

# **INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR IMMEDIATE EUROPEAN RECOGNITION OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE**



We, representatives of European, Israeli, and Palestinian civil society and trade union organizations working to promote social justice and a just and sustainable resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict based on ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory and implementing the two-state solution, have come together to issue this joint and urgent appeal to the European Union, individual EU member states, as well as other European countries, to recognize the sovereign State of Palestine without delay and promote its status in the UN General Assembly to that of a full member state.

Within two years, the 75th anniversaries of the adoption of UN Resolution 181 on the Partition of Palestine and the establishment of the State of Israel will be marked, yet the Palestinian people remain under the yoke of the Israeli occupation, held hostage to Israel's willingness to negotiate their future, with no end in sight. The Gaza Strip is under siege and in the throes of a humanitarian crisis, East Jerusalem and Palestinian villages on its periphery have been under illegal annexation since 1967, and Israel's encroachment on Palestinian lands in the West Bank continues unabated, threatening the viability of a future State of Palestine and in flagrant violation of the 4th Geneva Convention and international customary law.

The International Labour Organization (ILO), which has been fighting for social justice for more than 100 years, has repeatedly expressed its opposition to Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian territory, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2334/2016, which reaffirmed that the settlements have no legal validity and constitute a flagrant violation of international law. The ILO has highlighted the occupation's impact on Palestinian workers, especially women and youth, and has led efforts to promote decent work in Palestine through social dialogue. Recognition of the State of Palestine and corporate accountability under international law would help end Israel's abusive labor practices and its exploitation of Palestinian workers.

Numerous UN Resolutions upholding the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, opposing Israel's illegal settlement enterprise, and calling for negotiations between the sides have failed to secure a resolution of the conflict. Thirty years after the launch of the Madrid Peace Conference, the Palestinian people remain stateless and continue to be denied the most basic civil and human rights, while the Israeli Government continues to act unilaterally to entrench de facto annexation in and around East Jerusalem and in the West Bank through settlement expansion.

We call upon Europe to recognize the urgency and lead a diplomatic initiative that aims to achieve a just and sustainable resolution of this long-standing conflict through three guiding principles in conflict resolution: multilateralism, upholding human rights, and respect for the rule of law. Recognition of the State of Palestine is an important step toward this end. The commitment undertaken by Europe in the Venice Declaration of June 1980, which recognizes the Palestinian people's right to fully exercise self-determination, must be implemented without further delay.

Recognition of the State of Palestine based on the 1967 borders, and with East Jerusalem as its capital, is imperative to provide the Palestinians with a diplomatic horizon and to create parity of esteem between the sides prior to negotiations. We urge European institutions, civil society organizations, trade unions, and citizens at large to join us in this call to help achieve a two-state solution and a just peace in the region by advocating locally, nationally, and internationally for recognition of the State of Palestine.