Democracy & Workers' Rights Center-Palestine
مركز الديمقراطية وحقوق العاملين -فلسطين
DWRC
WORKERS' RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

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Facts and figures about the Palestinian labor market

In the third quarter of 2019, PCBS indicated a slight decrease of unemployment rates. In the West Bank, the unemployment rate was 13%, while it reached 45% in Gaza. Women's unemployment rates continued to be double men's, reaching 42% for women and 20% for men. 30% of wage workers in the private sector did not obtain the minimum wage of 1450 NIS (about 405 USD). However, the percentage of workers not obtaining the minimum wage increased significantly in Gaza, from 79% to 87%.

PCBS report of preliminary results of the violence survey in the Palestinian Society of the year 2019, showed that women are highly affected by restrictions on freedom of movement, as 15% of currently married or ever married women reported that they or at least one of their households' members faced difficulties in reaching their workplace. The report also indicated that 8% of currently married or ever married working men aged (18-64 years) experienced psychological violence at their workplace, and 2% of women of the same category revealed so.

DWRC obtains court decision that improves labor rights of 1050 contract based workers in Gaza Electricity Distribution Company

On October 28, 2019, the Cassation Court issued a decision granting 1050 contract-based workers employed by the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company their labor rights after two years of demand. This court decision, which is considered a judicial precedent, made it mandatory for the company to improve the conditions of contract-based workers, and to apply the minimum wage as a legal right stated in the Palestinian Labor Law No. (7) of the year 2000. The decision also stipulated the necessity for workers to obtain a risk allowance due to the sensitivity of the work assigned to them, referring to the decision issued by the Council of Ministers clarifying the percentage of the risk allowance premium according to the nature of the work of each worker. In addition, the court decision required that the company's board of directors applies a unified legal framework to all employees, whether it is the Palestinian Labor Law or the Civil Service Law, or for the company to adopt a better internal system for workers. The ruling prohibits the Board of Directors from deducting any sums from workers' wages, except in the cases mentioned in article (83) of the Palestinian Labor Law. Furthermore, the court ruled that the head the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company Workers' Union must be reinstated to his previous workplace, from which he had been arbitrarily transferred due to his union activities, which contravenes the law.

In October, DWRC signed contracts with 298 unemployed graduates and workers in the Middle, Rafah and Gaza governorates under the "Gaza Emergency Cash for Work Project" managed by NDC and funded by the World Bank

The beneficiaries of the project, 184 of whom are women, will be employed for 6 months at public primary schools as assistant teachers or janitors, thus providing temporary jobs to unemployed graduates and workers, while supporting the provision of quality education services to children in Rafah, the Middle governorate and Gaza. At the same time, the beneficiaries of the project will be able to acquire valuable job experience and skills.

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While the number of Palestinians employed in the Israeli labor market and Israeli settlements has increased, their exploitation and the risks they are exposed to do not decrease

An increase of Palestinian workers employed in the Israeli labor market and settlements was noticed in the second and third quarters of 2019, while the average daily wage increased from 254 NIS to 261 NIS, according to PCBS. It also indicated that 72% of Palestinians working in the Israeli Labor Market & Israeli settlements have work permits, despite the fact that many workers have to pay high fees to obtain a permit, around (715 USD), which is illegal. In fact, the Bank of Israel released a special study stressing that more an estimated 136 million USD have been paid by more than 20,000 Palestinians to brokers and employers in 2018 to obtain work permits.

22% of Palestinian workers working in the Israeli labor market take risks by working without a permit, as the Israeli police often chase and arrest them. 65% of Palestinians work in the construction sector in Israel, which is one of the most hazardous sectors. As noted in a report prepared by France Press, 81 construction workers have died since the beginning of the year, most of them Palestinians from the West Bank.

Increase in attacks of medical personnel: Palestinian Doctors Association requests concrete action and the adoption of a deterrent law

At the beginning of November, ten people accompanying a patient violently assaulted a doctor in Nablus leaving him with scars after punching his head in the wall several times. This incident is not the first of its kind. In past months, there has been an increase of physical and psychological violence against medical personnel all around Palestine, especially in the absence of a deterrent law protecting medical personnel and facilities from violence.

The Palestinian Doctors Association has condemned these incidents and taken several steps to denounce this situation, including strikes, protests, evacuation of staff when an incident occurs, and demanding the government to take action to deter aggressors. Thus, the Palestinian Doctors Association requested the government to draft a deterrent law that criminalizes aggressors. Based on this request, the Ministry of Health is working on a law and has discussed the first draft with the association.

Unionists joined the campaign of the 16 days of action for the elimination of violence against women

During the 16 days of action, DWRC and partner unions and activists have undertaken several activities to draw attention to women's fundamental right to live and work without being subject to violence, highlighting economic violence faced by women workers in Gaza. DWRC also spread information about ILO Convention 190 and recommendation 206 on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work.

From Gaza, joining **#16DaysofAction** for **#EliminationofViolenceAgainstWomen**, unionists call for **#ZeroTolerance** for violence against women workers

حملة... عرض المزيد