

The Exec condemns the attack by the Israeli armed forces against the Gaza Flotilla taking humanitarian aid to the blockaded Palestinian people of Gaza and condemns the murder of 9 peace activists and the injuring of many more.

The Exec notes that :

1. the attack took place in international waters;
2. at least 9 unarmed civilians were killed by armed Israeli commandos;
3. many unarmed people were injured;
4. those on board were kidnapped by the Israeli armed forces and held against their will in Israeli prisons;
5. property belonging to those on board the ship was stolen and trashed;
6. the Israeli armed forces delayed medical assistance to those injured by the action of their armed forces for more than one hour;
7. the Israeli authorities have sought to launch a distorted media presentation of the events.

The Exec calls on the British Government to :

1. condemn the actions by Israel against the flotilla and the killings and injuring of civilians on a humanitarian mission;
2. support an immediate and unconditional ending of the blockade of Gaza;
3. call for immediate direct negotiations to end the occupation by Israel of Palestinian territories and for the establishment of a Palestinian state;
4. insist on a full independent inquiry into the events of 31 May attack on the flotilla;
5. insist that the inquiry is conducted by credible, independent figures as proposed by the UN Secretary General and not under the control of the Israeli authorities;
6. call for the suspension of the EU-Israel Association agreement affording trading privileges to Israel in the EU;
7. end all arms trade with Israel.

The Executive notes the Union's speedy action in informing members and others of the Israeli armed forces attack on the flotilla and calling on them to sign a petition to end the blockade and for an independent inquiry in to events. The Executive also notes that the Union has issued a circular to divisions and associations on the joint TUC/PSC campaign to boycott goods from the illegal settlements and that this campaign is posted on the Union's website.

The Executive remains committed to dialogue with both the ITU and the GUPT in seeking a peaceful resolution for all children in the region. The Executive agrees to circulate the joint TUC/PSC postcard entitled "Ban Settlement Goods" through "The Teacher".