



29th June, 2020

Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister,
Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Government of Japan

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Statement on the Planned Annexation of West Bank by Israel

The planned annexation of parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territories which the Israeli Government has stated it would carry out from 1st July, is an unjustifiable reckless move ignoring international law and previous discussions and agreements, which would be “a most serious violation of international law”, as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has pointed out in his report to the United Nations Security Council on 23rd June, 2020.

Event today, 72 years after the 1948 Nakba, a huge number of Palestinians whose homeland was stolen, are still denied their rights to return. In addition to many refugees who were driven from Palestine, Palestinians living in areas which are now called “Israel”, those in living in East Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza strip, and those who are living as IDPs, are exposed to deprivation and human rights oppression in numerous ways. Moreover, women are placed in especially difficult situations.

As pointed out in the YWCA of Japan statement the “Peace Plan” dated 5th February 2020, the Israeli military occupation in East Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza by since 1967 is a clear act of invasion, and construction of settlements in these occupied territories is in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention. In addition to this, the planned annexation will result in exposing the Palestinian people and women, who have already been unjustly oppressed or decades, to further crisis.

The YWCA of Japan, as a national movement striving for peace, as well as a part of a global movement aiming to realizing “justice, gender equality and a world without violence and war” by 2035, supports the YWCA of Palestine in its consistent call for ending the Occupation and the realization of peace with justice.

The YWCA of Japan strongly urges the Japanese Government to immediately express its clear position against West Bank annexation, and to call on the Israeli Government to cancel the plan.