

TSSA - the union for people in transport and travel
TSSA Statement on Gaza Crisis

The following resolution was agreed, at the January 2009 Executive Committee meeting of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association, in response to the developing crisis in Gaza. .

In agreeing the resolution the Executive Committee are eager to encourage all TSSA members and branches to affiliate to the *Palestine Solidarity Campaign* and *Stop the War Coalition* and to support demonstrations organised by the PSC demanding an end to the hostilities and the lifting of the siege.

Executive Committee Resolution

"The Transport Salaried Staffs' Executive Committee condemns the killing of innocent civilians and calls for an immediate cessation of violence as Israel continues its attacks inside Gaza in a totally unbalanced response to rocket attacks by Hamas. The continued refusal of Israel and Hamas to accept the UN Security Council Resolution calling for a cease-fire is both reckless and intolerable and can only result in the death and wounding of more innocent people. We therefore call on both parties to agree to an immediate cease-fire, backed by international monitoring if necessary.

TSSA condemns the siege of Gaza, which has resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe through the denial of food, water, power and medical supplies by the Israeli government. This is in breach of international law which outlaws collective punishment of a civilian population. TSSA therefore calls for a complete and immediate lifting of the siege of Gaza by Israel.

TSSA believes that the British government and the European Union are pursuing a foreign policy that whilst formally supporting the creation of an independent, viable Palestinian state effectively tolerates the continuing Israeli occupation. TSSA will continue to bring pressure to bear on the British government, both directly and in solidarity with others, to end its complicity in denying the rights of the Palestinian people. We call for a real change in Government policy and in the policies of the European Union. In particular we demand an end to the arms trade between Israel, Britain and EU member states and for a mandatory UN arms embargo. We also call on the British Government to unequivocally condemn Israeli aggression in Gaza.

TSSA condemns the unreserved support which the current US administration is giving to Israel and calls for the President-elect, Barack Obama, to both radically rethink US Government policy on terrorism and also to put human rights at the centre of US foreign, domestic and security policy.

TSSA again endorses the policy agreed at our Annual Delegates Conference in 2008 calling on the TUC to organise and support a boycott of Israeli goods.

TSSA continues to support the right to self-determination of the Palestinian peoples and to recognise the importance of the work in the trade union movement in supporting the Palestinian people and in campaigning for recognition of their rights. The TSSA therefore calls on the British Government to recognise the outcome of the

last elections to the Palestine Authority, which were certified as free and fair by international observers.

The Executive Committee also wishes to encourage all TSSA members and branches to affiliate to the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Stop the War Coalition and to support demonstrations organised by the PSC demanding an end to the current hostilities and the lifting of the siege ."