

# *Protests Held Around the World to Draw Attention to Plight of Palestinians*

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Ramallah, May 15 (RHC)-- People have held demonstrations in several parts of the world ahead of the 69th anniversary of the Nakba Day in solidarity with Palestinians who are enduring years of Israeli oppression and occupation.

People rallied in Berlin on Saturday in remembrance of the Day of Catastrophe, marking the expulsion of Palestinians from their lands by Israel 69 years ago. The occasion is commemorated annually on May 15.

The protesters chanted slogans such as "Free Palestine" and "Palestine will be free, from the river to the sea," referring to the territory spanning from the Mediterranean Sea in the west to the Jordan River in the east.

Nakba Day refers to the forcible expulsion of some 750,000 Palestinians from their lands in 1948 and their scattering across refugee camps in the occupied West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and neighboring countries. Now, over five million Palestinians are estimated to be displaced across the world.

Elsewhere, in the Canadian city of Toronto, pro-Palestinian protesters gathered outside the Israeli consulate in support of the Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike in Israeli jails. One of the protesters underlined the importance “to pressure our Canadian government to do more than what they are currently doing in regards to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

People are “specifically protesting for the rights of the Palestinian prisoners who unfortunately do experience oppression under the Israeli occupation,” the protester added.

Since April 17, more than 1,800 Palestinian prisoners have gone on hunger strike to express their outrage at harsh conditions in Israeli jails.

The Palestinian Prisoners’ Club, however, has put the figure far higher, saying more than 3,000 prisoners are taking part in the strike. The protest action, dubbed the Freedom and Dignity Strike, is led by a jailed leader of the Palestinian Fatah movement, Marwan Barghouti.

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