

## **Global March to Jerusalem - GMJ Call for European participation and support**

Jerusalem has been a centre of the three monotheistic world religions for more than 1,000 years. This plurality has been threatened since the creation of the state of Israel and more so with the occupation of east Jerusalem and its attempted annexation, in violation of international law. Jerusalem's Palestinian inhabitants are subjected to a continuous process of expulsion from the city.

85% of its territory has been robbed by foreign illegal settlers, while the Israeli state systematically destroys the livelihood of Palestinians. Every day, the Apartheid state of Israel demolishes or threaten the demolition of Palestinian homes. Armed Israeli gangs, supported by the state, terrorise the old city's inhabitants demanding, "Arabs out, Jerusalem is Jewish!" Jewish religious fanatics even attack Jewish women if they don't abide by the rules emanating from their zealous interpretation of religion. All this is happening while the people of the Arab world are clamouring for democracy and self-determination.

After decades of submission to a world order dominated by NATO and Israel, the Arab masses have begun to rid themselves of their dependent and dictatorial regimes. People have taken to the streets in unprecedented numbers; demanding democracy and an end to the squander of their countries' resources. For decades, these corrupt dictatorships have collaborated with Israel to safeguard Western interests in the region. The clearest testimony of this is the comprehensive blockade that has been imposed on the Gaza Strip; destroying the future of 1.5 million Palestinians.

The sole reaction of the last settler colony in the world to the growing protest is increased brutality. The Apartheid state of Israel is hastening to create more facts on the ground, particularly in Jerusalem, before the balance of forces in the region turns completely against them. Once again, Israel's claim to be the only democracy in the Middle East is exposed to be a racist fallacy - as only Jewish citizens are entitled to it.

Today, the Arab spring continues to fuel the Palestinian national movement. This initiative for the Global March to Jerusalem (GMJ) is a vital expression of this fact. Various forces from across the entire region, as well as all political, cultural and religious divisions, have come together - extending even to Europe.

As part of this initiative, we also advance and support the similar Palestinian struggle for democracy, equal rights and self-determination. This duty is especially significant for European opposition forces because Zionism is not only a product of European colonialism and racism; it still enjoys the support of our ruling elite.

The Global March to Jerusalem adopted the city of the three monotheistic world religions as a symbol of emancipation. Despite the on-going expulsion of Palestinians and the deliberate Judaisation of the city, it remains the common

cultural heritage of humanity, which can never be erased. In this spirit, and recalling the centuries old historic cultural rights and heritage of the Palestinian people of all religions, we assert the Palestinian right over Jerusalem as the capital of a democratic and independent Palestinian state, with the right of return for its exiled population.

We join this pluralistic initiative transcending cultural and religious borders on a simple political platform; carrying further forward past initiatives. Our intention is to build a bridge for peace between the Arab region, Europe and other parts of the world.

We will meet before the historic Palestine Land Day on March 30, 2012, in Cairo, Amman, Beirut and Damascus to start our common march to Jerusalem. In all these capitals, we will be joined by local preparatory committees.

Concomitantly, there will be mobilisations throughout historic Palestine: in the West Bank, in the Gaza Strip, in Israel (by Muslims, Christians and Jews) and first and foremost, within Jerusalem itself.

We call on you to:

- a) sign both appeals issued by the international GMJ committee.
- b) build local organisational committees.
- c) register for participation in the march.

We say no to Zionism; and to an exclusive Jewish colonial state, which reacts to the legitimate struggle of the indigenous Palestinian people with the expansion of its Apartheid rule.

*On behalf of the European preparatory committee for the Global March to Jerusalem. GMJ*