

## The Follow-up committee : A Plan To Sue Israel

The follow-up committee of civil society organizations in Lebanon held a meeting in the presence of several jurists and lawyers from several civil society organizations : Mme Hayfa Jamal on behalf of Norwegian People's Aid, Hasan Amar on behalf of Islamic Health Committee , lawyer Joseph Farah on behalf of Caritas , Dr Kamel Mohanna on behalf of Amel association and Lebanese NGO's Network (collectif des ONG au Liban), Mr. Samer Mannaa on behalf of Humanitarian development center, Mr Akram Brakat on behalf of People's Aid committee ,the director of human rights' institution of the lawyers syndicate , lawyer Elizabeth Zakreya Syoufi , journalist Miss Dalal Kandil and Dr. Kasem Ezzideen .

The committee issued the following statement, which was announced by, the coordinator of The Follow Up Committee of Civil Society Organizations in Lebanon , Dr. Kamel Mohanna:

The follow-up committee of civil society organization deplores the piracy and terror of Israel against the humanitarian aid ship "Brotherhood", for Israel is breaching all the international laws and conventions continuously. The committee praises the courage and the efforts of the activists and journalists who tried to evade the Israeli naval blockade on Besieged Gaza and expose the violations of Israel. The escort of the ship by Israel showed their weakness and fear against any solidarity act with Gaza. Such barbaric practices won't prevent the activists from pursuing their endeavors to condemn Israel of committing war crimes in Gaza Strip.

The follow-up committee of civil society organizations in Lebanon , which includes many Lebanese and Palestinian committees, praises the sacrifices of the Palestinian population and denounces the non-punishment of Israel , all efforts should be brought together to pursue and prosecute the perpetrators. As it also demands the international community to play a fair and just role in executing a durable cease-fire, opening the crossing points, lifting the siege and providing the fundamental and legitimate rights to the Palestinians.

Several Jurists concerned with international law were present with us today to persist on consulting about the most effective ways to sue Israel and bring it to trial, either through criminal and penal courts or through lawsuits brought by people having dual nationalities , the meeting also discussed the way of forming technical files about certain cases that are classified as "War crimes or wars against humanity" , and calling upon sending a fact-finding to gaza to collect evidences and proves.

It was suggested to gain the assistance of the arab foreigners in Europe and latin America , via establishing communication networks in order to support and serve the arab issues ; i.e. by pressuring on the governments of he country or suing Israel through individuals having dual nationalities.

On the other hand, the parties emphasized on the importance of pressuring the Arab governments and parliaments to adopt the trial's project of Israel in order to bring the perpetrators to justice, as they discussed the possibility of establishing human rights centers in the arab world specialized in these prosecutions, in cooperation with international and local human rights and humanitarian committees, whose mission will be to adopt these prosecutions , to provide necessary financial and technical support, and to coordinate with international committees and organizations, boards of Human Rights in order to ensure the criminalization of Israel and the prosecute military commanders.

The gathering focused on the importance of following up with these movements, for they institutionalize the judicial practice and prosecute the offenders, because it is time to act further than condemnations and denouncements, it is time for civil society organizations to pressure on international entities and show them the brutality of Israel against civilians and its breaches of the international law regardless of the fact that they will condemn Israel of committing genocides or not.