

Resolution agreed by NUT Executive, 22 January 2009

GAZA

This Executive notes that:

1. over nine hundred Palestinians have been killed during the first seventeen days of Israel's military offensive in Gaza, of whom 292 are children;
2. on Tuesday, 6 January over 40 Palestinians were killed when an Israeli air strike hit the United Nations run Fakhura school in Jabaliya;
3. in addition to the above, the Israeli Defence Forces have damaged or destroyed the Ministry of Education, Islamic University of Gaza, American International School, Gaza Training College, the Agricultural School of Beit Hanoun, the Omar Ibn Al Khattab School and the Asma primary school;
4. the International Committee of the Red Cross has accused Israel of failing to honour its obligation under international law to treat and evacuate injured civilians in Gaza;
5. Israel's blockade of Gaza has now continued for over eighteen months. The blockade prevents people moving freely in and out of Gaza, and prevents vital supplies including food and medicine from reaching the people of Gaza;
6. the United Nations and several aid organisations have warned of a humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Over a million Palestinians are denied access to electricity and clean water, and Save the Children has reported a "severe shortage of food;"
7. the sale of more than £18.8 million worth of British arms to Israel in 2008, up from £7.5 million in 2007;
8. aid agencies, UN representatives and humanitarian organisations have called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, as the only way to prevent more civilian casualties.

The Executive resolves:

- A. in light of the current unilateral ceasefires, to urge the British Government to call on governments in both Gaza and Israel to permanently halt all military hostilities; seek immediate normalisation of trade for the people of Gaza; and do everything possible to prevent more children becoming victims of the current violence;
- B. in addition, to call on the International Community to commit substantial aid to the rebuilding of homes in Gaza devastated by Israeli bombing and the destruction of the infrastructure of the communities affected;
- C. to support the demonstrations against Israel's attack on Gaza, and to encourage our members to attend;
- D. to call for an end to Israel's military attacks and for Israel to lift its siege of Gaza;

- E. to contact the General Union of Palestinian Teachers to establish what practical support the Union can give to students, schools and teachers in Gaza;
- F. to demand that the British government unequivocally condemns the Israeli aggression;
- G. to demand the British government bans arms sales to Israel;
- H. to encourage collections in schools and associations to raise money for Medical Aid for Palestinians and the Tom Hurndall Education Fund for humanitarian assistance;
- I. to reaffirm the decision of NUT Conference 2008 to purchase a trade unions education pack and to pursue this through a meeting between the International Relations, Peace & Disarmament Sub-Committee and the PSC, which can discuss this and other means of support for PSC;
- J. to circulate this motion to TUC affiliated unions, the TUC and Education International and seek discussion on developing a response to the military attacks;
- K. to provide guidance to members on dealing with issues in schools arising as a result of the conflict;
- L. to publicise the Union's response to these attacks in *The Teacher* and reiterate the Union's policy for peace, justice and security, for all the people in the region including continued dialogue with the GUPT and the Israeli Teachers' Union;
- M. to work through EI, with all affiliates in the region, to press for a ceasefire, the opening of Gaza crossings to aid and trade and to coordinate post conflict rebuilding.