

## **PNGO issues petition signed by 120 NGOs calling to hold local council elections in the Palestinian territories including Gaza Strip.**

Palestinian NGOs Network (PNGO), on Wednesday, issued a petition signed by 120 local NGOs in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip, calling to remove all the obstacles and hold local council elections in the Palestinian territories including Gaza Strip.

PNGO stated that this petition is a part of its vision and efforts, to promote democracy in Palestine, hold elections at all levels, and emphasize adherence to the political, legal and geographic unity.

PNGO assured that it will continue efforts and communication with all parties, to pressure to hold elections and overcome the obstacles and ensure the success of the democratic experiment.

*The following is the text of the petition and the signatures of 120 NGOs:*

### **Petition to emphasize our right to hold local council elections**

We, the undersigned Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), welcome the efforts to hold local council elections in Palestine and call upon all parties to remove all the obstacles and get rid of all the problems that impede the organization of well-run elections in the Palestinian territories including the Gaza Strip.

We affirm the right of the Palestinian people to participate in these elections to choose their representatives in the local council on a regular basis and in a democratic framework that enshrines the political and geographical unity and the unity of the legal system in Palestine.

We stress that the elections must be held simultaneously in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a significant step forward to achieve national reconciliation, end the state of division, and alleviate the difficult conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

We emphasize our rejection to all the restrictions that would impede people's participation in the elections, and assure you our full readiness to cooperate

and work with all sectors to ensure holding these elections. We stress that a serious dialogue would achieve consensus to hold these elections.

We, the undersigned Palestinian NGOs, call upon all parties avoid exploiting these elections in deepening the internal division and increasing the mutual incitement.

We call upon the civil society organizations to actively promote the local council elections, to create public pressure.