The Occupied Working With The Occupiers

The Sacrifices We Make

anonymously submitted

In Gaza, the parents of children receiving cancer treatment abroad are denied travel permits to accompany them. Thousands of Palestinians have not had the privilege to visit their capital and the holy sites that lie with-

even fewer have had the chance economic condition is a result of

The violent and systemic occupation of Palestine's land, water, and air is affecting Pales-Palestinians have had the op- ranks number four in the world pursuit of higher education, and rate at a staggering 25.9%. This universities to retaliate against

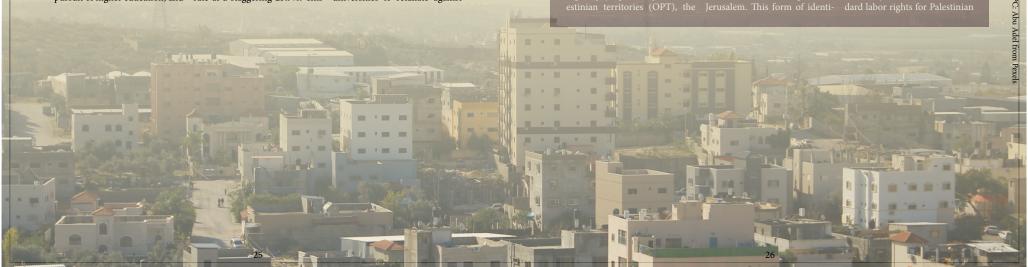
to return home after decades of Israel's meticulous restriction of all Palestinian exports and imports, limitation of humanitarian aid that enters the country. and prohibition of entrepreneurtinians in every aspect of their ship and investments within the in it, from the Aqsa Mosque to lives, leaving them vulnerable to country. Furthermore, the occuthe Nativity Church, even if it is poverty, hunger, and basic hu-pation keeps Palestinians underonly a half-hour drive away. Few man rights violations. Palestine educated and thus unemployed by forcibly shutting down or portunity to leave the country in for the highest unemployment violently raiding schools and

younger generations of illiterate Palestinians who are confined work, thereby creating the perual labor within the West Bank ians in Gaza is only an average of 682 Israeli New Shekel (ILS) (~207 USD), and an average of fortably while supporting a family of four in Palestine, where \$2,287.4 (8,235.6 ILS), not in-

permanently displaced around to more laborious, less skilled since 1948.3 In contrast to the low average monthly salary in the West Bank, manual work in OPT reaps an average monthly income of about 5,500 - 6,000 work in the OPT, approximately about 2,500 ILS (\$700 USD) tinians in the West Bank. This is little piece of paper wrapped in a protective plastic that the Israeli government has mandated gally work in OPT.5 The Israeli

political resistance. This creates invaded Palestinian lands that fication and legal limitation of movement was a technique used in the apartheid of South Africa and serves as a continuous reminder of the infringement of ty within their land.6

ILS (~1,530 - 1,670 USD).4 To of 2021, Palestinians could only obtain work permits directly could not negotiate to change employers, even after workplace complete dependence on Israeli the employers full freedom to do with their employees as they Gaza from those living in East maternity insurance, and stan-





workers.⁷ In pursuing work in collective punishment of their better regulate the working stanical injury in work, paid sick raided their neighborhoods. leave, employment protection, There is no right or wrong However, there is so little the or freedom to quit or change in the opinions concerning Pal- government can do under the jobs. Additionally, Palestinian estinians working in occupied choking grasp of the occupation. workers can be revoked of their 1948 Palestinian land. There is Palestinians also understand, as working rights if they cannot only a question of survival and stated by the interviewee, that pay the continuously increasing what one is willing to do to enpermit price due to the rising sure the well-being of one's fam- tween Palestinians that work in occurrence of "permit trading," ily. a trade that was worth \$122 million ILS (~\$34 million USD) as do?" asked a Palestinian I inof 2018, in which illegal permits terviewed. "If you work in Pal-they're doing, of course, but it's are bought for the highest bid estine, how will you be able to better to keep Palestinians emprice. Other Palestinian workers' raise your family?" permits have been revoked without reimbursement of the the Palestinian Authority, the you know is yours," the intermoney paid to obtain them—as body that governs the OPT, to viewee lamented.

OPT, Palestinians are under no villages for when some form of dards and protections of laborprotection as laborers, whether violent resistance occurs after ers within the OPT, by ensuring that be compensation for phys- the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) more stable wages, health in-

"What else do we have to raeli government.

surance advantages, and more. the OPT and work with the Is-

"They don't enjoy what ployed than starved, even if you Palestinians are calling for are building settlements on land This is the sacrifice you make to survive.

