



Supporting the South African Initiative Supporting the People of Palestine



Workers Party members took to the streets of Belfast, Dublin and Cork again this weekend to demonstrate their opposition to Israel's continued bombardment of the Gaza Strip which has already claimed the lives of more than 22,000 Palestinians, the majority of whom are women and children.

The decision of the South African government to file a case at the International Court of Justice against Israel claiming that it ***“has breached and continues to breach its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide”***, is to be applauded, endorsed and should be supported at home and internationally.

Workers Party President Councillor Tynan, has sent a formal letter both to the Irish Foreign Affairs Minister, Micheál Martin, and to the UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly calling on both states to publicly support the proceedings initiated by South Africa under the Genocide Convention and to make formal submissions to the International Court of Justice including a demand an immediate ceasefire and Israel's withdrawal from Gaza. Cllr Tynan has also condemned the UK government for its inhumane support, political, financial and military for the genocidal actions of the Israeli state.

Ceasefire, reparations and reconstruction

The case filed also asks the Court to order Israel to cease hostilities in Gaza that could amount to breaches of the Convention, to make reparations, and to provide for reconstruction of what Israel has destroyed.

The genocidal acts of the Israeli state include the indiscriminate and mass killing of Palestinians, especially children, the destruction of their homes, their expulsion and displacement, the blockade on food, water and medical assistance, the destruction of essential medical and health care facilities, causing serious mental and bodily harm, and deliberately inflicting conditions meant to "bring about their physical destruction as a group."

In addition to the confirmed 22,000 Palestinian fatalities, thousands more are missing, presumed dead.

- ▶ more than 85% of the population of Gaza has been displaced,
- ▶ more than 60% of buildings damaged or destroyed;
- ▶ nearly two million people face winter without safety from bombing or the basics of human survival – shelter, adequate food and water

Now is the time to put pressure on the Israeli state

Workers Party President, Councillor Ted Tynan, stated: “Our Party recalls the struggle of the South African people against apartheid and the support of the people of Ireland for their just cause. Now is the time for ordinary people to put pressure on the Israeli state by supporting the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaign which calls for a boycott of Israeli and international companies that are complicit in violations of Palestinian rights”.

Councillor Tynan, has written to the Irish and British governments on behalf of the Workers Party calling on them to publicly support the proceedings initiated by South Africa under the Genocide Convention and to make submissions to the International Court of Justice to that effect.

Immediate demands

Further, that both governments publicly demand state their demand for

- ▶ an immediate ceasefire and Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza;
- ▶ to ensure humanitarian aid reaches all Palestinians in Gaza and that UN agencies, especially UNWRA, carry out their operations and services without restrictions;
- ▶ to halt any further displacement of Palestinians and to ensure the return of displaced Palestinians to their homes;
- ▶ to cease all forms of aid and assistance to Israel, including diplomatic, political economic and military sanctions to stop the genocide;
- ▶ to cease co-operation with Israel’s plans for the future of Gaza;
- ▶ to ensure reparations for the death and destruction caused by Israel’s murderous actions;

- ▶ to hold the perpetrators of Israeli war crimes and genocide, and their international supporters, accountable for their actions;
- ▶ to ensure reparations for the death and destruction caused by Israel's murderous actions;
- ▶ to hold the perpetrators of Israeli war crimes and genocide, and their international supporters, accountable for their actions;
- ▶ to recognise an independent State of Palestine and to dismantle Israel's colonial-apartheid regime.

6th January 2024