



The “Deal of the Century” confiscates fundamental Palestinian people’s rights recognized by international law: Women are the first to suffer the consequences

EuroMed Feminist Initiative as a policy network of women’s rights organizations from the two shores of the Mediterranean, expresses a deep concern about the threatening consequences of the “Deal of Century”, announced by US president Donald Trump. These consequences will affect not only the Palestinian people but also the stability and security of the region.

The “Deal of the Century” violates all United Nations resolutions related to the rights of the Palestinian people by both perpetuating the Israeli occupation, and expanding and legitimizing its occupation of Jerusalem, of the West Bank, especially the settlements, and the Jordan Valley. It thus contradicts all internationally agreed human rights instruments and international humanitarian law, and legitimizes unspeakable suffering of the Palestinian people, particularly women who continue to be subjected to house arrest, withdrawal of residence permits or family reunification, and harassment at checkpoints which hamper their active participation in society and their access to public spaces.

The Deal calls for cancelling the right of more than half of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, dismantling the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). This will lead to squeezing Palestinians into ghettos surrounded by apartheid walls and military watchtowers, while depriving millions of them from the right to self-determination and the right to return as recognized by international law and resolutions.

For more than two years, the US President has been paving the way for this Deal by recognizing Jerusalem as a capital of Israel, moving the US embassy to that city, and ending the US funding for UNRWA. Meanwhile he declared that, henceforth, the settlements in the West Bank are neither illegal nor a violation of international law.

The Deal is oriented towards the opposite direction to that of a two-State solution, and it negates all promises of independence included in the Oslo agreements. Rather than a new proposal for peace and stability, it constitutes a one-sided and arbitrary recognition of a glaring unjust status quo.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative, which considers people’s right to self-determination as one of its fundamental values and a condition for just and inclusive peace and security, denounces the Deal as a major source of increased tension, escalation of the conflict and instability in the region. This inevitably deepens and increases the sufferings of Palestinian women under Israeli occupation monitored by UN reports and assessed in the recent UN Secretary-General's report.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative joins its voice to international calls for the governments of European countries, and the European Union, to take an urgent and strong position condemning the Deal and recognizing the State of Palestine.

The UN, which we expect to act against violence and militarization, must demand from all countries, including the US, the respect of International Law as a necessary step and a precondition for a transparent and participatory comprehensive peace process in the whole Middle East, ensuring women’s rights activists’ participation. The UN must hold all countries accountable for any violations.