

# No Feminist Struggle Without Gaza



Five months into the ongoing genocidal assault on the Gaza Strip and seventy-six years of settler colonialism and ethnic cleansing in Palestine, the massacres carried out in Gaza by the Zionist killing machine have not stopped, sparing no effort in cutting off all lifelines from Palestinians in Gaza, who have been under siege by Israel and its allies for seventeen years.

Forsaken in facing the horrors of colonial extermination and dispossession, Palestinians in Gaza are now also undergoing the systematic targeting of all forms of life. Palestinian lives, hospitals, schools, and the already dilapidated infrastructure of the Strip have come under Zionist barbaric attacks as the entire world watches live broadcasts of bombs weighing thousands of tons, funded by taxpayers' money, dropping on our people in Gaza.

On the 8th of March - International Women's Day - we affirm that the Zionist killing machine discerns no difference between man and woman, adult and child. It is predicated on erasure and is threatened by the mere existence of Palestinians, especially those in Gaza, whose bodies are sites of resistance against decades of settler colonial violence.

We stand here today for the women and men of Gaza, for the children and youth of Gaza, for our grandmothers and grandfathers, the custodians of our history and memory, and for all those who have made Gaza a popular cradle for its valiant resistance. We stand for the bricks, the sea, the streets, the trees. We stand for memories of the past as well as hopes for the future that make Gaza our home.

Almost every day now, we see Palestinian women giving birth in unsafe conditions, mothers killed with unborn babies in their wombs, children who have lost their entire families, men searching for loved ones under the rubble with their bare hands, and doctors forced to amputate limbs of their own children on a table in a house surrounded by tanks and snipers, lacking any medical equipment. Hundreds of thousands of our people in the northern part of the Gaza Strip are besieged, facing a systematic starvation policy as a tool of the genocidal war waged by the Zionist entity, aiming to break the resilience of an oppressed and proud people. As for those of our elders who survived the Nakba of 1948, they once again find themselves under a brutal campaign of slaughter and forced displacement.

We, the women of Gaza, refuse to have feminist ideals weaponized in service of colonial agendas and for the justification of a genocidal assault. We categorically reject exploitative rhetoric of imperial feminism that uses societal violence. Palestinian women are subjected to in order to whitewash Israeli violations and brutalisation of the bodies of Palestinian women and men. We reject the weaponization of the suffering of Palestinian women within the patriarchal structures of their society to further vilify and dehumanise Palestinian men. Since the onset of the genocide, we have seen mainstream media outlets and self-proclaimed feminist groups rush to adopt Zionist propaganda to demonize Palestinian resistance and legitimize our extermination. Meanwhile, as Zionist soldiers violate the most intimate spaces of Palestinian women and objectify our beings in gruesome ways, these same groups remain silent... and complicit.

In a flagrant display of colonial misogyny, Israeli soldiers have been flaunting clips of themselves rummaging through and parading lingerie of forcibly displaced Palestinian women. As an integral part of the colonial apparatus – its structure, function, and practice – sexual violence against Palestinian women is conveniently overlooked. Testimonies of rape, sexual assault, and brutal torture that Palestinian women kidnapped from the Gaza Strip have endured under Israeli detention have not elicited recognition or solidarity from liberal feminist institutions. Palestinian women have experienced sexual harassment and threats of raping their family members. They had dogs unleashed on them, have been stripped naked, and were deprived of food and access to restrooms for days. We demand immediate action to fight all oppressive structures that enable these brutal crimes. No genocide is feminist, even as Israeli female soldiers taking selfies on the rubble of our destroyed homes try to tell you otherwise. We are not all in the same trench: those who have chosen to manufacture consent for genocide, whether directly making bombs or passing policies for the bombs to fall, do not belong to our feminist, anti-colonial struggle; their feminism can only be seen as an extension of the ruling class, driven solely by their shared interests.

Today, we also affirm our rejection of the dehumanization of Palestinian men and the perpetuation of racist and colonial tropes about the colonised. We have seen these Orientalist depictions of inherently violent brown men and helplessly passive brown women be used as a pretext for invasion and conquest, as seen in Afghanistan and Iraq. Feminist and anti-colonial struggles in Palestine are intertwined, and we reject the hijacking of our movement to serve Zionist propaganda.

We refuse to reduce the massacred Palestinians to mere numbers recounted in a cursory manner that detracts from our humanity. Even the staggering statistics we see on the news are inaccurate in light of the testimonies from people on the ground, as well as Palestinian journalists and medical officials, regarding thousands of missing individuals, those who were hastily buried, and others who remain under the rubble undocumented. The squares, sidewalks, schools, and hospitals of Gaza have all become mass graves. If we were to narrate the daily suffering of our people in this genocide, we would need endless speeches and an eternity of pain. Compiling an archive of our people's losses would not suffice. The cries of Hind's mother are but a drop in the ocean of Palestinian mothers' cries, and the last farewell of Rima's grandfather to his 'soul of the soul' is merely a glimpse of thousands of other farewells, made in hospital corridors, wrecked homes, and silent prayers.

It pains us that those under extermination are compelled to point their cameras towards the bodies of their loved ones in moments of farewell and sorrow. Moments that are meant to be sacred have been desecrated, for you. Palestinians document them to 'prove' that all of this is indeed happening. Those who have lost their loved ones have been deprived of the right to mourn and to honor their bodies with proper burial. As the privacy of farewell has been violated, the least those in solidarity can do is not turn these images into commodities of performative sorrow, but mobilise our anger and grief into political action.

We reject the romanticization of Palestinians' suffering under genocide, as they are left with no choice but to try to survive. The entire world has seen Palestinian women doctors risking their lives to save the wounded, women gathering firewood to cook for their families amidst Israel's continued blockade of cooking gas, displaced women baking bread in makeshift tents, and our mothers in north Gaza making bread from animal feed amidst the scarcity of aid and the farcical stunts of aid drops. You have seen mothers making diapers under a severe shortage of supplies, and Palestinian women volunteering to give lessons to displaced children following the Zionist systematic targeting of schools and education in Gaza. This should not invoke your admiration but rather shame, the shame of everyone's failure to end this suffering, the shame of complicity in the genocide of our people, and the shame of forcing our women to endure this torment to survive.

In our struggle for Palestinian liberation and our right to self-determination, we are fully aware that our destinies are interwoven with our oppressed siblings over the globe, from Sudan and Congo, Haiti and Tigray, Kashmir and Western Sahara, to Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, and Iraq. This is in opposition to the capitalist, imperialist, colonial regimes and their brutality, and their attempts to normalize and fund Zionist savagery, trying to make a lesson out of Gaza for all the wretched of the earth who choose the path of resistance.

We must recognize today that colonial powers will claim more lives, both outside and inside Palestine, unless we act immediately and by all available means to stop the genocide, lift the siege, and dismantle the colonial project in the region. As we have asserted before, we reiterate: our destinies are intertwined.

**Mobilize revolutionary forces and escalate work for:**

- \*An immediate and unconditional ceasefire.
- \*Lifting the siege on the Gaza Strip and opening the Rafah Border permanently and unconditionally, as it is the only passage for the movement of people.
- \*End businesses that make profit off Palestinian suffering. This includes holding to account those who have been making
- \*Palestinians who want to leave Gaza pay absurd amounts to a private company affiliated with the Egyptian regime, which has been collaborating with Israel in its blockade of the Gaza Strip for seventeen years.
- \*The immediate return of those who were forcibly displaced all over the Gaza Strip to their homes.
- \*The immediate release of all detainees who were abducted by the Zionist forces from the Gaza Strip.
- \*Ending arms sales to the Zionist entity.
- \*Boycott Israeli products and divest from firms that are partnered with the occupation.
- \*Holding all those complicit in the genocidal war accountable, including politicians, media platforms, and international organizations.
- \*Rejecting the imposition of political discussions while Palestinians continue to be slaughtered in their hundreds every day. Engaging in debates under the fire of genocidal assault on the Gaza Strip will only prolong the suffering of its people. Ceasefire now.

Glory to the resistance. Long live our international struggle. Down with the colonial and tyrannical regimes. Down with the prisons. Down with the borders. Down with capitalism. Down with imperialism.

**No One Is Free Until We Are All Free  
No Future Without Gaza  
No Feminist Struggle Without Gaza**