

December 8, 2017

Statement by the Palestinian Performing Arts Network

We, active civil society organizations of the Palestinian cultural sector, consider U.S. President, Donald Trump's, statements and decision on Jerusalem a clear and flagrant violation of international law and the legitimization of Israel's continued, oppressive and illegal colonial occupation of Palestine. The world bears a legal, political, moral and humanitarian obligation to end this occupation and enable the Palestinian people to live in freedom and prosperity in their independent state of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the June 4, 1967 borders.

We call upon the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian President, to announce the complete failure of peace negotiations and officially end the biased American mediation efforts in this regard. The Palestinian people have utilized every avenue and exerted far-reaching efforts to achieve peace, including the adoption of the Oslo Accords and Arab Peace Initiative. Despite these efforts, Israel's occupying army continues to destroy every fabric of Palestinian life, culture and rights. Since East Jerusalem's occupation in 1967, Israel has repeatedly acted to consolidate its unilateral annexation of the city, a decision we rejected then and still reject today. Al-Quds is an occupied city and Israel's decisions and practices there are null and void and illegal in their entirety. The same applies to all Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Israel's attempts to change the historic status quo in Al-Quds will never be accepted by the Palestinian people.

We cannot as Palestinians stand still in the face of this threat targeting our national, political and social existence on our land. We call for the creation of a unified national plan within the framework of a Palestinian Unity government that will end our occupation, preserve our national existence and end all normalization with Israel and the United States. In such a situation, it is our right to search for alternatives that preserve our rights and protect our land and our people from an entrenching system of apartheid.

On behalf of the active civil society organizations of the Palestinian cultural sector, we call upon the international community to reject the U.S. position concerning Jerusalem, and end the impunity that continues to be granted with regard to Israel's aggressive policies and the clear violation of the United Nations Charter, as well as resolutions 181 (II), 194 (III), 242 (1967), 338 (1973), all the way to Security Council resolution 2334 of 2016.

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