



November 2, 2017

Statement by the Palestinian Performing Arts Network

We, active civil society organizations of the Palestinian cultural sector, condemn in the strongest possible terms the belligerent position of the British government and its prime minister, Theresa May, concerning the Balfour Declaration, which not only advocates but asserts the grave injustice perpetuated against the Palestinian people. The Balfour Declaration and the subsequent British mandate amounted to the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians refugees from their homeland and paved the way for a colonial occupation that is in place until today.

The apathetic position of the British government towards the suffering, misplacement and occupation of the Palestinian people is a historical injustice. Celebrating the centennial of the Balfour Declaration, is a legitimization of occupation and will only lead to further Israeli assertion in their violation of Palestinian human rights and the occupation of Palestinian land.

It is of further tragedy that the Royal Albert Hall, one of UK's most treasured and distinctive historical sites, has accepted to host the celebration of the Balfour Declaration centennial. A hall that is correlated with British art and culture will now proudly host an event which led to Palestinians displacement, persecution and oppression.

On behalf of the active civil society organizations of the Palestinian cultural sector, we call upon the British government to acknowledge the injustice committed against the Palestinian people and take action on restoring Palestinian rights, rectify this historic mistake, and apologize for one hundred years of suffering and plight. We also call upon, the Royal Albert Hall to cancel their scheduled hosting of the centennial celebration.

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