TEAR DOWN THE APARTHEID WALL!

Friday, July 9, 2004, at 3:00 PM, the International Court of Justice will issue its opinion on the apartheid wall currently being constructed in Palestine; meanwhile, a group of hunger strikers, led by 1948 Palestine parliamentarian Azmi Bishara, the Palestinian National Forces and the Palestinian Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign, are camped at Ar-Ram, a village near Jerusalem, on hunger strike demanding an end to the construction of the wall that is slicing apart Palestinian land, stealing water and resources and imprisoning Palestinians in their homes and villages.

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to join with Palestinians and people of conscience throughout the world in an international protest, to say:



Tear down the Apartheid Wall! Stop the Occupation! Sanctions and Boycott on Apartheid Israel! Justice for Palestine!



"It has taken over 50 years of relentless oppression and a monstrous Wall for even a single Israeli crime to be brought before an International Court. The foundation of Israel in 1948 has resulted in the destruction of over 400 Palestinian villages, dozens of massacres of Palestinians at the hands of Israeli Forces and the destruction and theft of massive amounts of land. Occupation of what remained of historic Palestine in 1967 was an overt and devastating injustice as was the illegal annexation of the heart of Palestine - Jerusalem. With some 5 million refugees, Palestinians are becoming the largest population of refugees in the world while almost half of the Palestinian male population has been through Israeli prisons. Despite all of this, the international community has remained essentially idle in front of these blatant violations of Human Rights and International Law, offering no significant challenge and failing to demand proper accountability.

Today, the Apartheid Wall is condensing all of the crimes of Israeli Occupation into one project.

On the 9th of July, 3 pm, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice will be issued. The importance of the Court's opinions is well known. A positive Court opinion can make a difference. In 1971, after the ICJ brought a verdict against South Africa's Occupation of Namibia, the international community imposed sanctions on the Apartheid State. Subsequent International isolation, economic sanctions and diplomatic pressure have supported the South African Anti-Apartheid Movement in its struggle against a racist and colonialist regime and have brought South African Apartheid to an end. The release of ICJ advisory opinion is not only occasion to evaluate the readiness of the international community to take up its responsibilities towards Palestine, but also a time to highlight the devastating effects of the Wall, its racist and colonialist motives and to prompt all further steps to tear down the Apartheid Wall. On July 9th, remain critical and expose the political implications of the ICJ decision - whatever its content may be to support us in raising up the Palestinian voice to the world's public opinion."

-- The Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Committee

"While Sharon tries to draw international public attention to his plans for unilateral separation from Gaza, framing them as though they were some form of political concession or achievement, we seek to draw attention to the real processes underway on the ground in the Occupied Territories: unilateral Israeli imposition of borders, destruction of Palestinian communities, and an Apartheid colonial logic. "- Azmi Bishara, one of a number of Palestinian leaders currently on hunger strike protesting the construction of the Apartheid Wall

"The Palestine Solidarity Committee remembers our own history of pushing people into Bantustans as well as the experiences of indigenous North Americans and Maori and Aboriginal people. We thus cannot support the building of the Apartheid Wall. Israel is intensifying apartheid and implementing it in a more gruesome way than in South Africa's. It includes an assassinations policy, home demolitions, bans on 'mixed marriages' and forced removal of entire communities through the building of the Wall." - Palestine Solidarity Committee of South Africa

"The Apartheid Wall condemns an entire population to open-air prisons, restricting free movement and stifling all forms of productive economy; threatening the existence of over 300,000 Palestinians by separating them from their land, resources, families, schools, medical centers, and imposing conditions in which they are forced to abandon their cities and villages, thus becoming part of the growing number of Palestinian refugees." - Jamal Juma, Coordinator of the Palestinian Anti-Apartheid Wall Committee

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