

NLG Resolution Calling for Legal, Peaceful, Public Actions to End the Blockade of Gaza

Whereas despite the withdrawal of its illegal settlers and troops in 2005, the Israeli government maintains its illegal occupation of Gaza; and

Whereas in furtherance of its illegal occupation the Israeli government blockades and militarily attacks Gaza; and

Whereas in furtherance of its illegal occupation the Israeli government attacked, killing 6 Hamas members in Gaza on November 4, 2008 in violation of a successful ceasefire that had virtually ended rocket fire from Gaza; and

Whereas in furtherance of its illegal occupation the Israeli government blatantly targeted civilians, including women, children, and emergency workers, during its massive escalation of attacks on Gaza from December 27, 2008 to January 18, 2009; and

Whereas in furtherance of its illegal occupation of Gaza the Israeli government prevents the importation of building materials to prevent rebuilding and recovery from the massive destruction and killing the Israeli government initiated from its November 4, 2008 attack through the beginning of a new cease fire on January 18, 2009; and

Whereas in furtherance of its illegal occupation of Gaza the Israeli government prevents the importation of a wide range of products, including books and other educational materials; and

Whereas in furtherance of its illegal occupation the Israeli government prevented human rights workers on the boats Dignity and Spirit of Humanity from sailing to Gaza, and Israeli government forces illegally rammed the Dignity in December 2008 and unlawfully seized the Spirit of Humanity and arrested its passengers in June 2009; and

Whereas in furtherance of its illegal occupation of Gaza the Israeli government is holding thousands of Palestinians from Gaza in prison, many without charges, without due process, holding Atrials@ using coerced confessions, without equal protection of the law, and without the ability to confront their accusers; and

Whereas in furtherance of its illegal occupation of Gaza the Israeli government has engaged in a consistent pattern of destroying housing, public buildings, factories, and farms; and

Whereas the Israeli government's actions in Gaza are in violation of numerous provisions of international law; and

Whereas the National Lawyers Guild has adopted resolutions calling for supporting boycott, divestment, and sanctions against the Israeli government until it ends its occupation of territories seized by force, provides equal rights for all living within its borders, and allows refugees to return to their homes and villages; and

Whereas the National Lawyers Guild has called upon the US government to end all aid to the Israeli government until these demands are realized;

Therefore be it resolved that the National Lawyers Guild supports legal, peaceful, public actions to

end the illegal blockade of Gaza, by sea, land, and air; and

Be it further resolved that the National Lawyers Guild calls on its members to support and join in the legal, peaceful, public actions to end the blockade.

Implementation: The Free Gaza Working Group subcommittee of the International Committee of the NLG calls on NLG members to support and participate in actions to enforce international law and to stop the Israeli Government from continuing to violate the law with its illegal blockade of Gaza.

Actions include:

- o Free Gaza Movement sea voyages to Gaza <http://freegaza.org/>
- o The Viva Palestina land caravans, the next one scheduled to leave London on December 5, 2009 and arrive in Gaza on December 27 <http://www.vivapalestina.org/>
- o The Gaza Freedom March scheduled to meet in Cairo December 27, 2009, enter Gaza on December 29, and march for freedom in Gaza on January 1, 2010, sponsored by Code Pink, and endorsed by Abdeen Jabara, Media Benjamin, Norman Finkelstein, Alice Walker, George Gallaway, Gore Vidal, Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Naomi Klein, Ralph Nader, Mustafa Barghouti, Jeff Halper, John Dugard, Jonathan Kuttub, Sara Roy, Kathy Kelly, Mairead Maguire, and Diana Buttu <http://www.codepink4peace.org/form.php?modin=116>
- o bringing legal cases
- o participating in international tribunals
- o participating in boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaigns consistent with the resolution, "Israel: boycott and divest," that was adopted by the NLG at the 2007 NLG Convention
- o lobbying Congressional representatives and Administration officials
- o participating in future NLG delegations to Gaza

Consultation: The Free Gaza Working Group, whose members organized an NLG delegation to Gaza in February 2009 and lobbying US Congressional and State Department officials in May 2009, will inform the International Committee and those chapters doing free Gaza work of opportunities to participate in these and other campaigns to enforce international law and end the blockade.

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