

State of Palestine - Gender Based Violence

The Impact of Arms Transfers on Palestinian Women

The flow of weapons into Israel, the illegal occupying power, has fueled gender-based violence, displacement, and militarized oppression. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) was established to regulate the international arms trade and prevent weapons from being used in violations of international law. However, the flow of weapons continue to Israel, a state that uses these weapons to enforce settler-colonial domination and commit acts of genocidal violence against Palestinians.

Israeli militarization disproportionately harms Palestinian women, violating the ATT's provisions on gender-based violence and arms diversion. Continued arms trade with Israel sustains war crimes and gendered oppression, reinforcing the structures of settler-colonial violence, and allows its diversion to illegal settler groups.

Arms Transfers and the Gendered Violence of Israeli Settler Colonialism

The supply of arms to Israeli occupation forces and illegal settler militias enables systemic gendered violence against Palestinian women, including:

- Military raids on Palestinian homes, where women experience physical violence, humiliation, and sexualized threats.
- Armed settlers and soldiers attacks and restrictions on women's movement through intimidation and violence.
- Mass displacement and home demolitions, forcing women to bear the economic and psychological burdens of survival.
- Sexual violence and assault of Palestinian women in Israeli detention centers.

Under Article 7(4) of the ATT, states must assess whether arms exports could facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence. Yet, despite clear evidence of Israeli forces and settlers committing such acts, arms continue to flow from key ATT signatories.

Additionally, Article 11 of the ATT requires states to prevent arms from being diverted to non-state actors. However, Israeli arms are routinely distributed to settler militias, who use them to terrorize Palestinian women and families in the occupied West Bank.

ATT member states must take meaningful action to halt arms exports to Israel or hold it accountable. The impact of these arms transfers is devastating. In the recent brutal aggression on Gaza, 60% of casualties have been women and children, which indicates how militarized violence disproportionately affects Palestinian women.

The Urgent Need for Accountability

The ATT was designed to prevent arms from fueling mass and gendered violence, yet its selective application has enabled the continued supply of weapons to Israel. The

ongoing crimes in the occupied Palestinian territory highlight the urgent need for ATT member states to enforce the treaty and end arms transfers to Israel.

If the international community is committed to ending gender-based violence in conflict, it must listen to Palestinian women, stop arming the Israeli occupation, and hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law.