

COSATU Convenes Solidarity meeting with the people of Palestine at the height of Israeli genocide in Gaza

Following 16 days of ceaseless carnage and terror by Israel against the people of Gaza and the overall occupation of Palestine by Israel, funded by the imperial might of the US, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), working with other organisations of civil society, particularly alliance partners and Palestine solidarity organisations, is convening a Palestine Solidarity meeting.

Organisations, individual activists and the media are invited and welcome to attend this meeting.

The meeting is building on the massive efforts and activities organised to demonstrate practical solidarity with the people of Gaza and Palestine as a whole, co-ordinated by various organisations and activists involved in acts of support to the people of Palestine.

COSATU salutes the workers, activists, organisations and peoples of the world for standing firm on the side of the Palestinian people against the imperial bully tactics and savage terror by Israel. They spoke with their feet all over the world calling for an end to the occupation and to the genocide in Gaza, the opening of the Rafar crossing and an end to the collaboration by some states with Israel.

We also note the following developments:

- The UN resolution calling for a truce, which Israel has disregarded totally in favour of continued massacres of innocent people in the name of a war against terror
- The alerts about Israel using dangerous chemicals against the people of Gaza, as part of a desperate all-out war offensive of genocidal proportions. We have seen how dangerous such chemicals can be, not only in the immediate instance, but in the long term generally, as was the case when the US used them against the Vietnamese and Latin American peoples in its wars of imperial conquest
- The revelation that President Bush indeed received and conceded to a request for military support and weapons by Israel after years of denial
- The recent US Congress vote which affirmed US support for the continuing suffering of the Palestinian people through voting to stand by Israel at all times
- The terrifying humanitarian conditions in Gaza, deliberately enforced by Israeli army to collectively punish the Gaza people.

These indicators point to a protracted war, which requires consistent, active and fierce solidarity campaigns all over the world, with more co-ordination to maximise the impact.

The details of the meeting are:

Venue: COSATU House

Time: 10h00

Date: Wednesday, 14th January, 2009

Patrick Craven (National Spokesperson)
Congress of South African Trade Unions