

Motions on Palestine and Israel carried at UCU Congress,
Sunday 30 May 2010:

30 Practical support for Palestinian academic trade unionists
National executive committee

Congress condemns the failure of the international community to confront the Israeli government over the humanitarian disaster it is continuing to perpetrate in Gaza and the continued development of illegal settlements in the West Bank.

Congress:

- * welcomes the decisions of the 2009 TUC Congress relating to Palestine and Israel, and instructs the NEC to work with the TUC, STUC, and other affiliates, Amnesty International and Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), to put the recommendations into effect.

- * welcomes the Education International (EI)/Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) report on academic freedom in Palestine and Israel, and the new impetus it provides for work on this area in EI.

- * calls on the NEC to work with Palestinian Federation of Unions of University Professors and Employees (PFUUPE), as well as EI, CAUT and other supportive EI affiliates, to build PFUUPE's organisational and negotiating capacity within Palestine, according to the needs PFUUPE identifies, and to support its membership of EI and enable it to participate fully in EI's work.

31 Palestine solidarity, BDS, and Histadrut
University of Brighton Grand Parade

Congress notes

- * the successful international boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) conference hosted by the UCU in line with Congress policy;

- * the statement that emerged from that conference, and the call from the Palestinian Boycott National Committee for an isolation of Israel while it continues to act in breach of international law.

Congress resolves:

- * to reaffirm its support for BDS, and to seek its implementation within the constraints of the existing law;

- * to seek in conjunction with other trade unions, nationally and internationally, to establish an annual international conference on BDS, a trade union sponsored BDS website and a research centre on commercial, cultural and academic complicity with Israeli breaches of international law, with appropriate cost sharing;

- * to sever all relations with Histadrut, and to urge other trade unions and bodies to do likewise;

- * to campaign actively against the EU-Israel Association Agreement, and to coordinate that campaign with other trade unions and solidarity movements

32 Ariel and West Bank Colonisation University of Brighton Falmer

Congress notes

- * the continuing colonisation of the West Bank - construction of illegal settlements, Israeli-only roads, diversion of Palestinian water, disaggregation of the territory, disruption of Palestinian life, destruction of olive groves and separation of Palestinian cultivators from their land, denial of educational and scholarly opportunities to Palestinians, and the continuing construction of the Wall;

- * the contribution of Israel's academy in this process - scientific and social and historical research, siting of annexes on illegally confiscated land, and support for military occupation;

- * the particular contribution of Ariel College in this process - recruiting Israelis as settlers for their education - and the recent decision of Israel to recognise Ariel as a 'university centre', on the way to its establishment as a university on occupied territory.

Congress resolves to commence the investigatory process associated with the imposition of a boycott of Ariel College.

L11 Emergency motion

Congress is appalled at the Israeli act of piracy in international waters on 31 May. It condemns the armed attack on the Gaza convoy and the murders of people seeking to bring aid to the people of Gaza suffering from the Israeli and Egyptian blockade.

Congress believes this constitutes a prima facie crime against humanity.

Congress believes that the senior Israeli government members and senior military and naval officers responsible for commissioning this action should be tried for this crime.

Congress demands that the UK government does not change the rules on universal jurisdiction to impede bringing the people responsible for these murders to justice.