



The European Palestinian Initiative Against Apartheid and Settlements «EPIAAS»

Brussels Declaration

We, the participants of the conference "Towards a European-Palestinian Coalition Against Apartheid, Settlements, and Genocide", from 20 European countries, representing a wide and diverse spectrum of political parties, students, civil society organizations, associations, unions, academic and cultural figures, political and human rights activists, after deep discussions during five sessions of the conference and through important contributory working papers, research and studies, have reached the following conclusions, which will be used to guide the European coalition's work strategy in the next phase.

The conference discussed the genocidal war and ethnic cleansing waged by Israel against the Occupied Palestinian Territories including Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. It is considered an aggression unprecedented in its brutality and bloodiness in contemporary history. An aggression that has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of children, women and male civilians through a systematic Israeli policy that seeks to turn the Gaza Strip into a scorched and uninhabitable land with the aim of displacing the population and giving them the choice of death or expulsion and uprooting. In the face of these atrocities and horrors, the conference calls on the people of all countries, especially the European countries, to use all means of pressure and take all available measures to force the Israeli occupation government to immediately stop its aggression on Gaza, lift the siege, and allow in humanitarian, medical, food and other relief aid. The ongoing starvation siege of 300-400,000 Palestinians in the northern Gaza Strip must immediately end. The occupation must rebuild what it has destroyed in Gaza.

The conference demands the end of the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, considering the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem as a single territorial unit of the lands of the Palestinian state as recognized by international resolutions, and enable the Palestinian people to fulfil their self-determination by establishing an independent Palestinian state with full sovereignty over it, including Jerusalem as the capital, and recognizing the right of return of refugees to return to their homes from which they were displaced in 1948 in implementation of UN Resolution No. 194. The aggressive, expansionist and racist Israeli policies, supported by the United States without restriction, has made Israel an outlaw state that has turned its back on the international community and world public opinion and refuses to implement any resolution issued by the UN General Assembly or the Security Council, the latest of which is Resolution No. 2735 calling for a ceasefire and lifting of the siege on Gaza. Despite its international isolation, Israel insists on continuing to violate international resolutions and international law, relying



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on unlimited American support. Accordingly, it is time to take deterrent steps and decisions.

The conference calls on European countries to begin procedures to hold Israel accountable and to force it to comply with international law, especially the four Geneva Conventions and the recent Security Council and General Assembly resolutions to stop the crimes of genocide and comprehensive destruction to which the Palestinian people are exposed. In this regard, we call for the following from European countries:

- Cancel partnership agreements and trade and economic cooperation with the Israeli occupation state, to force it to retreat from its system of racist laws, foremost among which is the Jewish nation-state law and the latest project to annex the West Bank and Jerusalem to establish what they call Greater Israel, to force it to comply with international law and United Nations resolutions.

- Stop supplying Israel with weapons and consider its continuation as complicity in war crimes of genocide and deserving accountability. Boycott settlement goods and everything related to the settlements at various levels, as well as companies operating in the settlements and blacklisted by the United Nations, and participate with the global BDS movement to boycott Israel and divest from investment, which plays a proactive and effective role in this regard.

- Declare recognition of the State of Palestine and its right to gain full membership in the United Nations, similar to the positions of a number of European countries, such as Spain, Ireland and Norway.

- Implement the United Nations General Assembly resolution of 13 September 2024, immediately, unconditionally and completely, in furtherance of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which stipulates the need to end the illegal Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. If Israel rejects the decision of the Court of Justice and the United Nations General Assembly, we call on European countries to support Palestine's request to suspend Israel's membership in the General Assembly and to withdraw the accreditation of Israeli diplomats to the UN until it abides by the UN resolutions.

- Support the struggle of the Palestinian people inside the territories of 1948 in order to abolish the policy of racial discrimination practiced by Israel against the Palestinian people in the areas of 1948, which includes depriving them of their basic rights, especially recognition of their national rights, the right to equality and citizenship rights, especially after the exacerbation of the manifestations of apartheid and the violations of the far-right racist government that practices terrorism, war crimes and genocide against all the Palestinian people.

- Protect the role and continuity of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and reject Israel's attempts to close its headquarters and destroy its institutions. UNRWA is the most important



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international institution providing relief services to refugees with the highest levels of efficiency and accuracy, while also expressing international commitment to the refugee issue and their right to return.

- Join South Africa's lawsuit in the International Court of Justice regarding Israel's commission of genocide against the Palestinian people, and demand that the International Criminal Court issue the arrest warrants against war criminals Netanyahu and his Minister of War Galant on charges of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity.

- Demand that the United Nations General Assembly activate the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, a permanent and established convention issued in 1976 to hold the apartheid regime in South Africa accountable at the time.

- Submit and support a resolution to the United Nations General Assembly to immediately revive the UN Committee on Apartheid.

- Intensify joint efforts with unions, civil society institutions, global unions, and other academic, cultural, and social institutions and organizations to suspend Israel's membership in these unions and institutions until it complies with international law and international legitimacy resolutions.

The participants of the European-Palestinian Conference Against Apartheid, Settlement and Genocide confirm that the results reached by the conference in this declaration will guide its strategic work in the circles of political, official, parliamentary, and governmental public opinion, including legal opinion and that directed to international institutions, realizing that expanding the campaign of popular, media, and parliamentary pressure will have a significant impact in bringing about transformations to defeat the apartheid and colonial settlement system, no matter how long it takes.

We have decided to organize popular, media, and cultural campaigns in every European country and at the level of the European Union as a whole with unified efforts, and we look forward with confidence to the future and to the joining of new components to the European coalition and strengthening coordination and cooperation relations with solidarity and advocacy committees in a manner that serves common goals.

The conference appreciates the work and role of the European-Palestinian Initiative Against Apartheid and Settlements (EPIAAS) and its readiness to exert its efforts during the coming period in the following areas:

- Expanding the European-Palestinian Initiative coalition and forming branches for it in European countries after all the requirements for the official and legal registration of the institution in the relevant departments have been approved.



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-Coordinating efforts in popular, media and cultural campaigns between the components of the initiative in the European Union countries on the basis of support, integration and providing the necessary capabilities.

- Strengthening joint action steps and cooperation with associations, advocacy committees and other institutions active in supporting freedom and justice for Palestinians.

- Forming a specialized legal committee of legal experts to follow up on the files of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in international and national courts until justice takes its course.

Brussels, October 2024

