



Press release

Signing a MoU to implement the project
of the Information Portal on Israeli Apartheid

Ramallah / Beirut / Amman- November 30, 2020

The Institute for Palestine Studies, represented by its Chairman of Board of Trustees, Tarek Mitri, signed this Monday a memorandum of understanding with AARDi, represented by its president, Rima Khalaf, to implement a joint project entitled “A Comprehensive Information Portal on Israeli Apartheid”.

The project aims to create an integrated database on Israeli Apartheid, conduct relevant research and cognitive studies on the matter, and raise awareness about its nature and impact. The project activities include the production of a series of scientific research and surveys, fact sheets, periodic monitoring, position papers, and digital publications on Israeli apartheid and Palestinian human rights, in addition to holding seminars, lectures, conferences and closed meetings. Within the framework of the project, a team will be formed for the periodic monitoring of the Israeli Apartheid regime, and periodic reports will be prepared on the matter.

This project will look into all Israeli policies and practices that discriminate against Palestinians on the basis of race, religion and ethnic origins, including policies that prevent the return of Palestinian refugees to their land and policies that subject Palestinians holding Israeli citizenship to institutional and systematic discrimination. Some studies conducted by international organizations indicate that this system established by Israel, and the practices associated with it, reach the level of the crime of apartheid, as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. It is worth noting that the international law classifies Apartheid as a crime against humanity and imposes obligations on States, organizations and individuals to act individually and collectively to prevent and end it, as well as punish its perpetrators.

Through this MoU, AARDi, which is a Geneva-based organization, seeks to implement some of the provisions of the First International Conference on Israeli Apartheid held in Istanbul on November 29-30, 2019, about the establishment of a "unified information portal and database on Israeli Apartheid". The Institute for Palestine Studies, through this partnership, adds its experience accumulated over more than fifty years to implement the project.

The Institute for Palestine Studies is an independent, scientific Arab institution established to focus exclusively on the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It was incorporated in Beirut in 1963 as a body that aims to study the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict, monitor their developments and inform the Arab and international public opinion about the facts related to that cause and the dimensions of that conflict. It also seeks to showcase the Arab rights to Palestine and highlight their historical, legal, political and national foundations.

As for AARDi, the organization was established with the aim of combating all forms of discrimination, exploitation and apartheid by all peaceful and legally available means. The organization focuses on the most criminal forms of discrimination and racial segregation, which is Apartheid, and in particular on the Israeli Apartheid regime, following a report published in March 2017 by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) entitled « Israeli practices towards the Palestinian people and the Question of Apartheid ». The report concluded that Israel has established an apartheid regime that oppresses all Palestinians regardless of their place of residence, and seeks the domination of one racial group, Israeli Jews, over another, i.e. all Palestinians. The report was authored by two distinguished international experts, Professors Virginia Tilley and Richard Falk.