

UNISON NEC Statement on the attack on the Gaza Flotilla

The UNISON NEC unreservedly condemns the Israeli attack on the Gaza Flotilla and the killing of ten of the civilian participants. The NEC notes that the flotilla was carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza, that over 600 volunteers were on board the vessels including a Nobel Peace Prize winner and parliamentarians from several countries, and that the flotilla was still in international waters when it was attacked. The NEC further notes that the volunteers were then held prisoner by Israel and were pressured to sign statements saying they had entered Israel illegally even though they had been brought there by force and against their will.

The NEC reiterates previous UNISON policy in calling for an immediate, unconditional end to the siege of Gaza by Israel and for humanitarian aid, including construction materials for the buildings destroyed 18 months ago, be allowed in.

The NEC further condemns the muted response from the British government compared to those other countries who called for the immediate release of their citizens held by the Israelis.

The NEC resolves to continue to support the people of Gaza and Palestine as a whole further resolves:

- To offer its deepest condolences to the families of the dead
- To make a formal protest to the Israeli embassy in the UK
- To express our concerns about the UK government's response to the Foreign Secretary
- To urge the UK government to support calls for an impartial UN inquiry
- To continue to support the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, especially with regard to its campaigning work on Gaza
- To support the National demonstration in London called for Saturday 5 June and demonstrations in other parts of the country
- To send messages of support to the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions in Gaza.