



# *IFE-EFI Statement*

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Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI

December 2015

## **Respect of international law, respect of the right of the Palestinian people to self determination**

The occupation and war against Palestine has led over the years to ongoing confiscation of land, house demolition, aggressive expansion of Israeli settler colonies and settler violence against Palestinians. It has further translated into torture and ill-treatment, increasing numbers of arbitrary arrests and administrative detentions of Palestinians and has reached another culmination point with denying them access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, while allowing incursions by settler groups.

Beginning of October, Palestinian men and women, young and old, were demonstrating against this measure when they were attacked by Israel's live fire. The attack has left wounded children and youth bleeding to death in the streets. Ambulances were prevented from reaching them and media and medical staff attacked.

Since then, casualties and injuries have been tragically escalating with Israeli leaders encouraging the civil population to use force against the Palestinian people. Since October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Israeli occupation forces have killed 121 Palestinians, 22 of whom children, and wounded more than 13,000.

### **Violence breeds violence.**

Provocation by Israeli officials, along with the continued ban on Palestinian worshipers from Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, can only worsen tensions, fueling more unrest and violence.

Violence generated by the Israeli military strengthens the cycle of violence against women. Palestinian women are targeted and killed in Israeli military operations, meanwhile both the occupation and a lack of sovereignty prevent the Palestinian authorities, who have ratified international conventions, including the CEDAW and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, from fulfilling their obligations to prevent and protect women from violence.

Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI advocates for nonviolent solutions to all conflicts, for ending all forms of occupation and for the right of all peoples to self-determination. We confirm our support to the struggle of the Palestinian people, as we stand in solidarity with their uprising, and strongly condemn the blatant Israeli aggression and incitement to violence and terror.

Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI calls upon:

- Putting an end to the occupation of the Palestinian state and allowing Palestinians to exercise and practice their right of self-determination.
- Providing immediate international protection for the Palestinian people in their occupied territories.
- Taking effective punitive measures that hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law, foremost those that rise to the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity via international fora such as the International Criminal Court.
- Putting an end to all military trade and cooperation with Israel and Israeli security companies.
- Disinvesting from Israel, and taking measures to ensure a ban on the trade of Israeli settlement goods.

Shameful recent procedures of criminalization of BDS movement in France, against the will of French democratic movement and in contradiction with European Union policy, will not stop us from continuing our support to the Palestinian people.

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