

Human Chain within 1976 Territories

In view of the tragic situation that has afflicted Palestine and the Palestinian people, the time has come for all those who believe in peace and justice to join together in protesting the injustice of the Israeli occupation. There is a strong need for a sustained nationwide public movement, which calls for an end to the occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

It is in this context, and coinciding with the 35th anniversary of the 1967 war, that we call for the launching of a new campaign to protest the Israeli occupation. On June 27th 2002, a human chain will be formed throughout the Palestinian territories and Israel. This chain will link all of the Palestinian governorates together and will stretch from Jenin in the northern West Bank to Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. The human chain will cross through Israeli checkpoints and will be joined by diplomats, foreign dignitaries, and Israeli peace activists – in short, all of those who call for an end to the Israeli occupation.

Aims of the Human Chain

The main aim of the human chain is to generate international support for Palestinian national and human rights using extensive media coverage to solicit coverage by way of:

- Maintaining a linkage between all cities, towns, and villages of the Palestinian territories;
- Protesting the ongoing sieges and blockades of Palestinians and their land;
- Reaffirming the right to maintaining sovereignty over Palestinian land;
- Asserting to the international community and the Israeli people that Palestinians are not terrorists, but a nation struggling for its independence; and
- To rearticulate Palestinian demands calling for an end to the occupation, the evacuation of all the settlements on Palestinian land, and the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Activities

The following will be the schedule of activities, sponsored by the People's Peace Campaign:

- June 27, 2002: Achieve the physical formation of the human chain, linking people throughout the Palestinian territories and Israel.

- June 28, 2002: The formation of a human chain that encircles the old city of Jerusalem. Festivities will take place at the Jaffa Gate and will be attended by many foreign dignitaries, including the mayor of Campanga (Italy) who assisted in launching the People's Peace Campaign.

Other activities such as student camps, music concerts, plays, seminars will be taking place, made possible with the participation of international organization.

Organizational Structure

Higher Organizational Committees

In order for such a large movement and organization of people to be successful, a higher organizational committee will be formed in every governorate whose task will be to organize participants in each district.

Field Committees

Every Higher Committee will form a field committee responsible for all activities in each district.

Coordinating Committee

The Jerusalem coordinating committee will provide support, information, and organization between the various higher committees, as well as communication with foreign and Israeli participating bodies. It will also arrange media coverage and logistics.