R11W A de-colonial approach to Palestine and Israel

Proposer:	DWARS
Agenda item:	7. Resolutions
Status:	Withdrawn

Motion text

The Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) and its member organisations are gravely concerned about the ongoing genocide in Palestine and the broader geopolitical instability in the region. We are particularly disturbed by the continued blatant inaction of the international community, the support for Israel by EU countries and the United States, and the immense scale of human suffering caused by this situation.

This resolution arises from the need for a clear, strong, anti-imperialist and decolonial stance on the issue, focusing on finding decolonial and anti-imperialist responses to the questions surrounding Israel and Palestine. While previous resolutions have been passed, the current situation demands a renewed and more focused position. We believe that the European Union (EU), its member states, and other Western countries have a historical responsibility to do everything in their power to stop the ongoing violence, while also acknowledging the role they have played in shaping the present circumstances.

A little bit of context

(Note that this is a incomplete context, as it is impossible to cover everything in detail. This context is a focus on what we thought was missing in previous resolutions and in the general discussion about Palestine/Israel)

To arrive at both immediate and long-term solutions, we must examine how the current situation came to be. For simplicity, this resolution begins in 1923, the year the British Mandate over Palestinian territory commenced. The mandate remained in place until 1948, the year in which the Israeli Declaration of Independence was issued.

Between 1923 and 1948, there was a significant movement of Jewish people into the region of Palestine – increasing from approximately 84,000 in 1922 to around 630,000 in 1947. A large part of this growth was due to immigration, with a smaller proportion attributed to natural increase. During the same period, the Muslim population grew from 589,000 to 1,181,000, mostly as a result of natural

increase.

In the years leading up to the independence of Israel, tensions escalated between the nationalist groups of Palestinians and Israelis. These tensions culminated in the 1947 United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine, which divided the region into three parts: an Arab state, a Jewish state, and the city of Jerusalem, which was to be placed under UN administration. This partition plan ultimately failed, and following the First Arab-Israeli War – commonly known as the Nakba – Palestine was divided into three parts: the Gaza Strip, under Egyptian control; the West Bank, under Jordanian control; and the State of Israel.

The present

Taking a significant leap forward – and thus skipping over the period since 1948, since it has already been discussed in previous resolutions – we arrive at the present situation. Multiple peace proposals have failed, many wars have been fought, and countless innocent people have been killed, deprived of basic necessities and displaced.

Since the end of 2023, Israel has escalated its violent actions against the Palestinian people. More than 50,000 Palestinians have been killed, and nearly every resident of the Gaza Strip has been displaced multiple times. There are severe shortages of food, water, energy, and medicine, as humanitarian aid is being blocked by Israel. In addition, at least 399 aid workers have been killed – some even while travelling in clearly marked UN vehicles.

Beyond the Gaza Strip, we have also witnessed increased violence in the West Bank and the invasion of Lebanon, from which Israel has mostly withdrawn following the signing of a ceasefire agreement.

The devastating consequences of the illegal occupation and genocide

According to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) dated 19 July 2024, Israel has illegally occupied Palestinian territory and failed in its duties under international law to provide safe conditions under annexation. We are gravely concerned by Israel’s ongoing illegal occupation of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, and its repeated violations of its obligations as an occupying power.

Among the failures to comply with international law are: indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks on densely populated civilian areas; the deliberate creation of a humanitarian crisis; the restriction of humanitarian goods necessary to alleviate that crisis; and the incitement of gender-based violence.

Following the Amnesty International report on Israel’s genocide (2024), it is

evident that Israel has carried out attacks on civilian-dense areas, even after claiming those areas were free of Hamas fighters. Amnesty International (p. 20) highlights that these attacks cannot be seen as anything other than deliberate targeting of civilians, thus constituting a clear violation of international law.

In addition, Israel has actively contributed to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza by restricting electricity and diesel imports, displacing civilians, destroying homes and refugee camps, and damaging sewage systems and agricultural infrastructure essential for food production (Amnesty International, 2024). Electricity imports have been virtually halted, making the population dependent on diesel – imports of which were reduced to just 14% of pre-October 2023 levels (p. 183). These restrictions have severely impaired critical services such as hospital operations, water purification, and waste management (p. 184).

Humanitarian aid has been delayed, obstructed, or outright denied by Israeli authorities. Aid convoys have been harassed, and delivery of aid to the north of Wadi Gaza has been blocked – even after Israeli claims of Hamas withdrawal from the area (p. 30). Forced displacement of the population has also led to extreme overcrowding in the evacuation zones designated by Israel, further worsening the humanitarian crisis (p. 111).

Israel has incited gender-based violence, as noted in reports from the UN and the Protection Cluster. Furthermore, pinkwashing – the instrumental use of LGBTQ+ rights to justify or distract from oppressive actions – must also be called out as a separate but related issue that manipulates human rights discourse.

In line with Article II(c) of the Genocide Convention, the creation of conditions intended to bring about the physical destruction of a group constitutes genocide. Where direct intent is not yet clear, the ICTY has ruled that the “objective probability of these conditions leading to the physical destruction of the group” is a valid basis for judgment (Prosecutor v. Karadžić, Case IT-95-5/18-T, 2016, para. 548). However, Amnesty considers their report: ‘*You feel like a Subhuman*’ enough evidence for the Israeli intent to destroy Palestinians, resolving in them using the term genocide (Amnesty International, 2024, p.278). Given the destruction of critical infrastructure, denial or obstruction of humanitarian aid, continued attacks on civilian areas, and the repetition of such acts in zones declared free of combatants, one must conclude that the actions carried out by Israel constitute genocide. We must recognise and name it as such.

The Israeli occupation and violent invasion and its devastating consequences – including the ongoing genocide, starvation of the Palestinian people, bombing of cities, hospitals, refugee camps, and schools, the taking of civilian hostages by both Israeli and Palestinian forces, obstruction of medical care, and the

blockade of humanitarian aid, water, and electricity – must end immediately.

The suffering of all people must end now. We recognise the urgent need for both immediate and long-term solutions to achieve a just and lasting peace – through a secular, unified one-state solution. All forms of violence and hostilities must cease. A ceasefire must be reinstated immediately, and negotiations with UN representatives must resume in earnest. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) must be reinstated and given immediate access to the people who need it most. Humanitarian workers must be guaranteed protection and immunity. Any external interference and support that will aid in continuing the ongoing genocide – including the provision of weapons, financial aid, or intelligence – must stop at once.

The UN must acknowledge the significant power asymmetry between a colonising state and a colonised people. The ongoing genocide and occupation cannot be resolved by merely ending overt acts of violence – whether bombings, starvation, or the obstruction of aid. A meaningful resolution must address the structural imbalance between Israel, the colonising power, and Palestine, the colonised population.

Israel possesses one of the most advanced and well-funded militaries in the world, bolstered by substantial military, financial, and strategic support from the United States, including defence systems like the Iron Dome. While violence from all sides is abhorrent, we must recognise the disproportionate capabilities: one side possesses cutting-edge defence technology; the other often shelters in rubble and tents.

Beyond military power, Israel maintains control over the borders, airspace, and territorial access of both Gaza and the West Bank. It determines which goods and people may enter or leave Palestinian territories – including life-saving humanitarian aid. Politically, Israel is a fully recognised sovereign state under international law, with diplomatic ties across the globe. By contrast, Palestine holds limited international recognition and is classified as a non-member observer state at the United Nations. Its governance is fragmented between the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza, leaving it without full sovereignty over its borders or economy, and frequently excluded from meaningful negotiations.

A lasting and just resolution can only be achieved through a solution that grants Palestinians real agency over their land and people, allowing them to live in peace, freedom, and equality. This requires negotiations between Palestinian authorities and Israel, with the goal of establishing a single, unified secular state. A one-state solution offers a just alternative that is not rooted in colonial policies introduced during the Oslo Accords or UN Resolution 181. The two-state solution is a by-product of Western European colonial history and should no longer be used as a tool to uphold an apartheid

regime or to justify the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

In practice, Palestinians already live under a one-state reality – one in which Israel exerts control over Palestinian territory and governance, effectively treating it as its own and creating an apartheid regime. During the current genocide, Israeli political and military leaders have issued repeated statements calling for the erasure and obliteration of Gaza (Amnesty International, 2024, p203).A one-state solution that guarantees equal rights and protections for both Palestinians and Israelis would provide a genuine pathway to justice and self-determination – giving both peoples ownership over their shared future, which they so deeply deserve. We recognise that this is a long-term solution. In the meantime, we must implement short-term measures that move us closer to that goal. As part of these interim steps, UNRWA must be reinstated with full access and protection, and the immediate end to the blockade, displacement, and indiscriminate attacks that characterise this ongoing genocide.

Final remarks

The Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) stands firmly against the ongoing genocide in Palestine and the broader structures of settler colonialism and imperialism that have enabled it. As young greens and anti-colonial activists, we reject any narrative that frames this genocide as a symmetrical conflict. It is not. It is the brutal oppression of a colonised people by a militarised and internationally backed occupying power.

The actions of the Israeli government do not reflect the views of all Israeli citizens, the Jewish faith, or the global Jewish community. Claiming otherwise is antisemitic. Similarly, any attempt to downplay the horrors of the Holocaust constitutes Holocaust denial, which is inherently antisemitic.

Islamist terrorist organisations – whose primary victims are often people in Muslim-majority countries – do not represent Islam or the global Muslim community. Equating Islam as a whole with these groups is Islamophobic and is unequivocally condemned by FYEG.

FYEG is committed to combating antisemitism, Islamophobia, and all forms of racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination. We strongly denounce all attacks on Jewish and Muslim communities and institutions, recognising that such acts not only harm those directly targeted but also endanger our shared values, democracy, and pluralistic societies.

While international and European law may define what is legal, legality does not always equate to morality. History offers numerous examples of actions that were once considered legal under prevailing legal frameworks – such as slavery and apartheid – but which are now universally recognised as deeply unethical and unjust. Laws and regulations are a reflection of their time, shaped by power

dynamics, political interests, and historical context, and as such, they are often imbued with bias. It is therefore crucial for FYEG to critically assess legal norms through the lens of our core beliefs and universal values of justice, dignity, and human rights – not merely based on whether they have a legal foundation.

This resolution is not only a response to the unbearable present – the mass killings, the destruction of Gaza, the starvation of an entire population – but also a call to reframe how we, as a political community, understand and act upon the root causes of violence. We reject superficial solutions, including the defunct two-state model, which merely reproduces the structures of apartheid and dispossession under the guise of peace. Instead, we advocate for a secular, unified one-state solution that ensures full equality, justice, and self-determination for all people between the river and the sea.

The international community – and in particular the EU and its member states – must move beyond symbolic gestures and take concrete action to end the genocide and hold Israel accountable for its crimes. This includes ending all military, financial, and diplomatic support to Israel, supporting international investigations and sanctions, and immediately reinstating UNRWA with full access and protection.

We reaffirm our commitment to anti-imperialist, de-colonial, and feminist values in international politics. We express our solidarity all who have suffered in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and other sovereign nations affected by the Israeli state – in support of their struggles for liberation, return, and justice. Ending the genocide is not enough. The structures that enabled it must be dismantled. We demand an end to occupation, apartheid, and impunity. Only then can we begin to imagine a just and lasting peace.

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free. From the sea to the river Palestine will live forever.

The Federation of Young European Greens calls upon the international community to:

- Recognize the current situation in Palestine as an ongoing genocide;
- Stop supporting Israel in every way. Including, but not limited to (dual-use)weapon embargoes, financial, material, and political support;
- Speak up in favour of Palestine and their right to self-determination;
- Speak out, in all ways possible, for a de-colonial, and fair lasting peace plan;

- Ban Israel and Israeli teams from participating in any sporting and cultural events, including the Eurovision Song Contest and the UEFA cup;
- Protect and support pro-Palestinian protestors;
- Ban any civic organisation or companies that supports the Israeli government and/or settlers;
- No longer use the IHRA definition, as it has been frequently misused to grand the government and state of Israel immunity by equating any form of critique to the Israeli government and state to antisemitism, but for example use the Jerusalem Declaration of Antisemitism (JDA) definition;
- Comply with the ICC arrest warrant of November 2024 for prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant; for (alleged) responsibility for the crime of starvation as a method of warfare and crimes against humanity;
- Put pressure on Israel to lift the ban on UNRWA and facilitate UNRWA in their work;
- Actively protect and work towards immunity for health-care workers and journalists;
- Force and actively work towards the protection of all children forced into this genocide;
- Protect and actively work towards the safety of women and other marginalised groups in Palestine;
- Recognize and contextualise Palestinian (resistance) organisations, without merely reducing them to terrorist organisations and avoiding the weaponisation of labels like ‘terrorists’:

Furthermore, we call upon the European Green Party and other political parties to:

- Recognize the current situation in Palestine as an ongoing genocide;
- Speak out loudly against the committed war crimes, blockades of humanitarian aid and communication to Palestine;
- Advocate for a weapon embargo to Israel;
- Speak out in favour of, and implementing boycotts of Israeli products, in line with, but not limited to, the BDS-movement;

- Implement regulations, directives, and decisions that embody the points above, centring the right of Palestinian self-determination and a de-colonial, and fair lasting peace plan;

- Publicly identify underperforming or non-compliant actors to create reputational and public pressure:

Calls on the European Union to: (including member states)

- Recognize Palestine as a sovereign state;

- Recognize the current situation in Palestine as an ongoing genocide;

- Adopt regulations, directives, and decisions that embody the points above, centring the right of Palestinian self-determination, and a de-colonial, and fair lasting peace plan;

- Start infringement procedures against any Member States who fails to comply with European Law;

- Set up systems of support and resources for the delivery of humanitarian aid by organisations and training in (mental) healthcare for deliveries of this aid;

- Support civic organisations that are pro-Palestine;

- No longer use the IHRA definition, as it has been frequently misused to grand the government and state of Israel immunity by equating any form of critique to the Israeli government and state to antisemitism, but for example use the Jerusalem Declaration of Antisemitism (JDA) definition;

- Financially and materially facilitate Palestine and the Palestinian people in reconstructing their lives and, country in the form of reparations:

Calls upon Israel:

- Immediately stop all attacks on Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria. This includes the attacking of civilian populations or areas, including refugee camps;

- Immediately end the illegal occupation of areas in Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan, as well as the Syrian Golan Heights;

- Reject the colonial mindset that claims ownership over Palestine;

- Immediately lift all blockades restricting access to food, water, medicine, electricity, and any other humanitarian aid and fulfil their duty by international law to actively allocate humanitarian aid effectively;

- Immediately stop the use of gender-based violence, including rape, as a war tactic;

- Reverse the ban on UNRWA and facilitate them in their work;

- Facilitate International Criminal of Justice, International Criminal Court-, and other independent investigators to conduct their investigations;

- Release all illegally detained Palestinians unconditionally that are being hold without a (proper) process;

- Invest in, but not take control of, the rebuilding of Palestinian homes, infrastructure, and (health-care) facilities;

- End the use of LGBTQIA+ rights as a justification for the genocide of the Palestinians, also called pinkwashing;

- Engage in mine or explosive ordinance clearing;

- Implement and uphold an immediate ceasefire;

- Collaborate together with the Palestinian people and the United Nations to work on a sustainable plan towards a lasting peace in the form of one unified secular state:

Finally, we call upon the Palestinian leadership and resistance movements to:

- Stop attacking civilian populations or areas, including but not limited to refugee camps;

- Release all hostages unconditionally, in a way that protects human dignity;

- Immediately stop the use of gender-based violence, including rape, as a war tactic;

- Not take humanitarian aid meant for civilians to support activities of war;

- Implement and uphold an immediate ceasefire;

- Collaborate together with Israelis and the United Nations to work on a sustainable plan towards a lasting peace in the form of one unified secular state:

Supporters

Teun Boswinkel (Jong Groen)