



Final statement

October 31st, 2010

Over the past few months, the preparations to hold the World Educational Forum in Palestine from 28th-31st/October/2010 continued in implementation to the resolution of the World Social Forum in 2008, which came against the backdrop of the Israeli brutal aggression against Gaza. The preparatory committees worked in different locations (Beirut, the West Bank, Jerusalem, Gaza, and the 1948 occupied Palestinian Cities) under the guidance and follow-up of the National and International Committees of the World Social Forum in Palestine, which was attended by civil society organizations, popular unions in the West Bank and Gaza, civil coalitions in Jerusalem, and Arab organizations in the occupied 1948 cities, in particular the Arab Associations "Itijah" and the Arab Network for Non-governmental Organizations in Beirut.

Holding the Forum and the work of the preparatory committees in every single location emphasized the unity of the Palestinian People, their cause, their struggle, their destiny, and their right of return and of complete independence. The committees arranged all necessary preparations to hold the Educational Forum in the five sites, along with International Participation to hold solidarity activities concurrently in different cities around the world.

After the arrangements were complete on time, the activities of the forum were launched from Jerusalem during a press conference in "Hay Al-Bustan" in Selwan, emphasizing what Jerusalem represents to the Palestinian People, commitment to the Arab roots of the city and in dealing with the policy of the occupation to establish Jerusalem as a Jewish capital. In the same day, a Palestinian-International march was held with wide popular and international participation, attended by thousands. The march was launched from the heart of the city of Ramallah to reach the city's Cultural Palace, where the launching of the Forum was officially announced with statements of affirmation, during which the speakers emphasized the importance of the event, the importance of it being held in Ramallah during this critical political stage in the Palestinian Cause; in addition to the importance of international solidarity with the Palestinian People, the justice of their Cause, the merits of their struggle, and the forum's contribution to enrich the international educational experience.

In parallelism, the Forum was launched in Gaza in "Rashad Al-Shawa" Hall with large Palestinian and International participation, challenging the Israeli

siege imposed on Gaza for years. In the occupied 1948 land, the forum was launched in Al-Araqueeb in Al-Naqab. With vast Palestinian, Arabic, and International participation, the UNESCO Palace in Beirut was the launching site of the forum, in which the speakers stressed the uniqueness of the Palestinian experience in the field of education; and by this the launching manifested the unity of the Palestinian people in spite of their displacement, dispersion, aggression, and division.

In the next days, the sites of the Educational social forum in Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarem, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Hebron, Nazareth, Haifa, Jaffa, Beirut, and Gaza witnessed a large sum of conferences, all of which were part of the schedule of the forum, with participation from academic, educational, social and international activists, and thousands of interested individuals on the local level. In addition, educational events were organized in many countries in the world including Mexico and Brazil, during which the participants stressed their solidarity with the Palestinian People, and their vast support to their right of freedom and independence. The central conferences and activities that followed dealt with the main axes of the forum and the large headlines derived from these axes. The participants discussed thoroughly the outlooks and future of developing the educational process in Palestine and the outlooks of establishing and developing a social forum in Palestine that is equivalent to the divisions of the World Social Forum.

Vitality, enthusiasm, and solidarity with the Palestinian People dominated the atmosphere of the discussions. During the conferences tens of academic and research papers were presented that focused on what is consistent with the objectives of the Educational Forum, by focusing on the education of the oppressed, facing cultural hegemony attempted by neo-liberalism in the context of their attempts to dominate the destiny of the world, in particular the destiny of poor countries.

The conferences, workshops, and activities were concluded with a set of recommendations, presented to the expanded conference, to be adopted in the final act.

Main Recommendations of the Forum:

- Promotion of international solidarity with the Palestinian People, by expanding and consecrating boycotting Israel on all levels, based on the right of the Palestinian Refugees to return and independence.
- Working on expanding popular solidarity via international organizations participating in the forum through their relations to their community, and pressuring their governments to take serious strands in supporting the Palestinian People in international forums.
- Working on holding a Palestinian Educational meeting that includes all Palestinian Educational activities, allowing larger participation in the

march of World Social Forum, considering it an opening to all Educational Organizations.

- Designating the National Committee of the World Educational Forum as a committee to follow-up the recommendations of the forum.
- Supporting the workers in UNRWA and demanding the UNRWA to face their responsibility toward refugees by continuing their services, instead of cutting them, and supporting their workers to reach a solution that ensures their legitimate rights.
- Emphasizing international solidarity with the popular Palestinian unions concerning their activities, independence, and accountability towards their people.
- Rejection of considering the Hebrew Country a country for Jews, under the stipulation that this approach is a racist approach that severely undermines the simplest rights of the Palestinian People.
- Providing every possible support to the liberty convoys that attempt to break the siege on the Gaza Strip.
- Following-up this great achievement of holding the World Educational Forum in Palestine by promoting the holding of a Palestinian Social Forum.
- Promoting communication with solidarity movements by providing all information about what is going on in Palestine, to facilitate their work and place them in the foreground using modern technology and the internet.
- Condemning the policy of ethnic cleansing against the Palestinian People in Jerusalem by the Israeli Occupation Forces.
- Emphasizing the need to care for the education of the oppressed, whether they are political prisoners, poor people with a limited income by appealing to governments to devote larger budgets to education, allowing children to get quality education in a safe, healthy environment.
- Organizing activities and events by Palestinian Organizations, including activities like video conferences or through Skype on the margin of all World Social Forums in the world, starting with the World Social Forum in Dakar- Senegal.
- Working on holding an international conference in solidarity with the Palestinian People.
- Sending an Educational Boat as part of the campaign to break the siege on the Gaza Strip.
- Working on effective networking between different Non-governmental organizations.
- Calling all world unions to boycott Israel.

In concluding its activities, the World Educational Forum in Palestine stressed their solidarity and support of all struggling nations in their struggle against submission and exploitation, and expulsion of oppressors from their land, by emphasizing their absolute solidarity with the struggle of the Arab-Palestinian

People to attain their independent state and break the siege on Gaza. The forum also demanded the international community to impose the boycott of Israel to force the occupation to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian land including the withdrawal of settlers, allowing the restoration of the Palestinian's of their land, the return of the refugees, and attain national independence.

The forum also stressed the solidarity with the Iraqi People and their suffering, and demanded the withdrawal of the occupying forces from Iraq, Afghanistan, South of Lebanon, and occupied Syrian Golan Heights. The forum also decided to direct a number of solidarity letters.

The forum, in it's five sites, also appealed in their closing sessions to the national Palestinian parties to surpass the state of division, and called for the unity of the Palestinian People in facing the Israeli policy of aggression.

The forum saluted the Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli prisons calling to care for them, and work hard to accomplish their release and freedom.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to point out that a complete report would follow this final act. Since the forum was held in diverse sites on one hand and organized numerous activities on another hand, time is required to prepare this report, which will be completed in the next few days.

Sunday, October, 31st, 2010