



8/14/16

Press release:

## **Eight cities around the world hold light installation for water rights in Palestine**

**\*please do not publish before Sunday 14/8/16 at 11AM**

**Following the diminishing water supply to Palestinians in the West Bank and the severe water shortage and pollution in the Gaza Strip, a light installation was held simultaneously in eight locations: Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Boston, New York, Houston, Johannesburg, Melbourne and Perth, Australia. In an illuminating display of lights reflected in water, activists from four continents stood near lakes and beaches creating the message “WATER IS A RIGHT” in various languages.**

On an Australian beach, by a lake in central Boston, on a bridge in South Africa, and at the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, groups of people held up lights that spell the urgent message “WATER IS A RIGHT”. This global action puts an international spotlight on the distress of people in need of water – a crucial life resource for every human being. The right to an equal supply of water is fundamental according to both natural law and international humanitarian law.

Throughout the scorching summer months, Israel has been intentionally causing water outages in the West Bank. Currently, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the area suffer from a shortage of drinking water, as well as water for bathing, cleaning irrigating fields, and water for animals. This severe water shortage affects basic human rights like the right to health, to safe and sanitary living conditions, and to equality in distribution of natural resources. This is a result of Israel’s policy since 1967, which includes dispossession of water reservoirs in the occupied territories, which results in an unequal division of water resources in the West Bank. In the Gaza Strip, the situation is even worse: not only is there a water shortage, but recent studies show dangerous pollution in the existing water reservoirs, due to the ongoing siege of Gaza since 2007, and the inability to desalinate water which is due to the lack of electricity.

The “Water is a right” action was organized by activists from the Coalition of Women for Peace, a part of the larger Water Coalition, composed of twenty NGO’s working together for water rights in Palestine. Reem Amer, general co-coordinator of the Coalition of Women for Peace says: “We initiated this action to bring public attention to this unbearable reality, of people surviving the hot summer without adequate access to such a basic need like water. We see this as an inseparable part of a policy of oppression under occupation. This reality makes us all responsible to stand up to injustice, and it is exciting to see people around the world respond to our call for action on this issue.”

Today, 8/14/16 is an international day of action on the water issue. This action, along with information on the water conditions in Palestine will be posted on social media today under the hashtag #waterpalestine.

For details: Reem Amer +972-50-332-1591, Tanya Rubinstein +972-54-463-6276

[cwp@coalitionofwomen.org](mailto:cwp@coalitionofwomen.org)

Further information: [B’tselem](#), [Social TV](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), Research on [Gaza water](#), and also see attached document by the Water Coalition.