



5th February 2020

Mr. Donald Trump, President

Mr. Joseph M. Young, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim

United States of America

YWCA of Japan: Statement on the “Peace Plan”

Satoko Fujitani, President,

Yumiko Ozaki, General Secretary,

YWCA of Japan

On 28th January 2020, US President Donald Trump issued a Middle East “peace plan”, whose contents ignore and undermine numerous international agreements and UN resolutions, and would accelerate the current illegal occupation by Israel.

The Israeli military occupation in East Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza by since 1967 is a clear act of invasion, as pointed out by multiple UN resolutions, including by the Security Council and by the General Assembly. Moreover, construction of settlements in these occupied territories is in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention, as clarified by the International Court of Justice.

President Trump remarked that he “recognizes Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel”, and on the next year moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. In addition to this, the US “Peace Plan” claims Jerusalem to be “the sovereign capital” of Israel, endorses the settlements, and ignores the international law by denying the Right of Return of the hundreds of thousands of refugees who were deprived of their homes in 1948, thereby not only approving but further encouraging the illegal actions by Israel.

In this so-called “peace plan”, the voices and existence of the Palestinian people are not at all taken into account. Such a move is far from building peace; the Palestinian people have been deprived of their land and life, and still are being denied their freedom and dignity in a variety of ways on a daily basis. This move exposes them to even more exploitation and violation of human rights. Peace will never be achieved through such a denial of justice.

The YWCA of Palestine has worked for decades to end the military occupation and for the protection of human rights, empowering women and young people of Palestine and making their voices heard. The World YWCA, as a movement of more than 100 countries, facilitates global solidarity towards peace, and delivers this message in international spaces such as the United Nations. We believe that such approaches are what is needed for the realization of peace.

The YWCA of Japan stands in solidarity with the people and women of Palestine. We call for a realization of peace by putting an end to the occupation, instead of a one-sided “peace plan”.