

Motion on the Current Upsurge in Violence in Israel and Palestine

This branch notes:

1. The recent upsurge in appalling violence in the Israel-Palestine conflict that has claimed around 1300 Israeli lives and over 2300 Palestinian ones (to date);
2. The absence of peace negotiations in recent decades as a result of the strategy pursued by successive far-right Israeli governments under Binyamin Netanyahu;
3. That this strategy has entailed the abandonment of talks with Palestinians and the pursuit instead of normalisation with Arab states, the brutal repression of Palestinian resistance of whatever sort, ethnic cleansing through the continuing expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, and divide-and-rule measures designed to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state at any point in the future;
4. That Palestinians are living under conditions of settler colonial apartheid, a view that has been endorsed by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, B'Tselem, Al-Haq and the past four out of five UN Special Rapporteurs on the state of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;
5. That, in Gaza in recent years, Netanyahu has pursued a policy of shoring up Hamas in power because "anyone who wants to thwart the establishment of a Palestinian state needs to support the strengthening of Hamas. This is part of our strategy, to isolate Palestinians in Gaza from Palestinians in Judea and Samaria";
6. The complicity of the UK government and parliamentary parties, and of Western governments more generally through endorsement of and support for the war crimes and crimes against humanity currently being carried out by Israel against the Palestinian population in the Occupied Territories;
7. That this complicity has also entailed increasing attempts at censorship of those demanding an end to Palestinian oppression, including those at UK universities whose experiences have recently been highlighted by the British Society for Middle East Studies (BRISMES) and the UCU.

This branch believes:

1. That Israel's current military operation in Gaza is designed to result in the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians and will inevitably lead to genocide;
2. That this strategy can only result in further violence in future, because there can be no military solution to the conflict;
3. That the operation has the potential to escalate into a wider conflict in the region and to intensify communal tensions beyond it;
4. That the only just and lasting solution lies in decolonisation, an end to Israel's apartheid regime, and respect for the full human rights of all peoples in Israel and Palestine;
5. That the censorship and harassment of those demanding Palestinian liberation must be resisted, and that support be provided for students and staff in Higher Education who have been subjected to it.

This branch calls for:

1. An immediate end to Israel's assault on Gaza, the release of hostages held there, an immediate humanitarian corridor to be opened up for Palestinians to receive, food, water and medical assistance;

2. An end to the one-sided support of Western governments and political parties for Israel and its project of ethnic cleansing and genocidal repression in Palestine.

This branch resolves:

1. To oppose the censorship and harrassment of those campaigning for Palestinian rights and liberation;
2. To support campaigns aimed at ending the current attack on Palestinians, particularly in Gaza, and aimed at the achievement of a lasting peace based on justice.