



مركز العودة الفلسطيني
Palestinian Return Centre

Letter from Razan Al-Najjar's mother to the Human Rights Council

(Full Text)

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My daughter Razan was a field paramedic who worked hard and assumed her duty devotedly. Her mission had been voluntary and humanitarian. She earned neither salaries nor rewards and did not belong to anyone except Palestine. From the very first day of the GMR protests, my daughter had left no stone unturned to help her people. She sacrificed her life and energy for her motherland—Palestine—and for her wounded brothers and sisters. The message she wanted to communicate to the world was that she believed in the right to peaceful resistance and that she, as a paramedic, enjoys international protection. She believed that her white coat was her bulletproof vest, one that is protected by international conventions, including Article 21 of the Geneva

Convention which grants the protection of nurses and medical personnel at times of risk and in conflict zones.

I frequently expressed concern over her fate but every time she would tell me ‘do not be scared mom! The white coat I’m wearing will save me from any harm! Saving injured civilians at the border is just part and parcel of my duty!’ my daughter would say.

She would chase injured persons and help evacuating them to a field hospital set up on the eastern borders of Khan Younis province. She took it upon her shoulders to provide first aid to her injured brothers and sisters. She would treat those who were sniped by the Israeli occupation forces or hit with teargas canisters.

For God’s sake, why had my daughter been so callously murdered? What sort of sin did she commit to be killed in such a ruthless manner? What on earth had she been found guilty of? My daughter did not even hurl a single stone at the occupation soldiers. She was just moving back and forth in the hunt for injured civilians. The occupation forces knew well that my daughter posed no threat to them and often called her saying ‘You, the return paramedic, retrace your steps! Retrace your steps!’

What sort of law on earth does legitimize my daughter’s murder? Until this very moment I cannot believe my eyes! She always faced danger while saving the wounded; yet she did not give up her humanitarian mission. There is one truth that we should all be aware of: the return march protests have been peaceful and launched by unarmed protesters. The proof is that since March 30 no single Israeli soldier has been injured.

We will continue to rise up for our right of return to our motherland, which is a collective rather than an individual right. We, the Palestinians, have the right to live in an independent state. The Israelis say they have their own state built on our occupied land. They took away my daughter from me! I still cannot believe it!” the mother further laments.

The Israelis continue to take away the lives of journalists, medics, and paramedics! How dare they talk about human rights!! How dare Israel lay claim to peace while it has been taking away the lives of the young and old people alike? Where have international legitimacy and protection laws been when my daughter was killed in cold blood? Razan was deliberately murdered. She’d committed no sin! She was just a Palestinian.

All I yearn for in case my letter is read aloud at an international platform is to help me bring Israel to court for murdering my daughter whom I always dreamt to see in a white wedding dress rather than a white shroud. I have a dream that Israel would be prosecuted for all of its crimes against civilians, especially against people who, like my daughter Razan, were killed without mercy.

ENDS