

A press Release Issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) on the Occasion of the Mother's Day

On the Eve of March 21st (Mother's Day), Dr. Luay Shabaneh demonstrated the conditions of the Palestinian woman:

- 4.5% of ever married women during 2008, were enrolled in education.
- 9.1% of total households in the Palestinian Territory in 2007 were headed by women.
- 17.4% of ever married women, during 2008, were unemployed.

Population preliminary estimates for year 2008 based on the final results of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, showed that the population in the Palestinian Territory is 3.8 million; 50.8% males and 49.2% females with a sex ratio of (103.1). Households headed by women constituted 9.1% of total households in the Palestinian Territory in 2007; 9.6% in the West Bank and 8.2% in Gaza Strip .

Females education is one of the most important social and economic rights for the achievement of equity between men and women for development and justice, 2008 statistical indicators showed that there has been some improvement in the level of ever married women enrollment in education at 4.5% compared with 0.7% in 1998, while the percentage of women with education less than High secondary certificate decreased to reach 87.0% compared with 93.6% in 1998, while the percentage of women who have diploma and above increased to reach 13.0% compared with 6.4% in 1998.

The labor force participation rate of ever married women aged 15 years and over during 2008 in the Palestinian Territory reached 14.5% compared with 9.3% in 1998. For unemployment rate was 17.4% in 2008 compared with 11.3% in 1998.

Participation of women by economic activity revealed that the major participation of women was in farming, foresting, hunting and fishing sector at 34.8%, followed by education at 32.5%, and health 7.2%.

Palestinian women are suffering from Israeli occupation hostile measures where 19 Women mothering 68 children are still in Israeli prisons, along with poor quality of food and shelter, threat of sexual assault and rape and humiliation.

Palestinian households headed by women were 9.1%, of which poverty percentage comprises 61.2% compared to 56.9% of the households headed by males in 2007.

More than 48.0% of the injured Palestinians were women and children, 114 women were martyred by the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip during the period 27/12/2008 - 17/1/2009. The Minister of Women's Affairs briefed the UN Commission on the Status of Women in its third session, that the Palestinians did not have any safe and secure place from Israeli bombings, which incurred more than 1,334 martyrs of which 431 child and 114 women, excluding those who were injured in the latest hostilities who were

deceased due to inaccessibility to health care and services. while the number of injured reached 5,380 among them 1,872 were children and 800 were women.