



# Palestine-UK Social Work Network

**End the occupation. Stop ethnic cleansing in Palestine.**

**Free Palestine**

**Be active. Be human. Be professional**

In the past week, the Israeli aggression, from both official military forces and armed extremist settlers, has been intensified against Palestinian people, in the form of violent systematic attacks against unarmed civilians in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, brutal attacks based on racial discrimination against Palestinian civilians inside the 1948 territory have been carried out by settlers and military forces.

The recent aggression has caused the massacre of hundreds of civilian Palestinians including 52 children, 31 women, elderly people and even citizens with special needs, and in addition to this more than 1300 people have been injured.

## **Facts**

Within the last week, hundreds of Jerusalemites have been shot – with eyes and upper parts of people's bodies being targeted - or violently beaten and attacked by both heavily armed Israeli military forces and armed settlers.

A whole neighbourhood in Jerusalem – Sheikh Jarrah - has been attacked to evict its residents, despite the fact that a legal decision by the biased Israeli court has not as yet been issued. The police are still implementing the evacuation for the sake of and in support of the settlers. Hundreds of Palestinians will be homeless.

More than 200 Palestinian civilians have been killed and thousands injured in Gaza within five days. Hundreds of houses and residential towers have been completely destroyed leaving thousands of families without shelter. Whole families have been buried alive under

the devastation that has been caused by heavy bombing by the Zionist occupation air, sea and artillery forces.

In addition to the physical casualties, thousands of Palestinian civilians are facing mental and social persecution that needs immediate professional intervention. While the branches of the Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists are doing their best to support people, the required response to this mass persecution is beyond our capacities. This is exacerbated by the Israeli forces criminalising our intervention and directly targeting social workers and psychologists – as part of the targeting of the Palestinian people – and preventing them from providing services, in the same way that they are doing with the providers of medical services and media teams.

We mourn the loss of our colleagues in social and mental health services. Dr Moen Alalul and his family were murdered in an Israel air strike in the early hours of 16th May. Dr Alalul was a psychiatrist who served in the Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Health, for many years. He was known as a hardworking and highly dedicated doctor. The psychologist, Rajaa Abu Al Auf, her husband and her children were also murdered by airstrikes. Rajaa and Moen and their families were assassinated as part of the genocide that the Palestinian people is facing.

To make this long and bloody story short - there are two sides, one being a brutal and racist regime, including military forces and armed settlers, with the other being attacked by this regime because they are demanding their rights.

We are addressing you to call for immediate support by the various international and regional bodies involved in social service, mental health and human rights activities to:

- declare a clear position on the aggressive attacks against Palestinians in occupied Palestine
- put pressure on your governments at the regional level as well as on the European Union, USA and the United Nations
- force an immediate Israeli ceasefire against the Palestinian people and to stop ethnic cleansing and extermination
- send all those who have participated in war crimes to the International Court of Justice.

We also call on the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), and the IFSW Asia Pacific, Europe, North America, Africa and Latin America Regions, social worker and psychologist unions and the wider international community to put pressure on their governments to:

- prosecute the Israeli political and security leaders as war criminals

- clearly condemn the Israeli aggression against Palestinian people
- dismiss all the members of any unions that are involved in the military aggressive attacks and all members that are involved in settlers' racist movements, as illegal entities that are directly contrary to and incompatible with international law, human rights and social work ethics of the International Federation of Social Workers.

We are also calling professional unions all over the world to support the Palestinian people's right in freedom and self-determination and to support the Palestinian professional service providers by all possible means.

**It is time to end the racist Zionist occupation of occupied Palestine and to stand up for the rights of the Palestinian people.**

**PALUK SW Network**

**16 May 2021**

[\*\*#GazaUnderAttack\*\*](#)

[\*\*#SaveSheikhJarrah\*\*](#)

[\*\*#Palestine\*\*](#)

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