

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY, PEACE & DISARMAMENT

Palestinian Child Prisoners in Israeli Detention

Conference notes that Israel continues to arrest, detain and torture Palestinian children (aged 12 to 17 years) in contravention of international law & human rights treaties. Conference believes this is part of a deliberate policy to criminalise and intimidate the general Palestinian population.

Although 55 children were released as part of the Palestinian prisoner release in 2011, 106 children still remain in prison. Every year the Israeli authorities arrest more than 700 children.

Conference notes the work done by the Union and its members in raising this issue both at a regional, national and international level.

Conference reaffirms that this treatment of children by Israel is an affront to democracy and basic human rights, and that efforts must therefore be redoubled by those in the union movement to oppose it. Conference restates its commitment to existing policy on Palestine and the active involvement of the Union in ending the Israeli occupation.

Conference instructs the Executive to:

1. Meet with bodies from Palestine & Israel concerned for the welfare of Palestinian child prisoners;
2. Work with other unions in the UK and around the world concerned with the welfare of young people, to develop an international campaigning strategy in order to co-ordinate a global campaign for the rights of young Palestinians;
3. Establish a national campaign to facilitate the active involvement of UNITE members to be involved in campaigning including the setting up of 'Urgent Case' actions, e-lobbies & petitions etc;
4. Organise and fund, with other union bodies and campaigning groups as necessary, a national speaking tour to include lawyers and child prisoners/families in the next 12 months;
5. Send an investigation committee of Executive and non-Executive representatives to see Palestinian child prisoners in court;
6. Work with the TUC to build this as a national trade union campaign alongside existent campaigning on ending the occupation.
7. Establish the issue as a standing item on the agenda for the Union's International Committee with a commitment to progress the above actions with a report on progress to be made at Conference 2014.

Regional Women's Committee – London & Eastern

SUPPORT FOR GAZA

Call on conference to condemn the Israeli government for its action on the aid ship **MV Mavi Marmara**, which caused nine deaths of peaceful activists [which carried from 37 different countries on board]. This conference should also condemn the continued apartheid system being enforced on the population of the occupied territories and of Gaza. This conference calls on the Union to continue the fight against this policy and to educate the membership of this Union to the real situation in Gaza and the occupied territories, furthermore we call on the Union to work with the T.U.C. /S.T.U.C. to continue its boycott of Israeli products and to strengthen its ties with the Palestinian Trade Union Movement [P.G.F.T.U.].

Cowdenbeath 7/14 Branch

THE MIDDLE EAST

This Conference notes the continuing wave of strikes and workers' protests across the Middle East in support of demands for social justice and democracy. We recognize and support their demands for a living wage, for permanent jobs, for an end to cuts and privatization, for real democracy and against political corruption, and for the right to organize in the streets and workplaces because these are our demands too.

This Conference further notes and celebrates the huge strides taken by the Egyptian working class in establishing hundreds of independent unions and the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions.

This Conference recognizes the need to build the widest possible campaign of solidarity with workers in the Middle East in the trade union movement in Britain.

Conference therefore resolves:

1. To support workers fighting for, and defending, social justice and democracy in the Middle East and North Africa.
2. To support, in particular, Egyptian workers in their struggles to build independent trade unions.
3. To actively promote solidarity by conference agreeing to:
 - a) Organise a union delegation to Egypt, primarily of lay members, and in cooperation with other British and Irish trade unions, which can report back to meetings organised in every Region;
 - b) Support twinning between the different sectors of Unite and the unions emerging in Egypt including promoting speaking tours of Britain and Ireland by Egyptian union activists;
 - c) Actively support solidarity campaigns, such as the MENA Workers Network, that promote solidarity with the Middle Eastern revolutions.

Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Area Activists Committee

SOLIDARITY WITH MENA WORKERS NETWORK

This union notes the continuing wave of strikes and workers' protests across the Middle East in support of demands for social justice and democracy. We recognize and support their demands for a living wage, for permanent jobs, for an end to cuts and privatization, for real democracy and against political corruption, and for the right to organise in the streets and workplaces because these are our demands too.

This union further notes and celebrates the huge strides taken by the Egyptian working class in

establishing hundreds of independent unions and the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions.

This union welcomes the establishment of the Solidarity with MENA Workers Network in March 2010 and recognizes the need to build the widest possible campaign of solidarity with workers in the Middle East in the trade union movement in Britain.

This union further welcomes the inspiration which the struggles of workers in the Middle East have given across the world – and their role in inspiring the Occupy movement.

This union therefore resolves:

- To give solidarity to the emerging independent trade unions in the region – by inviting speakers to our conferences and having articles in our publications about the struggles of workers in the region
- To support the Solidarity with MENA Workers Network and publicise reports and activities of the Network to our members.

CYWNFP RISC - East Midlands

SOLIDARITY WITH MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN WORKERS

This Conference notes the continuing wave of strikes and workers' protests across the Middle East in support of demands for social justice and democracy. We recognize and support their demands for a living wage, for permanent jobs, for an end to cuts and privatization, for real democracy and against political corruption, and for the right to organize in the streets and workplaces because these are our demands too.

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Greater Manchester IT 9827M

SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELA – DEFENDING THE MAJORITY, NOT PUNISHING THE POOREST

This Conference notes:

- Across Europe, governments are cutting back on public services with ordinary people paying for an economic crisis they did not create. However, Venezuela is showing that there are real alternatives to cuts and privatisation.
- Hostile elements in the US and in the old Venezuelan elite do not intend to allow the Venezuelan people to determine their own future, with numerous attempts to overthrow this progressive government. These are likely to intensify now OPEC has announced Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world.

This Conference further notes:

- Since in 1998, working people in Venezuela have been at the centre of achieving tremendous advances, including seeing:
 - a) Record amounts of investment in public services, with social programme budgets protected even throughout the global recession.
 - b) The enshrining of trade union rights in the constitution and an end to privatisations.
 - c) The creation of free education and health for all.
 - d) The lifting of 4 million Venezuelans out of poverty.
- This has been democratically backed in 15 free and fair sets of elections in 12 years.
- A new Labour law to be introduced in 2012 will further advance and enshrine trade union rights.
- With President Chavez fighting for re-election in October 2012, the continuation of this social progress is at stake. The right-wing Opposition is receiving from Washington, where there is now strong pressure from the Republican Right, \$20m to support their campaign.

This Conference Resolves:

- To support the right of the Venezuelan people to determine their own future free from external interference and campaign for the British government and European governments to support constructive engagement with Venezuela.
- To continue to support the Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, and encourage branches and regions to affiliate to the VSC and support the 'Venezuela: Defending the Majority, Not Punishing the Poorest' campaign initiative.

LE/230 Branch

CUBA 2012 BLOCKADE MOTION

Conference notes that 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the illegal US blockade of Cuba.

The blockade, imposed and maintained by the United States since 1962, has lost the Cuban economy an estimated US\$905 billion and has severely impaired Cuba's ability to develop its economy and social infrastructure.

It causes suffering, shortages and restricts access to food, medicines, education and medical equipment. It has been condemned by a unanimous vote in the United Nations General Assembly every year since 1992.

Conference recognises that despite the blockade, Cuba has made massive achievements in health, education and social services for its people, and applauds the country's international solidarity throughout the world, where Cuba is providing medical care and free training in more than 79 developing countries. Special recognition and praise is given to the Cuban medical teams in Haiti who were not only working in the country before the 2010 earthquake, but who have been at the forefront of the humanitarian relief efforts since and are committed to working to develop a long term health care programme with, and for, the Haitian people.

Conference expresses support for the right of Cuba to choose their own economic, social and political path and opposes the USA's illegal economic blockade and policies to isolate and interfere in the internal affairs of island.

We deplore the continued imprisonment of the Miami Five in the USA, including Rene Gonzalez, who although is now out of prison must remain on supervised released in Florida for a further three years.

Conference acknowledges the work of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign (CSC) against the blockade of Cuba and in its defence of the Miami Five and therefore agrees to:

- i) Support financially or as appropriate, publicise and participate in END IT NOW! campaigns and events organised by CSC in 2012 to mark the fifty years of the blockade;
- ii) Urge regions, branches and individual members to affiliate to the Cuba Solidarity Campaign;
- iii) Support the campaign for Justice for the Miami Five including the Spring exhibition featuring the artwork of two of the prisoners and the annual vigil outside the US Embassy to mark the anniversary of their arrests.

Heathrow Cab Section LE/300

UNITES PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES AND PURCHASE POLICIES

This conference notes that despite Unites fully committed support for Cuba Solidarity and the Miami five some of the training centres still stock Bacardi products.

This is an example of the unions purchasing policies not matching its member's commitments.

We now demand that the union's executive council undertake a full review of all its suppliers, new and existing purchase policies to ensure that any member's money is spent with companies that support our principals and ethics.

This review is to be undertaken within the next six months with action taken to implement change by the end of this year. In addition we demand that a report is published to members outlining the changes made by the end of June 2013.

South East Finance RISC

JUSTICE FOR COLOMBIA

The killings of trade unionists continues in Colombia, with more than 24 assassinated in 2011. Our colleagues also face imprisonment, death threats, false accusations and are often forced to flee their

homes, simply for speaking out in defence of trade union and human rights. The majority of these crimes are carried out by state

Forces and paramilitary groups with very few of the culprits ever brought to justice- there is a 98% impunity rate for trade union murders.

An internal conflict has raged for more than 50 years in Colombia. Over 10% of the Colombian population are currently displaced from their homes, the majority of them women and children. The Colombian army also continues to carry out indiscriminate bombings of civilian areas as part of a military strategy that according to Amnesty International is “largely based on the premise that those living in conflict areas are part of the enemy.” Although the current President Santos has made comments about being open to a peace process, the militaristic approach continues and the war has intensified allowing the violations to continue unabated.

Those who speak out against this situation are targeted, such as Lilianny Obando, a Colombian Trade unionist and single mother, now imprisoned for more than 42 months in Buen Pastor Prison, without being convicted of any crime.

The Colombian trade union movement is calling for a peace process to stop the abuses. They are asking for a negotiated settlement to end the conflict and address the social inequalities at its root. The Colombian government pays little attention to the demands of its own citizens, but is sensitive to international pressure. By adding our voices, we can support colleagues in Colombia to help end the abuses. We call on all members to:

1. Support the Justice for Colombia Peace Campaign
2. Support the Justice for Colombia Campaign to help free political prisoners.
3. Write to all branches encouraging them to affiliate to Justice for Colombia.
4. Affiliate the region to Justice for Colombia and consider making an additional donation.

5509 GPM Greater London

COLOMBIA

This conference condemns the murder of Trade Unionists in Colombia, with more than 28 assassinated in 2011. Conference notes that colleagues also face imprisonment, death threats, and are often forced to flee their homes. Conference acknowledges that the majority of these crimes are carried out by state forces and paramilitary groups with very few of the culprits ever brought to justice.

Conference is appalled that internal conflict has raged for more than 50 years in Colombia and that the Colombian army continues to carry out indiscriminate bombings of civilian areas.

Conference notes that current President Santos has made comments about being open to a peace process but the militaristic approach continues and the war has intensified allowing the violations to continue.

Conference notes that those who speak out against this situation are targeted, such as Lilianny Obando, a Colombian trade unionist and single mother, now imprisoned for more than 42 months in Buen Pastor Prison, without being convicted of any crime and around 75 members of our sister union FENSUAGRO who are today imprisoned for their union activity.

Conference supports the Colombian trade union movement in calling for a peace process – to end the conflict and address the social inequalities at its roots. Conference notes that the Colombian government pays little attention to the demands of its own citizens, but is sensitive to international pressure.

Conference congratulates the good work of organisations like Justice for Colombia who seek to give voice to the citizens of Colombia and to bring about positive change by amplifying the difficulties faced by our Trade Union Colleagues on the International stage.

We call on our Executive Council to:

1. Continue to support the work led by JFC in Colombia in an effort to bring about political change and peace to the region.
2. Continue to promote and strengthen the Workers Uniting/FENSUAGRO partnership agreement and provide specific support to our sister union.
3. Continue to strengthen Industrial sector to sector links and promote grass root solidarity by encouraging our branches to become engaged through affiliation to NGOs as well as providing activists with up to date information on the conflict.
4. Give practical support to the Peace Campaign and use our political influence to exert pressure on the Colombian, UK, Irish and other relevant governments to work towards peace through a negotiated settlement.
5. Campaign for the immediate release of those wrongly imprisoned for their Trade Union activity and demand protection from persecution and violence for our colleagues.

SC/126 Branch

WORKERS IN TURKEY

This Conference commits itself to support workers in Turkey and their trade unions. It also supports the right of the Kurdish people in Turkey to self determination.

The AKP is the dominant party in Turkey and is has governed Turkey for several years. It is presenting itself as a moderate Islamic party. It projects itself as a moderate, modernising, democratic party, successful in developing the national economy on the basis of a neo liberal economic agenda.

De facto it has done so by a severe, ruthless exploitation of working people, implementing laws on:

“Flexible” work (outsourcing and off shoring)

“Flexible” wages (poverty wages even under the minimum wage level)

“Flexible” employment practices (agency work legalised, contract work with practically no pension rights, no job security and the abolishing of the workers’ right to severance pay is imminent)

“Flexible” working hours (meaning 10 to 12 hours a day or more with extra time, seven days a week)

“Flexible” working conditions (with almost no safety precautions taken for the already over exhausted workers, leaving the door open for corporate murders as is well known in the shipbuilding industry and mines).

“Flexible” union laws which legalise open-shop practice in a country where the union membership is now less than 8%of the total work force. It is estimated that with the new laws to be passed by the Parliament, only 12 unions out of 100 will be left to represent the workers, with no unions representation in 17 industries.

The assault on the working class is total, while the organisations on the left are decimated.

The Turkish government and the ruling elite are using divide and rule policies by furthering division, competition and enmity among people based on religious, ethnic and political belonging (anti-Alevi, anti-Kurds, anti-secular, anti-left sentiments among people).

The AKP party and its government is promoting a neo Ottoman political project aimed at dominating the Middle East, especially to control energy resources in the region. This is why Turkey is on a war footing (to insure her gains by hook or crook) with or without the support of the USA.

There is much talk about democracy by the AKP and the ruling elite. In fact there are currently 105 journalists in prisons in Turkey, most of them Kurdish. Thousands of Kurdish youths, intellectuals and national and local politicians have been jailed by the Turkish government using the anti-terrors laws.

Many union leaders have been jailed for leading actions for better working conditions.

Many people have been under arrest without charges for many years. Many people have been jailed just because they voiced their claims using the Kurdish language and asking for Kurdish autonomy within the Turkish state.

The legal system has collapsed and the trust in the Courts is no more. For example many murderers are let free because the victims were women. Many hundred of women have been murdered in recent years due to so-called honour killings. Judges were not passing sentences on the murderers because of the pressure from the religious authorities and from government–friendly circles.

The Turkish government and the ruling elite aim at further limitations of union rights. It has already lifted and will lift more of the jobs security by cancelling the severance pay system and it intends to destroy the right to a decent living wage, to a decent work place working conditions with health and safety protection.

The working class in Turkey needs this union's active solidarity.

This Conference calls on our Executive Council to:

1. Support workers in Turkey by sending a delegation to make contact with the Trade Unions Federations in Turkey and report its findings to the Executive Council
2. Encourage Industrial sector to sector links with Trade Unions in Turkey on a national, regional and local basis.
3. Urge the Regions and the Branches to develop links with similar sectors, be they regions, branches or organised workplaces.
4. Affiliate the union at national level to the Peace in Kurdistan Campaign to promote a political solution to the right of the Kurdish people in Turkey for self determination and autonomy.
5. Promote grass root solidarity by encouraging regions and branches to affiliate to the Peace in Kurdistan Campaign by providing up to date information on the level of repression carried out by the Turkish government against Kurdish people in Turkey.

London North West 9708 Branch

WORKERS UNITING AND EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

Conference reaffirms UNITE's commitment to developing and strengthening our international work, which is one of the fundamental three main pillars of UNITE's work. In an age of globalisation in which global companies and finance capital define the framework in which we operate, it is essential and critical that trade unions become more effective at the European and International level. In this respect conference recognises the progress that has been made in strengthening and developing UNITE's international work.

Conference in particular welcomes the path breaking work that has been carried out in the Workers Uniting project between UNITE and the USW - a firm basis has now been laid from which to build a truly international union. Conference therefore commits UNITE to continue to deepen and develop the Workers Uniting initiative under the guidance of the Executive Council and Workers Uniting Steering committee, and to make available the necessary resources to progress this initiative.

Conference also notes that UNITE is active in an array of the European and Global Trade Union Federations, such as the metal, transport, food, services, public services, and construction workers organisations.

These federations are the focal point of many industrial initiatives to hold multinational companies to account, to develop global organising initiatives, to develop social dialogues, to lobby the European institutions, and to develop coordinated collective bargaining. As such they have a critical role to play.

Conference recognises that some of these organisations function better than others, but commits UNITE to:

- Continue to be affiliated to all the relevant organisations where it has membership;
- Continue to play its full role in making sure these important organisations have the right political priorities and function properly;
- Ensure, through the international committee, that we have a coherent and coordinated input across the organisations.

SE/1047 Branch

NO TO TRIDENT

This Conference calls on the Government to:

- 1) cancel plans for Trident replacement and spend the money saved on public services such as health, education and social services
- 2) abide by its undertakings under the NPT by scrapping the current Trident nuclear weapon system at an early date; and
- 3) support international initiatives for the global abolition of nuclear weapons

Trident is Britain's nuclear weapon system. It consists of four nuclear-armed submarines, one of which is on operational patrol, under the seas, at all times. Each Trident submarine can carry up to 48 nuclear warheads, each of which can be sent to a different target. Each warhead has an explosive power of up to 100 kilotons, the equivalent of 100,000 tons of conventional high explosive. This is 8

times the power of the atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945, killing an estimated 140,000 people.

The current Trident submarines will begin to reach the end of their service life in 2024.

The present Government is pressing ahead with building a replacement so that Britain can continue to be armed with nuclear weapons into the 2050s and beyond. This is in spite of the fact that opinion polls consistently show a majority against Britain's possession of nuclear weapons and senior military figures have said they are 'militarily useless' and should be scrapped.

Such a replacement would:

- 1) be extremely expensive, over £76 billion including the lifetime running costs of a new system;
- 2) mean that Britain was continuing to flout its undertaking under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to "negotiate in good faith" towards nuclear disarmament
- 3) help provoke proliferation, because if we say we need nuclear weapons for our security, other countries will come to the same conclusion
- 4) undermine current international initiatives towards global abolition of nuclear weapons, backed by Presidents Obama and Medvedev, and other world leaders.

Passenger RISC – London & Eastern