



West Bank: armed repression and ethnic cleansing by the occupier will not overcome the resistance of the Palestinian people

In the face of the recent outburst of murderous brutality by the Israeli army in Palestine, and in particular in Jenin (northern West Bank), the signatory organisations recall their unconditional and permanent solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle against the Israeli colonial power.

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Nakba, the year 2023 is already shaping up to be one of the deadliest for the Palestinian people.

The Israeli occupation army has launched an attack of unspeakable barbarity against the town of Jenin and the refugee camp it houses. This military operation, on a scale not seen for 20 years, is merely the latest of the planned destruction of the Palestinian presence in the West Bank. The deaths and escapes caused by this operation go hand in hand with the active promotion of the expansion of illegal settlements in the same area by the Israeli government.

Despite countless calls to order from the United Nations, the Israeli occupying power continues to violate international law on a daily basis by destroying everything in Palestine that it wants, where it wants and when it wants.

While several thousand Israeli soldiers were rampaging through the Jenin refugee camp, bulldozers razing everything in sight and snipers methodically killing, the humanitarian consequences of this policy of ethnic cleansing are obvious.

And the social and economic consequences of apartheid, as well as of the ban on access to roads and areas for Palestinian workers, are just as obvious. The [latest report of ILO](#) on the issue points out that "Palestinian workers continue to suffer under an entrenched and expanding occupation (...). Movement of people and goods remains restricted, workers' rights are still being infringed and job creation continues to be constrained. There is a continuing lack of livelihoods. High unemployment and poverty persist. Currently, 2.1 million people, or almost 40 per cent of Palestinians, are in need of humanitarian assistance".

Some areas, such as Gaza and Jenin, suffer even more from the consequences of colonial oppression. Unemployment, misery and despair are the logical consequences of the occupier's political decisions. As the ILO report also points out, while the poverty and wage erosion of Palestinian workers is further exacerbated by galloping inflation, the root of the problem lies in the fact that "Palestinian workers' enjoyment of their rights, including those set out in the body of international labour standards, is impeded by the economic and social consequences of the occupation and settlement activity".

Colonialism is a common feature of capitalism, but it can only thrive and become a system if it benefits from international passivity.

While the excellent research and documentation work carried out by the United Nations regularly leads to the denunciation of the atrocities of the colonisation by Israel, it is only the determined and repeated use of these instruments by States, international organisations and social partners that will make it possible to halt the programmed destruction of Palestine.

The signatory organisations, aware of the need to put an end to the occupation as the first element of a solution, therefore call for the necessary political, economic and diplomatic pressure to be exerted in order to :

- Put an end to the ongoing destruction of Palestine ;
- Dismantle the illegal separation wall;
- Lift all restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinians ;
- Lift the embargo on Gaza;
- Fully implement UN resolutions on the right of return of refugees, on the end to military occupation and on the end to illegal settlements.

Signatories :

- *FGTB Centrale Générale*
- *FGTB Métallos Wallonie-Bruxelles (MWB)*
- *DISK Birleşik Metal İş*
- *CCOO de Industria*
- *Unite the Union*
- *CGT Fédération Nationale des Salariés de la Construction, du Bois et de l'Ameublement (FNSCBA)*
- *CGT Fédération Nationale Mines-Energie (FNME)*
- *CGTP-IN Fiequimetal (Portugal)*