



RESCOP STATEMENT

NOVEMBER 2023

The Solidarity Network Against the Occupation of Palestine (RESCOP) is the coordinator of solidarity organizations with the Palestinian people of the Spanish State. It is made up of almost fifty associations, collectives and groups and participates in the global BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) campaign for the rights of the Palestinian people. RESCOP wishes to present in this urgent statement its position in the framework of the new episode of genocide perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people that began in October 2023.



Since 1948, the Nakba ("catastrophe") is a continuous reality for the Palestinian people: 75 years of settler colonialism, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, and, since 1967, also Zionist-Israeli military occupation in Palestine. What we are experiencing these weeks is a situation of extreme gravity that will go down in history as one of the greatest embarrassments of humanity in the 21st century.

It is crucial to stress that the Israeli colonial regime's relationship with the Palestinian people is based on a completely asymmetrical exercise of power and a systematic and indiscriminate violation of rights by the occupying force. Israeli apartheid was created and is maintained through crimes against humanity. The unsustainable situation that the population is suffering in the Gaza Strip and in the rest of the Palestinian territories has even led to the resignation of Craig Mokhiber, former director of the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who accuses a large part of the European powers of being "totally complicit in a textbook genocide". The Spanish State is also participating in this extermination by supporting the illegitimate and illegal actions of the Israeli colonial regime, in a framework of dehumanization and racism, once again, against the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian people have been resisting, in turn, a clear and recognized apartheid for decades, denounced on numerous occasions by NGOs of global importance such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. On the other hand, organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the World Health Organization or UNICEF denounce an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.



The European Union demonstrates its hypocrisy and double standards by showing its solidarity with other peoples, while combining it with its silence and complicity regarding the hell that the Palestinian people are suffering. In less than a month, the Israeli army has killed around 10,000 people, of whom almost 5,000 are children. In addition to 2,000 Palestinians that are still missing. We consider it scandalous that Israel continues to enjoy international impunity, that its crimes are not denounced and that no sanctions are imposed. Israel is applying collective punishment in the Gaza Strip, resulting, once again, in gross, massive and systematic violations of international law.

The Israeli occupying and apartheid power, with the backing of the European powers, justifies the air and ground attacks in the Gaza Strip by appealing to the "legitimate right of defense".

However, in the colonial context in which this situation is framed and as set out in the Geneva Convention and numerous resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly - 3070 (1973), 3246 (1974), 35/35 (1980), 37/43 (1982) and 45/130(1990)- there is no right of an occupying power to defend itself, but there is the right of an occupied people to resist in all possible ways. Moreover, it is the duty of the occupying power to protect the occupied population, in this case Palestinians. Thus, we consider it shameful that European political leaders endorse the Israeli discourse on its "right of self-defense", since this is not only not supported by international law, but simply does not exist.



Support for the Palestinian cause is unstoppable and continues to increase in Spain and around the world with an exceptional citizen mobilization that confronts the inaction of the political class, especially in the states of the Euro-Atlantic axis.

The Spanish State is complicit in this genocide, as it provides diplomatic recognition, provides political and military support and maintains Israel as a strategic partner within the framework of the European Union. Meanwhile, we are seeing as States of the global south, senior officials of international organizations, trade unions, NGOs and social movements from all over the world are taking a stand and acting accordingly in the face of the Israeli apartheid regime, demanding that Israel comply with International Law and decree the ceasefire and the cessation of all indiscriminate violence towards the Palestinian people.




DEMANDS

Within the framework of the current situation and taking into consideration all the above background, from the Solidarity Network Against the Occupation of Palestine, we demand that the Spanish government urgently take action in the following lines:

- **Permanent end to arms sales, military and security collaboration with Israel.** The state legal framework has two rules that endorse the position for the arms embargo: Law 53/2007, of December 28, on the control of foreign trade in defense and dual-use material and the International Treaty on Arms Trade (ratified by Spain on March 17, 2014). The two texts prohibit the sale of weapons to countries in conflict. There are precedents in this regard: in the international framework, the embargo on the apartheid regime of South Africa actively contributed to its dismantling. In the case of Israel, the Spanish state suspended arms sales to the Zionist state with the Popular Party in August 2014.
- **Breakdown of academic, commercial, cultural, diplomatic, institutional and political relations with the Israeli regime at the national level.** In addition, we demand that Spain promote in the European Union the cancellation of the Association Agreement of the European Union with Israel, which places the Zionist state as a preferred partner.



- **As part of the global BDS campaign, adoption of economic sanctions on companies that benefit from Israeli apartheid policies. Likewise, we urge the Spanish government to promote economic sanctions against Israel in the relevant international organizations, specifically in the United Nations and the European Union. At the national level, we demand the government to sanction Spanish companies that profit from the violation of Palestinian rights such as CAF, COMSA and eDreams. In 2002, in the context of the second Intifada, even the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Party, when Spain held the rotating presidency of the European Council, went so far as to affirm that "sanctions against Israel are a possible scenario", and that the European Union was discussing this possibility. In addition, the European Parliament approved a non-binding resolution calling for economic sanctions against the State of Israel, an arms embargo on both sides, and for the European Union to "immediately suspend" its trade and cooperation agreement with Israel.**
- **Recovery of universal jurisdiction with the aim of breaking with 75 years of impunity for Israeli crimes against humanity and initiating the appropriate procedures to bring Netanyahu and the military and political authorities of apartheid and Israeli genocide responsible for these crimes to the International Criminal Court.**

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- **End of the Israeli occupation, end of apartheid and the right of return of the Palestinian refugees.** We demand that the Spanish government put pressure on the Israeli government both bilaterally and within the framework of the relevant multilateral organizations, specifically the United Nations, until the Israeli state complies with international law and especially United Nations General Assembly resolutions 194 that recognizes the right of return of the Palestinian refugees, UN Security Council resolution 242 that demands the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories in 1967 and the various pronouncements of the International Court of Justice, such as the one that in 2004 defended the dismantling of the Apartheid Wall.
 - **Repeal of the "Organic Law"- Spain's citizens security law, and end of institutional racism.** In a context of European regression in the right to freedom of expression, demonstrations of solidarity with the Palestinian people demanding that governments comply with Human Rights are being criminalized and penalized by authoritarian laws such as the Gag Law. We demand its repeal to guarantee the democratic exercise of freedom of expression. RESCOP, as part of the global BDS movement, opposes all types of racism, including Zionist racism, Judeophobic racism and Islamophobic racism, in the latter case a phenomenon that continues to grow in Europe at the hands of the extreme right. Along these lines, we call for an end to European and Spanish institutional racism and join the demands of the #RegularisationNow.



ACTIONS

Internationalist support for the Palestinian cause is unstoppable and growing stronger. The Solidarity Network Against the Occupation of Palestine has been working since the first decade of the 21st century, for the defense of the Palestinian people and the end of settlement colonization, apartheid, ethnic cleansing and Israeli occupation. In RESCOP we maintain the various avenues of action in the short, medium and long term in internationalist support for the Palestinian cause and thus we will continue to be mobilized and coordinated until the fulfillment of the above mentioned demands by our government. Within this work we highlight the BDS, Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign (a basic tool of international pressure born from the largest coalition of Palestinian civil society inspired by a similar campaign that contributed enormously to overthrowing South African apartheid).

We announce the launch of the campaign aimed at the Spanish government to end the military trade with Israel, with the support of all social, political and cultural forces that want to support it. As Palestinian activist Mohammed El Kurd told the United Nations General Assembly, "The problem is not ignorance, it is inaction. Impunity and war crimes will not stop with statements of condemnation and raised eyebrows. Palestinians have repeatedly articulated what kinds of transformative political measures should be adopted, such as civil society boycotts and state-level sanctions. The problem is not ignorance, but inaction."

END OF STATEMENT

Read the translation of the statement in Spanish, Arabic and Catalan on our social networks.

