



Palestinian National Authority

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

On the Occasion of March 21st Press release On Mother's Day March 21st

There are 112 Palestinian female detainees at Israeli jails including 32 mothers and 5 serving life sentences

The Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 1995 "recognized that the human rights of women... are part of universal human rights. The full realization of all human rights ...is essential for the empowerment of women."

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics is glad to join the Palestinian mothers in the celebrations of the Mother's Day on March 21. PCBS presents the following indicators that reflect the situation of the Palestinian woman

By the end of 2006, the estimated number of the population of the Palestinian Territory reached 2.0 million males and 1.95 million females at a sex rate of 102.8. Households headed by women constituted 7.9% of the total household in the Palestinian Territory including 8.0% in the West Bank and 7.7% in Gaza Strip.

Female education is one of the most important human rights to achieve equality between men and women for societal development dominated by equality and justice. According to statistical indicators, 2.9% of women (ever-married women 15 years and above) have joined education; 14.1% are illiterate; 29.4% have preparatory education certificate; and 10.9% have diplomas and higher.

Moreover, the percentage of women (ever-married women 15 years and above) who took part in the labor force in the Palestinian Territory reached 14.5% in 2006 including 17.7% in the West Bank and 8.0% in Gaza Strip; 14.9% of women were unemployed.

As for economic activity, the biggest participation of women was in the agricultural sector, foresting, hunting, and fishing at 41.4%. The biggest participation for women in the service sector was in education at 28.8% followed by health at 6.4%.

As for decision-making positions, the participation of the Palestinian woman in public and political life did not reflect the real balance of the participation of the woman in the building the Palestinian society because men still occupy most administrative positions. Men have occupied approximately 24 portfolios since the formation of the Palestinian cabinet in 1996; on the other hand, women's participation has not exceeded two portfolios in the cabinet. Women's participation in the Palestinian Legislative Council in 2006 reached 12.9% compared to 5.7% in 1996.

At the level of local councils, women constituted 17.0% of the total participation in local councils in 2006 compared to 5.7% in 1996. The increase in participation in decision-making position is due to the increase in women quota, which has given the women positive feature on the level of decision-making.

While the world celebrates freedom and independence, Palestinian detainees are still locked up behind the bars of the Israeli occupation. According to statistics available at Mandela Foundation, the number of detainees at Israeli jails totaled by the end of 2006 approximately 10,600 including 112 women. The detained women include 32 mothers. There are approximately 383 detained children; seven detainees have spent more than quarter of a century in Israeli prisons. There are five female detainees serving life sentences; 8 sentenced to more than 10 years; and 59 female detainees who are serving sentences less than 10 years.

On the level of domestic violence, 66.1% of ever-married women were subjected to psychological violence during the period preceding 2005 including 60.0% who were subjected to shouting and yelling and 45.3% who were subjected to cursing and insulting. The West Bank rates are higher than those of Gaza Strip at 73.5% and 53.4% respectively. Moreover, 33.9% of ever-married women were subjected to physical violence including 14.9% were subjected to strong grabbing and 18.2% were subjected to strong pushing. The percentage of ever-married women who were subjected to sexual violence by the husband during the pre-2005 period reached 15.5%.