



الائتلاف الفلسطيني للحقوق الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية  
Palestinian Coalition for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**July 9, 2018**

### **German Leftist Leader Planting Trees in Settlements!!**

Signatory organizations and unions to this statement denounce the Chairman of the Left Wing Party (Die Linke) in the German Parliament; Dietmar Bartsch's visits to an "Israeli" settlement near the Gaza Strip Border. This visit was arranged by Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael – a Zionist Organization – that is known for practicing ethnic cleansing of Palestinians and forcibly expelling them from their lands and homes. During this visit, Bartsch participated in planting "Life Saving Trees" in this settlement.

Conducting this visit to the Occupying State of "Israel" on the 70th "anniversary" of its founding on the account of ethnically cleansed Palestinian land, and expressing "solidarity" with this occupying state demonstrates colonial ideology and relating with occupation's brutal practices. This visit grants impunity to the occupation from being sanctioned for their criminal practices and policies. Bartsch's recent visit and expressing solidarity with settlers refute the principles of leftist ideology in supporting nations' struggle for liberation against colonialism and imperialism.

Therefore, signatory organizations and unions to this statement demand the Palestine Liberation Organization to take a stand against such frequent occurrences and to take all compulsory measures to maintain and preserve the dignity and cause of the Palestinian people. The signatories also demand LINKE party to release a clear, public condemnation of Dietmar Bartsch's systematic provocations of supporting a colonizing state, as well as his dismissal from all positions for siding with the colonizer on the account of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.



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The signatory unions and organizations find this visit loaded with political hypocrisy, as this visit coincides with the ongoing blockade on the Gaza strip and the executed crimes during the March of Return – crimes that were condemned by the world’s righteous people.

The signatory unions and organizations confirm the continuance of promoting Palestinians’ steadfastness on their land till realizing independence and Right of Return. The signatories demand righteous nations and social forces to take a clear-cut position against these colonial practices that are supported by some state officials and put an end to the occupation’s arrogance and eliminate all forms of impunity.

#### Members of the Palestinian Coalition for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), Young Men’s Christian Association, Yaboos Charity Society (YCS), Women’s Technical Affairs Committee (WATC), Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Conselling (WCLAC), Union of Social Workers, Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), TPFS Palestine, The Palestinian Women’s Society for Development (PWWSD), The Palestinian Businesswomen’s Association – Asala, The Freedom Theatre –Jenin, The Cultural Forum, The Arab Forum for Sexuality, Education, and Reproductive Health, Teacher Creativity Center (TCC), Tanweer Forum, Students’ Forum Institute, Stars of Hope Association, Social and Economic Policies Monitor (Al Marsad), Ruwwad for Development- The Arab Foundation for Sustainable Development, Rural Women’s Development Society, Ramallah Center For Human Rights Studies, Qader for Community Development ,Progressive Labor Bloc, Private Health Sector Workers Union, Popular Art Center, Pharmaceutical Industry Workers Union, Partnership Youth Forum, Pal-Think for Strategic Studies, Palestinian Performing Arts Network, Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization against Domestic Violence Against Women (Al-Muntada), Palestinian National Institute for NGO, Palestinian Medical Relief Society, Palestinian Hydrology group for Water and Environmental Resources Development, Palestinian Consultative Staff for Developing NGOs (PCS), Palestine Bar Association, New Labour Union Federation, National Beverages Company (NBC) Workers Union, Nabd Youth Forum, Mothers’ School Society, Mental Development Association, Manajel Association, Labour Union Front, Labor Unity Bloc, Labor Solidarity Bloc, Khotwa Development Association, Jerusalem Water Undertaking Workers Union ,Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDECo), Workers Union, Independent Union Federation, Health Workers Union, Halhul Sports Club, Future Youth Arms Forum, Fuad Nassar Society, Financial Sector Workers Union, Filastiniyat, Community Media Center- Gaza, Comités pour le Développement et le patrimoine, Coalition for Accountability and Integrity – AMAN, Burj Alluqluq Social Center Society, Birzeit University Workers Union, Bethlehem University Workers Union, Association of Women Committees for Social Work (AWCSW), Association Najdeh, Al-Mada Association for Arts- Based Community Development, Al-Awda Center for Childhood and the Youth, Al Hadaf Cultural Center,