

Resolution on Palestine– LO Congress 2022

Palestine

Conditions in the Palestinian territories have sharply deteriorated in recent years. The occupation and repression against Palestinians are escalating. Dialogue and resolutions have negligible effect. The blockade of Gaza, the wall, which is unlawful under international law, and the development of illegal settlements cause fragmentation of Palestine and impede Palestinian autonomy and independence. The settlements are growing in size and number. The so-called “peace negotiations” are dead. Israel has recently (2021) listed as terrorist organisations and criminalised internationally recognised Palestinian human rights and rights organisations in an attempt at stopping documentation of human rights violations. The international community is silent on the repression against Palestinians. The two-state solution that informed, inter alia, the Oslo agreements of 1994 is progressively less viable, and several recent reports have documented “Apartheid” in what in practice begins to look like a one-state solution. The occupation and repression of Palestinians cannot be considered simply a stagnant and entrenched occupation/annexation, but must be deemed a burning, topical and escalating repression against a people. LO’s clear voice is needed now more than ever.

LO demands that the Norwegian government work to make Israel end its occupation and annexation of Palestinian territories and lift the blockade of Gaza. LO calls on the Norwegian government to support a democratic two-state solution and recognise Palestine as a sovereign State within the 1967 borders. There will be no lasting peace if the occupation, annexation, and Apartheid continue. The Norwegian government should actively pursue effective peace negotiations between Israel and Palestinians, and effective peace negotiations assume that the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas are both included as parties. The international Criminal Court (ICC) has launched a criminal investigation into crimes against humanity committed after 2014 in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The Norwegian government must insist that the new Israeli coalition government respect the ruling of the ICC. Israel must treat all persons living in Israeli territories as equal with equal rights.

LO protests against Israel’s terrorist listing and criminalisation of internationally recognised Palestinian human rights and rights organisations in an attempt at stopping documentation of human rights violations. The Norwegian government must demand that Israel immediately remove these organisations from the terrorist list and stop using threats and harassment., including arbitrary criminalisation and repression of Palestinian organisations.

LO demands that the Norwegian government and Norwegian business and industry strengthen compliance with international law in conflict areas, including occupied territories. The Government Pension Fund and Norwegian companies must refrain from all trade and investment in companies that have or contribute to operations in occupied territories. The Pension Fund and other financial institutions must comply with the United Nation Guiding Principles for business and human rights that require enhanced due diligence in conflict areas, and de-invest in companies that contribute to maintaining Israeli settlements and are part of the occupation economy.

The question of boycott and the effect of sanctions have again become a pressing matter in light of the international sanctions imposed on Russia as a result of their war against Ukraine. We must remember the lessons from sanctions against the Apartheid State of South Africa in the 1980’s and 1990’s that spotlighted the challenges that come with general sanctions, but also the relative success of a combination of targeted sanctions and internal pressure from strong organisations and the labour

movement in particular. We must increase international pressure on Israel with a combination of strategic policy means and demands for peace negotiations and dialogue.

LO believes that we must push for a comprehensive arms embargo against Israel and, in line with UN Resolution 2234, institute a ban on trade in goods and services from companies that aid and abet violations of international, humanitarian law and human rights in occupied territories. We call on the Norwegian government to ensure that Security Council Resolution no 2334 is followed up with targeted measures and sanctions as a reaction to Israel's violations of international, humanitarian law and non-compliance with UN resolutions.

It is imperative that Norway insist that persons suspected of Apartheid crimes are investigated and prosecuted, and that victims for human rights violations and crimes against humanity are fully compensated. LO demands that the Norwegian government submit a proposal to the UN that the organization investigate Israeli Apartheid crimes so that the State of Israel is held accountable. The Norwegian government must play an active role in holding Israel financially to account for the massive destruction targeting civilians, infrastructure, and public services during the Gaza wars. Norway and Norwegian oil companies must, in the current situation of contested and unclear borders for their platform and sea territories, not take part in cooperation with Israel for the purpose of extracting oil or gas in territories in dispute. The Norwegian government must demand that Israel withdraw the six Palestinian organisations from their terrorist list.

Last, but not least, the Norwegian government and LO and partners must do all we can to strengthen the Palestinian democratic, organised forces in civil society as a means to foster democratic development in the Palestinian society.