

Plataforma Palestina Ahora - Press Release

Spanish diplomatic ties with Israel should take into account Israeli racist legal system

Israel's Supreme Court has ratified the racist "Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law", which makes it impossible for Palestinians who marry Arab Israelis to live together with their spouses.

This law is enacted against Palestinians and Arab Israelis (Israelis with a Palestinian origin), including those from Occupied Jerusalem. Its aim is to prevent the increase of the Arab Israeli population and even to encourage emigration out of Israel.

Thousands of couples have already been affected by this law, which does not apply to Jewish Israelis. The law will increase the suffering of Palestinians and will reinforce Israel racist nature. According to this law, Arab Israelis married to Palestinians will not be able to live together with their spouses in Israel and will have either to leave the country or live separated from their spouses and children.

The law is against the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The law is similar to South Africa's Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act, passed in 1949 under the Apartheid regime.

The Plataforma Palestina Ahora rejects this racist law and takes up again the slogan launched by the UN General Assembly: "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination". It will also undertake actions aimed at Israel being expelled from cultural, economic, political and sport international institutions.

We urge the European Union (EU) to condemn this law because it is contrary to International Law and to put pressure on Israel to cease its racist policies. The EU has signed an Association Agreement with a State which does not respect human dignity and because of this all European countries become accomplices to the Palestinians suffering.

The Plataforma Palestina Ahora will ask Spanish authorities to respond to Israel's racist policies by calling off the Association Agreement, cancelling military exchanges and turning down the Israeli racist policies in international institutions.