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Human and Trade Union Rights and Equality / Israel and Palestine:

Draft Resolution on Palestine and Israel

Proposed by: NUT/United Kingdom
Original language: English

The 6th World Congress of Education International (EI), meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, from 22 to 26 July 2011:

Calls on the EI Executive Board to continue to make every effort to promote dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli EI affiliates.

Supports:

- i). the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination;
- ii). the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland;
- iii). the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied territories; and
- iv). the removal of the illegally constructed 'apartheid wall'.

Believes that the achievement of justice for the Palestinians will help bring peace to the Middle East and to the people of Israel.

Condemns the Government of Israel's offensive on Gaza in 2009 which resulted in 1,450 Palestinian deaths, including the deaths of over 400 children and 5,000 injured, as well as the massive, systematic destruction of infrastructure.

Condemns the rocket attacks from inside Gaza against Israeli civilians. Congress condemns the ongoing siege of Gaza and its opposition to the Israeli blockade, which is in contravention of international law and prevents vital supplies from reaching the people of Gaza.

Condemns that attack by the Israeli armed forces on the *Mavi Marmara* ship on 31 May 2010 which resulted in the deaths of 9 Turkish citizens taking humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Notes the report by Defence of the Child International-Palestine (DCI-P) that, each year, approximately 700 Palestinian children from the occupied West Bank are prosecuted in Israeli military courts, and that ill-treatment and torture are common place. Conference also notes that Israel classifies Palestinians as adults at 16 whereas the age for Israelis is 18.

Congress further notes the following evidence produced by DCI/PS that:

1. children are routinely interrogated without a family member or lawyer present;
2. interrogations are often not recorded;
3. 69 per cent of children reported being beaten and kicked;
4. 49 per cent reported being threatened;
5. 14 per cent were held in solitary confinement;

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6. 12 per cent were threatened with sexual assault, including rape;
 7. 32 per cent were forced to sign confessions written in Hebrew, a language they do not understand.
- Congress calls on the EI Board to:
- a). put pressure on the Government of Israel to conform to United Nations resolutions and the ruling of the International Court of Justice and to support moves in the International Trade Union Movement to pursue these objectives;
 - b). put pressure on the Israeli Government to accept that all Palestinians under the age of 18 be classified as children;
 - c). develop a campaign and consult the DCI/PS, GUPT and PGFTU about ways to support children and their families;
 - d). call on the Israel Teachers Union to actively support this initiative;
 - e). publicise the mistreatment of Palestinian child prisoners in EI publications, including a feature and regular updates on the EI website;
 - f). work with DCI-International and other human rights organisations in Israel, Palestine and elsewhere to challenge maltreatment of prisoners and to ensure that Israel observes international law; and
 - g). to support an international campaign of solidarity with the Palestinian people through the trade union movement.