**Food Sovereignty and the Palestinian Independence Movement: Narratives of Neglection**

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Abstract:

The food sovereignty movement is regarded to be the largest peasant movement of current times. The movement presents itself and is often considered in academia to be an alternative to the neo-liberal market structures that dominate the current global food system. La Vía Campesina (LVC) is probably one of the most famous representatives of the food sovereignty movement.

In the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) farming has a long cultural tradition but is among other impacts suffering from over 50 years of Israeli occupation. In 2017 the Palestinian Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) became the first member of La Vía Campesina in the Middle East, and additionally there are other smaller initiatives in the country that support the idea food sovereignty. Palestine offers an interesting case, as the local narrative of food sovereignty does not focus on opposing capitalism but on how food sovereignty is crucial for building an independent Palestinian state. But who is it that carries this emancipatory movement? My experience from the field gave me the impression, that understanding oneself as part of the rural or the peasantry is crucial to the people I interviewed and that are active in the movement, while they not per-se fulfil the general idea of peasantry. What they carry is what I call the narrative of neglection, which allows them to claim viewpoints solely based on that they identify with it. I would like to discuss how the idea of what is means to be Palestinian correlates with what a peasant is in La Via Campesina’s understanding. It is not per-se about changing the narrative but to a context-specific understanding of whose narrative it is.