

European campaign for sanctions against Israeli occupation ECCP (European Coordinating Committees and associations for Palestine) – CUP (Collectifs Urgence Palestine, Switzerland)

International conference For a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel: Enforce International Law

Geneva, May 26 to 28, 2006

Reinforce international solidarity in a difficult context

The fragmentation of the occupied territories and the closure of Palestinian cities and villages, the ongoing colonization in the West Bank after the withdrawal from inside the Gaza Strip, the progress of the separation and annexation Wall worsen the survival conditions of the Palestinian population every day. These unilateral Israeli policies consistently breach international law, violate the human, political and social rights of the Palestinian People and destroy the chances for a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel, whatever solution is sought.

Confronted with Israel's persistent refusal to take up negotiations based on the recognition of the fundamental and inalienable rights of all the populations concerned and faced with the lack of action or even the open complicity of governments with these denials of law and justice, a growing part of the international civil society has engaged different means to exert political, economic and judicial pressures on the Israeli government to end the occupation, respect human rights and to fulfill its obligations under international law.

The international conference in Geneva wants to bring together, give visibility, discuss, reinforce and develop the campaigns that are going on in different national, European and international levels.

The place chosen for the conference wants to underline the demand to see also Switzerland fulfill much more actively its engagements as depository State of the Geneva Conventions in face of the persistent refusal of Israel to apply international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Objectives of the conference

Starting from the assessment of the continuous and systematic character of the violation of international law, human rights law and the Geneva Conventions against the Palestinian People by the Israeli politics of occupation and colonization, **the conference seeks to reinforce and broaden campaigns aimed at building political and economic pressure on the state of Israel and on the international community of states to bring them to fulfill their obligations under international law.**

In particular, the conference intends to achieve:

- A meeting of a broad range of civil society initiatives developed in solidarity with the Palestinian people, including unions and faith-based organizations.

- legal guidance, legal arguments, mechanisms and tools such as the 2004 advisory opinion issued by the ICJ on the wall and the provisions of the Geneva Conventions concerning the protection of civilian population in wartime. This legal guidance is intended to be used by civil society in order to apply pressure on governments and Israel to fulfill their obligations under international law.
- Based on critical examination and discussion of a broad range of ongoing campaigns and initiatives, define and sort out the campaigns to develop on different local, national and international levels capable of exerting effective economic, political and legal pressure on European governments and Israel.
- a call subscribed by a large number of organizations demanding that political and economic pressures be applied on Israel to end the occupation and respect international law.
- visibility for a large public and in the local and international media. A music concert and cultural moments will be performed (literature, theatre) between the workshops and the conferences showing the cultural dimension of the resistance against the occupation. The conference will produce a publication resulting from its proceedings ("Occupied Palestine – act to have international law applied").

Participants

The conference relies on the active participation of:

- Palestinian, Israeli and international civil society organizations engaged in campaigns for exerting economic, political and legal pressure on Israel.
- Speakers activists and experts in various fields, legal, economic, other liberation struggles, etc.
- Organizations and individuals concerned at large (representatives of international organizations, large NGOs, faith based organizations, trade unions, etc.)

These organizations will be in charge of the animation of the workshops and of the participation at the plenary sessions, in order to ensure that the actions and decisions taken by the conference will be transmitted to the field work.

Organisation

Placed under the auspices of ECCP, the conference is co-organized by the Collectifs Urgence Palestine (CUP) Geneva, Vaud, Neuchâtel,

An organizing committee composed of persons nominated from CUP and ECCP is in charge of the preparing work and the progress of the international conference.

On their side, the CUPs have formed a coordinating committee and several working groups for the preparation of contents, financing, logistic organization, the cultural part, advertising and media work.