



ife@efi-europa.org

GAZA-ONE YEAR LATER

European Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI wrote one year ago in the Appeal "ENOUGH":
"Military and violence breed violence! Today civilians in Gaza are left in the middle of a massive destruction, without electricity, without medicines, without connection to the world, in a disastrous and inhuman situation. "

ONE YEAR LATER UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE TO WRITE THE SAME

Benjamin Netanyahu has declared that Israel will never accept to go back to the 1967 borders and will never renounce a unified Jerusalem. Once again the Israeli leaders refuse to come back to the negotiation table in search for a political solution of the conflict.

This happens in the heavy silence of the political powers of Europe that continue to keep their eyes shut for the violations of international and humanitarian law by the Israeli authorities; for the "collective punishment" imposed on the population of Gaza by the blockade; for the increasing of the numbers of settlements in the West Bank; for the construction of the wall on Palestinian territories - the wall up, then the steel wall under - built by the Egyptian authorities; for the arrest and detention in jails of over 10 000 Palestinians. The list is long and full. But EU continues the process of "upgrading" relations of cooperation with the Israeli government; upgrading a partnership that is disassociated from the respect of human rights and humanitarian law.

European, Israeli and now Egyptian governments are trying to make invisible the protests of the peace, feminist and progressive social movements. They have been openly ignoring the growing resistance of the civilians of the world.

The war in Gaza will remain the most murderous operation ever carried out by the Israeli authorities in the Palestinian territories, causing hundreds of deaths and devastating destruction for the civil population. Today Gaza remains a jail for over 1 500 000 people who have no access to the basic needs for their daily survival.

European Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI appeals anew to all the civilians of EUROPE to show their solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Our demands remain the same. European Feminist Initiative urges:

- Israel to end immediately the economic blockade of Gaza.
- The EU to speak up publicly that upgrading of relations with Israel can be done only in the light of the respect of human rights and international law.
- The EU and the USA to urgently initiate long term disarmament and demilitarization processes globally.
- The EU and the USA to act immediately for the research of truly peaceful political solutions and work systematically to provide sustainable space where civilians, peace and feminist activists, women's human rights and human rights organizations, secular and liberal thinkers and intellectuals together with other progressive forces and politicians can also create and negotiate own opportunities to participate and effectively influence the shaping of just peaceful solutions for their societies; in the light of the respect of all the United Nation resolutions, including UNSCR1325 and 1820 and the respect of the international law.
- The UN resolutions related to the dismantling of the settlements and the withdrawal from the Palestinian occupied territories to be urgently implemented.

IFE-EFI European Coordination

January 2010