

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Berlin, March 15, 2013

Memorial walk for the victims of Nazism and colonialism

Sunday, 17.03.2013, 9:00 - 11:00 am

During his visit to Germany, Palestinian writer and human rights activist Omar Barghouti will commemorate victims of Nazism and colonialism with a Memorial Walk.

He will be accompanied by several members of the commemorated groups.

As a representative of Palestinian civil society, Omar Barghouti would specifically like to express his condolences and his strong sense of affinity with victims of Nazism and of colonialism.

The commemoration of groups affected by Nazism and by colonialism in a single memorial event is thus far unique in the German context. In addition to visiting memorials to the victims of Nazism, Barghouti will visit the memorial plaque of the so called "Congo Conference" (1884–85).

This Memorial Walk thus aims to make historical connections that are important to an understanding of the Palestinian cause today: the oppression and disenfranchisement of the Palestinian people as an indirect consequence of Nazism (through the foundation of Israel through the ethnic cleansing of a majority of the indigenous Palestinians); and the forms of Israeli occupation, colonialism, and apartheid against the Palestinian people that persist today.

The Memorial Walk will thus emphasize the need to fight racism today in all its forms, to oppose repression and violent politics, and to stand up for freedom, justice and equality worldwide.

The memorial walk will begin at 9:00 am at the **Memorial to the Sinti and Roma of Europe Murdered under the National Socialist Regime** (Simsonweg / Scheidemannstraße - between Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag Building, 10117 Berlin).

It will then lead to the **Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe** (Cora- Berliner-Straße 1, 10117 Berlin);

to the **Memorial to Homosexuals Persecuted Under Nazism** (Großer Tiergarten, Ebertstraße, 10117 Berlin);

and, in memory of the victims of colonialism to the **Berlin Conference Plaque** commemorating the partitioning of Africa (Wilhelmstraße 92, 10117 Berlin).