Fakhoora.org is an international campaign which aims to secure the freedom to learn for Palestinian students in Gaza and the West Bank.

Access to education is a basic human right, recognized by Article 26 of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Today, school children and university students in Gaza and the West Bank are not able to fully exercise their right to an education. During Operation Cast Lead, schools were bombed and destroyed. Many of those schools remain damaged or destroyed. And the current blockade deprives students and teachers of some of the basic necessities that no school can do without. It is an emotionally challenging environment in which to learn.

Fakhoora.org was launched to ensure that schoolchildren and university students of all ages in Gaza and the West Bank will have the freedom to pursue a quality education without the danger of conflict or the torment of occupation.

The campaign gets its name from a United Nations school in Gaza's Jabaliya refugee camp that was the scene of an attack by Israeli tank shells on January 6, 2009. The attack resulted in at least 43 fatalities, including children, and 100 injuries. The school was being used as a shelter for those fleeing hostilities.

Fakhoora.org features online grassroots campaigns to motivate people around the world to make a difference in the lives of young people living in Gaza and the West Bank.

We believe that students and young people across the globe have the power to create meaningful social change.

Students from around the world gathered in Doha, Qatar for the Al Fakhoora International Student Conference in January 2010 to launch a campaign to guarantee education rights for students in Palestine. Add your voice to this declaration calling on students and the greater international community to stand in solidarity with Palestinian students. Please sign on and spread the word! http://fakhoora.org/declaration

Fakhoora.org has the support of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education.
The School

Al Fakhoora is named after a United Nations girls’ prep school in Gaza's Jabaliya refugee camp that was the scene of an attack by Israeli tank shells on January 6, 2009. The attack resulted in at least 43 fatalities, including children, and 100 injuries. The school was being used as a shelter for those fleeing hostilities.

Memorial

"Operation Cast Lead" lasted for 22 days, damaging or destroying 50,000 Palestinian homes and 280 schools and eradicating much of the infrastructure of the Gaza Strip.

The conflict also resulted in the death of 352 Palestinian children — one quarter of all fatalities.

Al-Fakhoora Campaign is hosting a memorial page to the innocent children that lost their lives as a result of a conflict they played no part in. To see the memorial visit http://fakhoora.org/memorial

The contents of the memorial were compiled using data supplied by Defence for Children International (DCI) – Palestine Section, who have carried out extensive research on the ground.

The Programs

In addition to campaigning, Al Fakhoora has four distinct program areas that work on the ground to achieve its mission of supporting Palestinian students:

- **Reconstruction:** Students can’t focus in class if their educational institutions and communities are devastated. Last year’s attack on Gaza destroyed or damaged many buildings that students depend on. Al Fakhoora is on the ground helping to repair and rebuild schools, libraries and other centers of learning.

- **Prosthetics & Disabilities:** Many of Gaza’s students have special needs or sustained life-altering injuries during the Gaza War. However, limited access to medical care has made it difficult for those students to receive the services and support they need. Al Fakhoora is working on the ground to provide prostheses and special needs care.

- **Psychosocial Counseling:** Children under the age of 18 comprise over 50% of the population in Gaza, and it is essential that they receive the support they need to process the traumas they have experienced before, during and after the Gaza War. Al Fakhoora is working with relevant agencies to address the psychosocial needs of Gaza’s refugee population.

- **Scholarships:** Al Fakhoora is providing financial support to students who wish to attend university. To date, it has already distributed 100 scholarships to young scholars in need to cover their cost of education including tuition all through their undergraduate years.
Our Values

The right to a quality education can bridge the gap between different cultures. The values of liberty, justice and equality cannot exist without the right to an education. Ignorance is by far the biggest danger and threat to humankind.

There’s a place in this campaign for all people who believe in the values of freedom, justice and mutual respect. Regardless of faith, race or nationality, we are tied together by the fundamental belief that young people everywhere, including those living in Gaza and the West Bank, deserve the freedom to learn.

We believe that students and young people across the globe have the power to create meaningful social change. If you believe that the right to an education is a moral value, we invite you to join Fakhoora.org. There’s a role for everybody – from the person who only has 10 minutes a week to the activist who wants to become a grassroots leader in her or his community.