 2012 decree, the Union resumed its work and dealt with the governmental and non-governmental institutions where the government used to deal with it without questioning its legality. For unknown and undeclared reasons, the situation turned to be against the Union and the pretext of whether it was legal or illegal came to the scene. Such a situation arose to confront the Union and reject its demands in advocating the rights of public employees. Following the dismantling of the Union, an interrogation order against the president of the Union (Bassam Zakaria) and the vice president (Mueen Insawi) was issued. After that, the High Judiciary Council was dismantled and restructured, through a presidential decree, with the absence of the PLC. The General Union of Teachers also witnessed assigning a new secretary without elections, which violates the bylaws of the Union where it is stated that the secretary is identified through direct elections. As a result of such steps, there were demonstrations arranged by the teachers and a prolonged strike demanding their rights, mainly the right to live a dignified life.

6. The Observer of the popular situation in Palestine during the previous years, will easily see the wide emergence of community movements that are dedicated to combat the corruption and advocate the rights. Among the Movements that were followed up by the Group, there is the Teachers Movement, the Enough Movement (against the Telecommunication Company), The Movement of Persons with Disabilities, and other Movements.

2.1 Arresting the president and vice president of the Public Employees Union:

7. On 6/11/2014, the Palestinian Police in Ramallah, summoned and interrogated the president and the vice president of the Public Employees Union. They were referred to the Public Prosecution and investigated for laxity in job performance, forming illegal commission, and incitement to strike. Although the president of the Union suffered a health setback that required transferring him to the hospital while interrogated, yet, the file was referred to the court. He could not show up at the court as he was at the hospital. The interrogation was extended for 15 days based on the request of the Public Prosecution though there were no serious reasons to justify the interrogation. Interrogation order is an exceptional order that requires serious reasons. On the day of the court, the members of the Union arranged a sit-in protesting against arresting the president and the vice president, and the Protective Security Body arrested some of the participants.

Request to Establish the Public Employees Union:

8. On 16/5/2023, the constitutional committee of the public employees union (consisting of a group of employees), applied to the Ministry of Labor (MoL) to register the Union. On 13/7/2023, two months after applying, the Ministry replied with the rejection of the demand without stating the reasons. The response of the Ministry states: "We would like to inform you that there are several administrative and legal paradoxes within your submitted application. Following revising the decisions made by legal and authorized bodies regarding your application, we hope that you will solve these paradoxes to enable us to recheck your application". The Committee addressed the ministry several times to figure out the reasons for rejecting the application to amend it and deal with the paradoxes according to the legal requirements. However, the Ministry replied once again with rejection and in the same vague language. In April 2023, the Committee called to arrange a demonstration in Ramallah to protest against rejecting the application to establish the Union and advocate the right to syndicalism work. In response to that and based on the instructions of the Council of Ministers, the governmental institutions sent an internal memorandum to their employees "not to participate in the demonstration or leave the offices for any official or unofficial reason on that day. The memorandum emphasized that any employee who violates the instructions and participates in the demonstration will be fired".

3.2 Harak Tafah el- Kail ded el- Fasad (The Last Straw Movement against Corruption):

9. A group of actual movements that include the Enough Movement against the Telecommunication Companies, the Movement against Corruption, the Workers Movement, the Unified Palestinian Movement, and other movements. This Movement was launched on 19/7/2020 and the aim was to gather all the movements and activists in the streets, to demand the elimination of corruption and cronyism. A Demonstration was arranged in al-Manara Square and before the participants reached the location, 17 of them were arrested from the nearby streets where 10 of them remained detained for 10 days. During their interrogation, they declared a hunger strike, and one of them (J.A) was transferred to the hospital where he remained there during the period of interrogation before being released from the hospital.

10. The day before the demonstration was scheduled, the Palestinian Authority summoned for a demonstration in the Jordan Valley where thousands of persons participated, and on the same day (a few hours before the scheduled time), there was another demonstration organized by the CSOs and the two demonstrations were allowed. The organizers of the public employees' demonstration were accused of violating the regulations to face the spread of Covid-19, to justify oppressing the participants in the demonstrations. All the accusations of the interrogated participants ended up being innocent.

4.2 The Unified Teachers Union:

11. The executive authority bodies continue oppressing the unionist work in the WB, in clear violation of the Palestinian Basic Law that affirmed syndicalism work as a constitutional inviolable right. Even though, such a clause did not provide protection for the emerging Unified Teachers Movement to maintain and respect teachers' rights. The Group states here that the executive authorities invested efforts to block forming a Union for the teachers, upon an initiative by a group of teachers in the year 2016. The constitutional group fulfilled all the legal requirements to

form a union and they proposed the initiative following assigning a secretary-general for the Teachers Union without elections. The MoL abstained from giving the needed license and so blocked forming the union. After that, some teachers were referred to early retirement to prevent an elected teachers union.

12. As a result of the developments within the situation, the Unified Teachers Union led the teachers and adopted their demands. The Movement became effective among the teachers community and the executive authority tried to thwart the Movement, especially after the strike during the first quarter of 2023. The executive authorities conducted a limited campaign of summoning and arresting some teachers. There was an arbitrary campaign, executed by the Ministry of Education, against hundreds of teachers in addition to salary deductions against others, as collective punishments. Some teachers were referred to early retirement to restrict any syndicalism efforts, especially at the beginning of the new academic year. At the same time, the Movement called for a protest campaign against the abstain of the government from respecting the agreements that were signed with the teachers before.

5.2 Bekafi ya Sharekat el- Itisalat Movement (Enough Movement against the Telecommunication Company)

13. On 1/3/2017, a Facebook Page entitled: “Bekafi ya Sharekat el- Itisalat” was created and received high interaction from people. The purpose of the page was to press on the Telecommunication Company and the Government, to stop deceptive practices in the services prices. The activists in this Movement arranged several activities aiming at delivering their message. Among the activities was arranging a weekly demonstration on al-Manara Square- Ramallah for three years but the executive authority had never listened to their demands. The Movement has 600 members on the Facebook Page and even though, the Telecommunication Company, managed, through Facebook Company, to block the page.

14. There were several complaints from citizens submitted to the Palestinian Telecommunication Company (Paltel) through the dialed number (131), which is dedicated to receiving complaints about any problem people face and although many complaints were centered around similar issues, yet, the ministry did not interfere. 3 complaints against Paltel were submitted by members of the Movement but the Public Prosecution dropped them. None of the demands submitted to the Public Prosecution came out with tangible results and the reason is receiving instructions from higher authorities to dismiss the complaints.

15. According to a statement given to Lawyers for Justice Group by the coordinator of the Movement (J.A), he was arrested because of the Telecommunication Company. At that time, he was summoned through a phone call from the Public Prosecutor (Dr. Ahmad Barak) and he was referred for investigation and interrogated for 4 days. After that, he was referred to the court and since 2018, he has been litigated but the other party (complainer) has not shown up in the court though there is no evidence for the accuracy of the complaint. Up to date, he is still attending the court sessions with no result. (J.A) adds that the complaint is a malicious accusation to block the Movement and disrupt its work.

16. (J.A) was subjected to defamation, incitement, and accusations, through media, of collaboration with the Israeli Occupation. It was claimed that he works for the sake of Celcom (Israeli Company). Media agencies were banned from adopting the Movement or reporting about its activities and the media agencies accepted that as a result of the pressure imposed by Paltel. (A.J) was pushed into a confrontation with the government and he has a son working for the Palestinian Customs Police with a three-year limited contract, which means that he does not enjoy employment security and his contract was terminated without any legal justification or precaution.

17. The Group is following up on two core cases submitted against the Movement’s coordinator and being discussed in the Palestinian courts. The first case is an accusation of harming the national economy and encouraging foreign companies in preference over national companies. The second is defamation of telecommunications companies and closing and destroying stores owned by these companies, where he was demanded a financial remedy of 10 million JD. Additionally, there are other activists in the Movement being litigated.

6.2: Persons with Disability Movement:

18. In the year 2018, Persons with Disability Movement emerged demanding their basic rights. The Movement arranged an open-ended sit-in at the PLC headquarters in Ramallah. The participants demanded forming a concrete body that is capable of representing them in front of the formal and informal institutions. The sit-in resulted in signing an agreement with the Palestinian government to fulfill the demands of the Movement, but the Government did not respect its commitments.

19. With the spread of COVID-19 Pandemic in the year 2020, and the discovered ignorance of the rights and circumstances of PWDs, as they were excluded from the measurements taken at that time to face the pandemic, the Movement decided to pursue its activities that were frustrated in 2018. The members decided to arrange a sit-in at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers and they raised one demand, which is comprehensive health insurance. PWDs do not enjoy comprehensive health insurance in violation of law (4/1999) about the rights of PWDs. The mentioned law is not applied on the ground as the governmental health insurance system approved in 2004, does not state clearly that PWDs have the right to enjoy the services of this system. The system limited the services to persons who have a percentage of 60% or more physical disability. The system does not include the high medical services that PWDs need where the families and PWDs should afford such services. Those who lack the financial capacity, will not be able to get treatment. However, the percentage of persons with disability in Palestine is 2% as of 2022 (2% in the WB/3% in GS).

20. The Group believes that respecting the union work could not be but by issuing a law that organizes such work. Such right is among the fundamental constitutional rights that were affirmed by the Palestinian Basic Law in an independent article. Right to union work is the guarantee to achieve the conditions of a dignified decent life. The Group sees in the abstaining of the State of Palestine from issuing a law to organize the union work, on one hand, and oppressing the unionist work, on the other, a tool applied to prevent any legal criticism or opposition of the behavior of the executive authority. At the same, it is to relieve the state of its responsibilities. For that, the state party should immediately invite all the legal and rights organizations as well as the other CSOs and with the participation of the MoL, to explore the possibility of drafting a law to organize the syndicalism work in Palestine.

3. Equality in Rights between Men and women:

21. Women in Palestine face a series of challenges that hinder their right to gender equality. Despite the existence of a legal framework that promotes equality, numerous factors that hinder the achievement of complete equality remain. Among these factors, is the "sexual harassment" where many cases of sexual harassment were documented in Palestine during the previous couple of years. Among the documented cases, there were cases of female employees in the public sector and they were fired from work due to complaining against the perpetrators. In the following section, we will highlight one of these cases:

3.1 Sexual Harassment:

22. The Group followed up, during 2023, a very critical case; the case of Ms. (M.A) who is 45 years-old journalist. On 2/3/2023, she had a self-inflicted car accident in Beit Sahour and she was referred to al-Yamama Hospital in Bethlehem. She was alone at the hospital and the doctors at the emergency unit examined her status and referred her to the X-ray department for radiography of the affected parts of her body. In the X-ray room, a man named (M.D) took off her upper clothes claiming that he would radiograph her chest. He harassed her and she rushed outside the room screaming that he harassed her. At that moment, the security employee came into the scene and tried to silence her and then the director of the hospital arrived where she told him about what happened and asked him to call upon the police to come. The director refused to call the police and told her that maybe she had misevaluated the act. The police arrived at the hospital to follow up on the car accident and she reported to the police. At that moment, one of her relatives arrived at the hospital and was informed about what happened to her. The director of the hospital told him that he would check the case and contact them in three days. The mentioned lady then left the hospital waiting for the phone call from the director, but ten days passed without being contacted by anyone. She decided to break the silence and demand accounting for the perpetrator. For that, she contacted Women Center for Legal Aid and Counseling in Bethlehem. She reported to the Center about what she went through. After that, accompanied by a

lawyer from the Center, she approached the Public Prosecution to complain against the perpetrator. While speaking to the deputy prosecutor (a woman), she asked (M.A) if she had the approval of her custody to submit the complaint. The victim replied: "I am 45 years old and I do not need a custody to lodge a case against harassment".

23. (M.A) adds that she submitted a brief complaint and the deputy prosecutor informed her that she would be contacted once they knew the full name of the perpetrator as (M.A) did not know his full name. Five days later, she approached the public prosecution to complain against the hospital. According to (M.A) the deputy prosecutor was sharp this time and dealt with her in a way that differed from the way when she approached the public prosecution accompanied by a lawyer, as the deputy prosecutor did not allow her to file a complaint.

24. The son of (M.A), who is a young man studying medicine at the university, was summoned though he was not in his presence at the time the accident took place. The public prosecution questioned him about his mother in a degrading way that had nothing to do with the accident. It was an attempt to cast doubt on her psychological and mental competence. Then the deputy prosecutor decided to refer the complainer to a psychiatrist to examine to which degree the trauma affected her and demand the psychiatrist to do some tests to check the mental competence of the complainer.

25. The Ministry of Health formed a committee to examine the complaint and the committee met at the hospital on 27/3/2023 and questioned the X-ray technician and revised the records of the hospital's surveillance cameras. After that, the committee issued its report in which it was stated that the claim is false as following revising the cameras records, it was clear that the X-ray technician did not show any tension at the time of the accident without attention given to what (M.A) had reported. Based on that, the committee decided that there was no illegal act of public order and discipline.

26. In addition to that the complainer was threatened by the hospital to withdraw the complaint. All these incidents pushed (M.A) to address the media and reported through social media platforms about the harassment she faced and so, the case became a public opinion case. As a result, the Ministry of Health issued a medical report in which it was stated that (M.A) suffers from Schizotypal Personality Disorder and adopts aggressive behavior where she tends to express negative behavior against the authority power representatives such as the government, family, and community in general

27. The situation through which (M.A) passed where she was accused of having a mental disorder in response to her rejection of sexual harassment and demanding an accounting of the perpetrator, is a dangerous indicator that all Palestinian women and girls might be at risk. She is not a unique case, as there are many women/ girls who are harassed either in the work sites or inside their families. Those women prefer keeping silent to avoid being labeled by the community and because they do not trust the law.

4. Violating the Cultural Rights:

28. Since its emergence, the Group documented several violations against cultural rights including attacking the cultural organizations and institutions. Although the SoP acceded to the ICESCR, the violations are increasing. The violations varied and ranged between emotional abuse and physical assaults. The emotional abuse was through defamation and incitement against the cultural organizations and cultural activists. The physical assaults included confiscating the properties, destroying premises, order closing, as well as physical attacks of the cultural organizations' teams as well as arresting them. Among the cases followed up by the Group during the year 2022, was the attack on AShtar for Theater Training and Production Organization:

4.1 Attacking Ashtar for Theater Training and Production Organization:

29. On 8/7/2022, the Organization, in cooperation with Ramallah Municipality, arranged an interactive art event. The event started at the entrance of the Ottoman Court and was supposed to march till Ramallah Municipality to crown closing the activities of the Youth International Theater Festival. The event was on the day before Adha Feast and a big doll (in the form of a face) was prepared with many colors to express happiness and joy.

30. A rumor spread that the big doll symbolizes homosexuality, which pushed a group of youth to attack the march and beat the participants including children and elderly people from locals and foreigners. Although the Police were in the place, nothing was done to protect the participants and according to some of the attacked persons, the police officers were just watching the scene. Five attacked persons complained to the Public Prosecution and the case was referred to the Ramallah Court of First Instance. According to the statements of the complainers: "They coordinated with Ramallah Municipality as a partner in the festival and coordinated with the police to be in presence and walk in front of the march. The Police did not show up though they licensed the activity an hour before it started. At that moment, a group of around 30 youths came into the scene carrying stones, blackjacks, and whips and attacked the participants accusing them of being homosexual and promoting homosexuality. One of the attacked was critically injured in the head and referred to the hospital alongside many other casualties including children and elderly people. At the time the quarrel started, a group of the participants escaped and sought shelter in the headquarters of the Municipality. They were attacked at the yard of the Municipality for the second time and only then the police arrived. Even though, the attack continued and the police did neither protect the attacked nor did stop the aggression". The Group is still following up on the case in the courts.

31. According to a statement given by one of the attackers, he received a phone call from a police officer and informed him that the march was to promote homosexuality and pushed him to attack the event. It means that the Police not only abstained from protecting the event but also incited against it.

32. Lawyers for Justice sees that attacking the march of Ashtar, is a violation of the cultural rights affirmed by the international conventions and treaties. The abstaining of the police from protecting the participants and inciting against the event is a profound violation of the law that requires accountability. SoP, in light of its commitments under the Covenant, should protect and facilitate cultural activities and should investigate the case to figure out the details and account the police officers responsible for abstaining.

5. Right to Fair and Satisfying Work Conditions:

33. Palestinians have been living under Israeli Occupation for decades and suffer due to the closure and restrictions imposed by the occupation. Even though, Palestinians are steadfast and seek to build their independence street.

34. Such a situation places a heavy responsibility on the SoP to enhance people's resilience. However, the overall situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is deteriorating on the economic and social levels despite the intensive efforts invested by the Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) including organizations and individuals as a result of the oppressive measures applied by the Law Enforcement Bodies. These practices affected the individuals' right to fair and satisfying employment conditions that were affirmed in Article (7) of the Covenant. The executive authority is targeting a group of not-for-profit companies registered at the companies registrar but they are subject to defamation and incitement through promoting hate speech and spreading false information about their work. Some companies are ordered to close without any legal basis for such a decision. Despite the efforts invested by the owners of these companies and appealing to the Public Prosecution to reopen them and resume activities, yet, there have been no results. Most of the responses are similar such as "violating the law" and "illegal activities" alongside other vague responses. All the closed companies (followed up legally by the Group) are involved in community and cultural activities where such objectives are clearly expressed in their articles of association and bylaws. It means that the executive bodies (controlled by the executive authority), neglect the international agreements and conventions that maintain and protect human rights.

Closing the companies and banning their work affects both the owners and deprives many other persons of work opportunities, which leads to increased unemployment and prevents them from the resources that ensure them a decent dignified life. Among the cases related to the right to decent and satisfying work are the following:

5.1 Asad Association for Youth Development LTD:

35. A Palestinian company registered at the companies registrar (National Economy Ministry) under the registration number: (562762955) and officially registered according to the law and submits its administrative and financial reports

annually. The objective of the company is to provide educational and cultural survives for youth and children in Beit Cahil Village- Hebron.

36. On 7/11/2022, a security force from the General Intelligence raided the headquarters of the company and confiscated all the properties there under the pretext that there was an order from the Governor without giving any legal justification. The company was affected as a result of that and faced big financial losses. During the confiscation of the properties, the security force did not care about the nature of the equipment causing damage to some of them including computers used for educational purposes.

37. The Group submitted a request to the Public Prosecutor demanding the cancellation of the closing order and recovery of the confiscated equipment. The Group also submitted a case to the administrative court to appeal against the closing order. The Public Prosecution responded that the company violated the public order without giving more details. There is no written order to close the company.

5.2 Asfour Falasteen Cultural Center:

38. On 1/5/2023, a joint force from the security bodies raided the headquarters of the Center in Qalqilia City. Dr. Zahra Khudraj, the director of the Center reported: "A security force consisting of 17 vehicles closed the streets that lead to the Center before breaking through it, confiscating the properties, and then closing the external gate with iron bars". The justification for the closure is practicing illegal work, but without explaining the nature of this work and without providing a written order of closing. The speaker added that the closure is an extension of a series of harassment acts she faced since opening the Center in the middle of last year. She said that 3 weeks after she opened the Center, the Protective Security, and General Intelligence summoned her 3 times to show up where she was questioned about the activities of the Center. Additionally, she was subject to a defamation campaign and there was a shooting towards her house.

39. The Center is registered within the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy as a cultural center, as some of the implemented activities are not free of charge. She added that the Center is interested in celebrating some national and religious anniversaries as well as arranging cultural activities and summer camps for children. The speaker added that she is subject to a defamation campaign from the security forces and many employees were questioned by these forces. Additionally, pressure is imposed on the guests invited by the Center to abstain from delivering lectures or facilitating activities there. According to her, the Public Prosecutor holds the registration documents of the Center to press on those working for it. She said that the held documents are legal documents and added that "there is an attempt to fight against any intellectual person in the community who opposes the ruling authorities".

40. The Group sees closing the Center as an illegal act as it is registered officially. The closure is within the policy of restricting the work of the cultural groups in the West Bank. The security forces had closed four cultural centers during the previous couple of years with no legal basis where the closure is within the frame of the restrictions imposed on the political, cultural, and rights activities imposed by some powerful persons within the Authority.

5.3 Lawyers for Justice Company:

41. On 26/3/2023, the Company was informed of a decision from the companies registrar to restrict its registration at the ministry as a civic company specializing in rights and legal work. Based on revising the companies registrar to figure out the decision, the representatives of the company were informed that they should refer to the Intelligence Services in Ramallah to lift the restriction.

42. The company started immediately an advocacy campaign to lift the restriction that is issued through an unauthorized body. The decision was seen as part of the incitement and restrictions that the company has been facing during the previous years. The restrictions imposed on the company are due to its role and activities in advocating human rights in the West Bank that are witnessing wide violations during the previous 3 years.

43. The Company states that the decision to restrict its registration was canceled recently, was justified by the ministry that the company did not report about its work where it is believed that such justification is to cover the intervention of the security bodies in the work of the company.

6. Violate the Right to Adequate Standard of Living:

44. Right to an adequate standard of living is a fundamental human right and is endorsed within the the economic and social rights. This right is related to ensure decent life for all the family members and includes the basic needs such as nutrition, housing, health services, education, and work. Everyone is entitled to fulfill his needs and live a dignified life.

45. This right stands as a critical issue in Palestine where Palestinians live under complicated economic and political contexts. Palestinians are affected by the conflict with the Israeli occupation and the siege imposed on Gaza Strip. Palestinians try to realize a decent life despite all these challenges. Among these challenges are the following:

1. Palestine lives under hard economic circumstances as a result to the political division and the siege imposed on Gaza Strip as well as depending totally on the external aids. Although the state collects huge revenues from citizens in response to the servivices, yet, these revenues are not utilized in improving the quality of life of develop the health and economic sectors.

2. High percentages of unemployment withh scarcity of work opportunities.

3. The Israeli siege on Gaza Strip affects the economic situation and people's quality of life.

4. shortage in the basic services (electricity and water mainly)

5. Many Palestinians live under poverty.

6. Rapid increase in the prices of the basic accomodities

7. Ongoing deductions from the salaries of the public sector employees

48. In the year 2017, the Palestinian Authority applied several punishments against people in Gaza Strip, which affected their econmic rights. Public sector employees from Gaza Strip were referred to early retirement as well as deducting two thirds of the salaries. Decreasing the budgets for the basic services such as electricity and health services.

The procedures applied against Gaza Strip stand as collective punishments and violate the Palestinian Basic Law and created an economic crises.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations:

47. Violating the economic, social, and cultural rights is a very critical issue.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Violations of economic, social, and cultural human rights are of paramount importance and pose a significant challenge to achieving a dignified and decent life for the Palestinian people. These violations reflect the political and economic pressures and challenges faced by individuals in the occupied West Bank and sieged Gaza Strip. These violations directly impact individuals' quality of life, undermine societal stability, and exacerbate social injustice.

It is essential for the Palestinian leadership, international institutions, and civil society to take immediate measures to address these violations. Priority must be given to providing decent employment opportunities, education, healthcare, and suitable housing for all without discrimination. It is also crucial to combat poverty and corruption and promote sustainable economic growth by encouraging social investments and developing productive sectors. General awareness and education play a fundamental role in addressing these violations, as individuals must have a precise understanding of their rights and how to counter injustice and exploitation. Continuous efforts should be made to raise awareness about the significance of economic, social, and cultural rights and how to demand them.

The violations that have occurred in the recent past regarding economic, social, and cultural rights are deeply concerning. All possible means should be employed to halt these violations, safeguard human rights and democratic values, and ensure a state of law and institutions. Therefore, we propose a set of recommendations, hoping that your esteemed committee will oblige the State of Palestine to implement and abide by them:

- (1) Oblige the State of Palestine to enact a law regulating labor unions and protecting the rights of workers in this sector.
- (2) Require the State of Palestine to take serious measures to address cases of sexual harassment and adopt effective laws to protect women from harassment. These measures should be comprehensive, encompassing legislation, the development of complaint mechanisms, and providing support to victims.
- (3) Call upon the State of Palestine to resolve the salary crisis immediately, lift all economic sanctions on the Gaza Strip, and improve the level of provided medical services.
- (4) Combat corruption and nepotism by obliging the State of Palestine to undertake structural reforms and transparent policies that ensure the distribution of opportunities and benefits based on fair and merit-based criteria. These efforts should enhance governance and promote the concept of accountability to ensure that decisions and actions reflect the interests of all, not just a specific minority.
- (5) Demand that the State of Palestine activates the role of monitoring bodies on the functioning of government institutions, ensure serious accountability and responsibility and restrain security agencies from intervening in the operations of companies, institutions, and associations. Rectify the situation of companies and institutions that have been forced to close, and if there are valid reasons for closure, follow proper legal procedures rather than the preferences of security agencies.