



Update on Palestine

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OUR CONTINUING SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE

Sinn Féin has a long and proud record of standing in solidarity with the people of Palestine.

Our representatives advocate for the Palestinian people in every fora we are elected to and highlight their case to an international audience.

As a Member of the European Parliament, I bring the concerns of the people of Palestine to the attention of the EU on a regular basis.

Recently I had the privilege to meet with a genuine hero of the Palestinian struggle, Leila Khaled, in the European Parliament in Brussels.

She was in Brussels for an event recognising the role of women in Palestine over decades. There is no doubt that women have been, and continue to be the backbone of the struggle for statehood in Palestine and it was important that their contribution was recognised in such a way.

For decades, the women of Palestine have stood steadfast, dignified and defiant in the face of Israeli aggression. It is up to us to do all we can to stand with them.

I was also honoured to introduce the Palestinian Ambassador to Ireland, Ahmad Abdelrazek, when he addressed our historic Ard Fheis in Dublin in November.

At that Ard Fheis delegates voted to send our continuing solidarity to the people of Palestine and to condemn the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. We also condemned the forced removal of Palestinian citizens from their land in contravention of international law and demanded that the international community implement UN resolutions on illegal settlements.

We have repeatedly called on the international community to act in support of successive UN resolutions, and the Geneva Convention and oppose the illegal settlement expansion.

There is an onus on the EU in particular and as part of my role as MEP, I have continually raised the case of the Palestinian people in the European Parliament and urged EU leaders to show leadership in upholding international law.

In Europe I have also lobbied to have the EU - Israel Association Agreement to be suspended in light of the continuing Israeli aggression.

The EU cannot continue to trade with the Israel while it continues to flout international law, including human rights legislation. It must act to suspend the agreement immediately in order to send a clear message of solidarity to the Palestinian people.



Martina Anderson MEP with Palestinian icon Leila Khaled in the European Parliament in Brussels.

I have also used my role in the European Parliament to continue to support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign. This year Sinn Féin has brought motions to local councils across Ireland, including Derry and Belfast in support of the BDS campaign and Sinn Féin Republican Youth have regularly held demonstrations outside the premises of major retailers across Ireland urging shoppers to boycott Israeli goods and realise that in doing so they can increase pressure on the Israeli government.

People should realise that they can make a difference, however small and should acknowledge that there is power in their purse and their wallet is a weapon.

Boycott Israeli goods!

Unilateral move on Jerusalem by Trump reckless in extreme

I, like many others across the world was angered and frustrated by the announcement by US President Donald Trump that he intends to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

The status of Jerusalem is a hugely sensitive issue as East Jerusalem is the future capital of the state of Palestine.

This move could have serious consequences for the peace process in the region, which has already been undermined by the actions of the Israelis through continued expansion of illegal settlements.

The move has also sparked anger throughout the international community who recognise the importance of the status of Jerusalem. The fact that no country currently has its embassy in Jerusalem is an indication of this and the plans by the US to move its embassy there is reckless in the extreme.

My Sinn Féin colleagues have taken to the streets across

Ireland in protest against the unilateral move by Donald Trump. In my home city of Derry, Sinn Féin activists gathered in the city centre to show their continuing solidarity with the people of Palestine in the face of this announcement.

Sinn Féin MPs also met with activists from the Palestine Return Centre in London to discuss their concerns about the move.

I have also made it clear to my fellow MEPs in the European Parliament that Donald Trump's flagrant breach on international law by naming Jerusalem as the capital of Israel flies in the face of any prospect of securing the human rights of Palestinians.

Sinn Féin is continuing to engage with Palestinian civic society and solidarity activists to offer our ongoing support for the Palestinian people as they face military occupation, illegal Israeli settlement and human rights abuses.

Time for Irish government to officially recognise state of Palestine

In light of the moves announced in the US, it is long past the time that the Irish government acted on its pledge to recognise the state of Palestine.

More than three years ago the Dáil unanimously backed a call for the Irish government to give official recognition to Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

To date the Irish government have failed to give effect to that motion. Instead we have been faced with three years of inaction, despite it being included as a Programme for Government pledge.

In the European Parliament I have repeatedly called on the Irish government to formally recognise the state of Palestine.

In the Dáil, my party colleagues have also challenged the Irish government to deliver on its promise. Sinn Féin has called on the new Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to act now in solidarity with the people of Palestine and recognise the state of Palestine.

This would send an important message to the international community and assure the people of Palestine of our ongoing solidarity.



Martina Anderson MEP meeting the Palestinian ambassador in Strasbourg to voice concerns about the plans announced by Donald Trump to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.