Palestinian demonstrators call on UN to end Gaza blockade

Gaza City, April 24 (RHC)-- Dozens of Palestinian demonstrators have called on the United Nations to put an end to the Tel Aviv regime's tight blockade on the Gaza Strip, which has been in place against the impoverished coastal enclave for more than a decade.

The protesters converged in front of the UN office in Gaza City on Tuesday, waving national Palestinian flags and carrying banners in condemnation of the Israeli siege. They called for an international intervention to end the blockade.

The Highest Commission of the Great March of Return and Breaking the Siege, which had organized the demonstration, said in a statement that the siege must be lifted as soon as possible. "The weekly marches of return will go on until the siege is immediately lifted," the statement noted.

Sami Ammassi, chairman of the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions, who joined the protest, told reporters that the rate of unemployment in the Gaza Strip exceeded 54 percent and poverty rates hit 80 percent.

"We call on the United Nations and the international organizations to press Israel to lift the blockade that had critically affected all aspects of life," he said, adding, "We also call on the Arab League to help end Gaza people's sufferings."

The Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli blockade since June 2007. The blockade has caused a decline in the standard of living as well as unprecedented levels of unemployment and unrelenting poverty.

Palestinians have held weekly rallies along the Gaza border to protest the siege on the enclave and demand the right for refugees to return to their homes they fled during the 1948 creation of Israel.

More than 270 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces ever since anti-occupation protest rallies began in the Gaza Strip on March 30, 2018. Over 16,000 Palestinians have also sustained injuries.

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