

An appeal from Brazilian Women on a Peace Mission in the Middle East

in memory of
Mayada Abassi, Former Ambassador of Palestine to
Brazil and Secretary of International Relations of the General
Union of Palestinian Women – UGMP.

Letter to the Brazilian Government, entities and leaders of communities in Central America, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP)

The Brazilian Union of Women – UBM, the Brazilian Center for Solidarity with the People and Fight for Peace – CEBRAPAZ and the International Democratic Federation of Women – FDIM, actively listening to “Palestinian Women, the Pillar of Resistance”,* engaged in the fight for Peace and in Defense of Palestine sought to give visibility to Palestinian women because they have been, together with children, more than 70% of the people murdered by Israel.

Palestinian women have always been an integral part of the struggle for freedom and emancipation of their people. The history of Palestinian resistance is full of names of heroines, activists who refused to remain silent and without action while Palestine was colonized.

In addition to the many names that are recorded in Palestinian history, there are thousands of combative and heroic women who have always been “and will still be” part of this history of resistance: they are grandmothers, mothers, sisters, friends, comrades. They are in a permanent struggle and resist for the right to exist and for their children and grandchildren to live with dignity.

However, Israel refuses to give up the territory it illegally occupies, to dismantle its apartheid system, to respect international law and the rights of the Palestinian people. To this end, it maintains a ruse into which it intends to drag the United States and other allies: Israel's strategy is to break isolation by attacking disaffected governments, such as Iran, in order to drag the entire region into an unprecedented conflict.

The key to avoiding a regional war is a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, allowing humanitarian aid delivery and assistance, recognition of the “Palestinian State” with an end to the Israeli occupation, and a fair peace agreement.

Responding to the calls for active listening by “Palestinian Women, the Pillar of Resistance” and the outcry of statements from Palestinian and Palestinian institutions and intellectuals, we make some necessary considerations for immediate and forceful action with the Brazilian Government, as well as urging entities and leaders of communities in Central America, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) with the leading role in the “**Lula tem Razão!**” movement, from the Global South.

In this way, we position ourselves against the lies disseminated by “Zionist propaganda” in the mainstream press, which has been distorting the facts and reality of the legitimate and just cause for emancipation and the right to self-determination of the Palestinian People.

That said, we echo the calls for “active listening” with this hearing:

1st Appeal: For harassed and imprisoned women

- 1.** The Israeli army, firmly and daily, is implementing policies of retaliation and revenge against Palestinian women and girls, carrying out beatings, domestic vandalism and humiliation, without taking into account their privacy by invading homes, especially those of Palestinian women who were detained and recently released;
- 2.** We express our aim to promote a feminist mobilization to support Palestinian women, expose the crimes committed against them by the occupation and exert pressure on governments and parliaments to take responsibility for the denial of women's rights in Palestine, considering that, recently, there was an escalation in the detentions of Palestinian women and girls, based on retaliatory political-ideological tendencies and the use of them as hostages;
- 3.** It is necessary to mention that there are currently 81 women detained in Israeli prisons, the majority of them in Damoun prison, in precarious health conditions, without medical assistance and at risk to their lives.

2nd Appeal: To end the supply of weapons to Israel

- 1.** The continued supply of arms and ammunition from the United States and allied countries to Israel, encouraging it to wage war and aggressive actions, and pledging to protect it militarily and politically, will always encourage Israel to go further in its crimes, which gradually increased to the level of genocide;
- 2.** We call on human rights, humanitarian and civil rights organizations and militants active in countries of the Global North to follow the example of their French counterparts in bringing legal action against European governments that support Israel with weapons, holding them accountable for supporting Israel in its crimes and obliging them to stop exporting weapons and ammunition to Israel and to refrain from providing political cover for their crimes;
- 3.** We demand that governments break contracts for weapons and ammunition, consultancy and provision of services in public security and environmental management with the State of Israel, such as the partnership contracts between Brazil and Argentina, in the region of Patagonia, administration in water management and basic sanitation with Mekorot (Israel's main national water agency).

3rd Appeal: To freeze Diplomatic Relations

- 1.** We appeal to international public opinion to pressure the occupying authority to avoid a catastrophe in Rafah, at a time when the Israeli occupation army continues its bloody attack on all areas of the destroyed Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem;
- 2.** As we address this appeal to the Brazilian Government and the leaders of Central, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries – CPLP, among others that maintain diplomatic relations with Israel, we urge them to freeze their relations with Israel in order to avoid the invasion of Rafah and a military confrontation that could escalate into a war against Iran. Any country that maintains diplomatic relations with this entity, which, under current circumstances, threatens Palestinian existence and all Arab national security, will tarnish its image. Suspending relations with a country that violates the norms of international law is an ethical and moral duty of States.

4th Appeal: To the resistance of the working class

- 1.** We call on activists and organizations from around the world to establish that May 1, 2024, International Workers' Day, is “Palestinian Resistance Workers' Day”, aiming to highlight the need to defend the Palestinian resistance in its right to fight for its liberation, strengthening it at a higher level against the oppression of workers around the world;

2. We make this call at this decisive moment in the developing world's revolt against US imperialism and the countries of the North to affirm that the path for the labor movement to re-establish itself on a global scale as an agent of revolutionary transformation is to courageously ally with the liberation struggles of the Global South and mobilize workers towards this objective.

5th Appeal: For freedom of the press and communication

1. The Freedoms Committee of the Palestinian Journalists' Union denounced that Israel continues to target and close media institutions in occupied Jerusalem, while insisting on the decision to prevent satellite TV channels from operating in Jerusalem, in addition to the ban on journalists of working on press coverage in Jerusalem, around the Al-Aqsa Mosque, in the Occupied West Bank and mainly in Gaza, where journalists have been deliberately targeted in murderous and systemic attacks, including against their families, with the destruction of equipment work and their homes;
2. It is essential to support and subsidize legally and diplomatically the Palestinian Journalists' Union in its tireless efforts and demands to prosecute Israel for its crimes against murder, aggression and impediment to the exercise of journalistic activity in Palestine at all levels, regional and international, reporting their crimes within the legal requirements of war crimes tribunals and international tribunals, as freedom of the press and expression is a cornerstone of human rights. These are principles that must be respected.

6th Appeal: For academic and scientific freedom

1. Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian was arrested by Israeli police on April 18, 2024, on suspicion of inciting terrorism and violence because of her unwavering stance against the genocide in Gaza and her insightful analysis of Israeli settler colonialism and its racialized violence;
2. Her arrest, when she suffered psychological torture and ill-treatment, follows an ongoing campaign of harassment, including a letter demanding that she resign from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for signing a ceasefire declaration. The treatment of intellectuals and academics in Israeli prisons exemplifies a systematic pattern of “educacide” against Palestinian academics and educational institutions. Furthermore, the fact that an internationally renowned academic is being detained and persecuted in this way serves will have a chilling effect on academic freedom and solidarity with Palestine.
3. We call on you to sever all ties and cease all collaborations and joint projects of any kind with universities and research institutes that maintain this persecutory pattern against academics, intellectuals and students/researchers until you put an end to your decades-long complicities with the Israeli occupation and the apartheid system in defense of academic and scientific freedoms.

Note:

*The Brazilian Union of Women – UBM and entities actively listening to “Palestinian Women, the Pillar of Resistance”, March 8th, International Women's Day – 2024. Access the active listening video HERE: <https://youtu.be/cWsY2k8wP2M>

Brasilia, April 20, 2024



*For memberships, send an email with the name of the entity and indication of the country to email: ubmbrasil.mulheres@gmail.com and or editores_recos@terra.com.br

To consult the updated list of entities and collectives that support and subscribe to this letter, visit HERE: <https://abrir.link/LGwPc>
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