

To all government leaders:

**WE AFFIRM THE HUMAN RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE,
INCLUDING PALESTINIANS, TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY**

Whereas:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 13, states that "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country";
- All human beings, Palestinians no less than anyone else, possess this right;
- Disputes over state sovereignty do not affect this individual right;
- A third party cannot waive this right for an individual;
- The right of return is conditional neither upon whether a people returning to their country would lead to an "undesirable" increase of a particular ethnic or racial group as a proportion of that country's population (denying people's human rights for that reason is equivalent to ethnic cleansing) nor upon whether an individual leaving his or her country does so involuntarily (if people who left voluntarily lost this right then every American who travels abroad on vacation would have no right to return);
- The government of Israel denies the right of return to Palestinians by refusing to allow Palestinians who left their country (the part of Palestine which is within the Green Line, *i.e.*, Israel's pre-1967 border) to return to their homes or to reside anywhere inside of the Green Line;
- Palestinians are the *only people in the world* for whom standing up for their human rights is declared to be bigotry (anti-Semitism). However, it is not anti-Jewish to affirm human rights for everybody;
- Israel bases its denial of many other human rights to Palestinians on its invalid claim that Palestinians have no right to return. Thus Israel denies Palestinians the human right carved into the exterior walls of the Harvard School of Public Health in six languages: "The highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being." Israel does so through its infamous Wall, its checkpoints, and its curfews, which imprison Palestinians outside of the Green Line and deny them access to health care, water, and land, all in order to preserve a Jewish majority inside the Green Line by preventing Palestinians from returning to their country.

Therefore, we, the undersigned members of the Harvard University community, affirm that all human beings, without exception, have the unconditional right to return to their country. In particular, we affirm that all Palestinians who once lived inside the Green Line in Palestine and the descendants of those who left and were denied return have an unconditional right to return to Palestine/Israel inside the Green Line and live there as first class citizens fully equal to all others.

Printed Name	Signature	Email	Harvard Affiliation

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