



STATEMENT

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Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI

27 March 2017

UN Secretary General,

Take back ESCWA Report “Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid”

On March 2017, Rima Khalaf, the ESCWA Executive Secretary, resigned after issuing the ESCWA report that concluded: "Israel has established an apartheid regime that systematically institutionalizes racial oppression and domination of the Palestinian people as a whole". Aware of the seriousness of this allegation, the authors of the report "*Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid*" concluded that available evidence establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that Israel is guilty of policies and practices that "constitute the crime of apartheid as legally defined in instruments of international law."

Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI joins all human rights activists worldwide in applauding Ms Khalaf’s honesty, integrity and commitment to searching for the truth. With her resignation, we lost a brave and qualified leader at the UN and defender of the human rights, which are the essence of the UN work.

The report, prepared by two well-known researchers, Richard Anderson Falk, professor emeritus of international law at Princeton University and previously the UN Special Rapporteur on "the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967", and Virginia Tilley, a political scientist specializing in the comparative study of ethnic and racial conflict and the author of the *One-State Solution*, sheds the light on national human rights violations, and paves the ground for justice and peace through all the UN tools and structures. It comes as an advanced qualified material in its overall conduct and understanding of the Israeli expansionist colonial project. It also adds to the series of decisions of the UN in the record of the Israeli breaches and violations against the Palestinian people. The evidence provided by the renowned experts, is overwhelming. The world has been reminded that there is an urgent need to stand up for the Palestinian people and to hold Israel accountable for its crimes. As Ms. Khalaf points out in her resignation letter, "anyone who has attacked the report has been incapable of calling into question a single word of its actual content."

This injustice system is still ongoing against Palestinian people who suffer from military occupation and discrimination, causing them to lose their basic rights, to which they are entitled by the UNSCRs, in particular UNSCR 181 on the policies of apartheid; 194 on the right of return of Palestinians to their home; 1325 on women, peace and security; and 2334 against Israeli settlements.

The conflict in Palestine between the people and the occupier; between the oppressed and the oppressor; between the Israeli colonial project – illegal under the UNSCR 2334 issued on 23.12.2016 – and the Palestinian right for self-determination, is a conflict in which there is no neutrality.

We urge the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly to consider the report, respect its content, and reinstall it as a legitimate UN report. We urge for urgent measures to end the Israeli occupation and apartheid towards the Palestinian people, starting with imposing sanctions and immediate cease of the illegal settlements.

Only ending of the occupation will pave the road towards just and sustainable peace and security for the Palestinian people.

Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI advocates for gender equality and women’s universal human rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, for political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of peoples to self-determination