

Israel-Palestine

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Resolution

The 25th Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 1-6 July 1992 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia:

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,

Concerned:

- a) That lack of progress in ongoing negotiation on any substantive issues in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict is leading to frustration, hopelessness and significantly increased violence from all parties. Examples of this are increased repression of Palestinians, including the enactment of a new policy that allows opening fire on Palestinians without warning and criminal responsibility (known as the law of punitive measures); the bombing by Israel of refugee camps in Lebanon; the assassination of Sheik Abbas Musawai and his family; Israel's arrest of two members of the Palestinian negotiating team and an increase in armed confrontation and attacks on soldiers and civilians in Israel.
- b) That Israel continues to build and enlarge settlements in the Occupied Territories (West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza) at an alarming rate. WILPF condemns the Israeli settlement policy because it violates international conventions and is an obstacle to the peace process.
- c) In the 23 months since Iraq invaded Kuwait, the arms trade in the Middle East has grown enormously. The US alone, in that period, has sold \$19 billion worth in arms, \$6 billion since Bush's 'Middle East arms control initiative'. Most have gone to Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- d) Iraqis, Palestinians, and other Middle Eastern people are still suffering the effects of the Gulf War and coping with hunger, economic crisis and social dislocation.

Agrees:

- a) To urge governments to support negotiations on substantive issues, including the right to self-determination, establishing an independent Palestinian State on the pre-1967 borders, and banning all weapons of mass destruction, as the current Arab-Israeli peace talks.
- b) To declare our commitment to peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 ('Territories for Peace') – to states, Israel and Palestine, co-existing peacefully within secure and recognised boundaries.
- c) To reiterate its support of Israelis and Palestinians who are continuously working for a peaceful and just resolution of the conflict by:
- d) Calling especially for the support of WILPF's own Middle East sections, through solidarity actions and material assistance, to encourage the two sections to keep all

WILPF members informed of their work and the support they require. (See background paper below).

- e) Co-operating with Israeli peace movements to stop settlements in the Occupied Territories. The US section, in particular, to work for a freeze on Israeli settlements using foreign aid as a lever for change in policy, including demanding compliance with U.S. law which forbids aid to countries that violate human rights conventions;
- f) Supporting the international campaign of the women's peace movement to reunify Palestinian families in accordance with Article 74 of Protocol 1 of the 1997 addendum to the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states: "The Parties to the conflict shall facilitate in every way possible the reunion of families dispersed as a result of armed conflicts."
- g) Supporting cooperative efforts such as the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI), where Palestinians and Israelis seek innovative and practical solutions and create models on issues such as economic development, water resources and energy towards the infrastructure of an independent Palestinian State.
- h) Supporting activities of both Palestinian and Israeli human rights centres.
- i) To press for the involvement of the United Nations at all appropriate levels to encourage and strengthen the negotiation.
- j) In view of the increased occurrence of violations of human rights against the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories (see WILPF document presented to the UN Commission on Human Rights, Jan. 30, 1992), to call for United Nations protection for the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, for example, through the creation of multinational United Nations peace teams to be stationed in the Occupied Territories; and to call for the convening of a conference on the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to examine reported Israeli violations in the Occupied Territories and to recommend measures to bring about a change in Israeli policy. Such measures might eventually include economic pressures, sanctions and the withholding of foreign aid.
- k) To urge governments to press Israel to sign the Geneva Conventions and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).
- l) To urge the US and other nations to permit Palestinians fleeing from Kuwait and Jews leaving the former Soviet Union to immigrate to the US, Europe and other countries, and to urge Israel to permit those Palestinians who wish to return to the Occupied Territories.
- m) To urge that our governments investigate and take appropriate measures against reported human rights violations against people in Syria, Iraq, Kuwait and other Middle Eastern nations. The human rights of all people in these countries should be safeguarded regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion, race or colour. Measures would include economic pressure and strong diplomatic messages to the respective governments.
- n) To call for a total embargo on the sale and supply of armaments and spare parts to the whole of the Middle East, so that nations of the region can devote their resources to peaceful and constructive cooperation for the welfare and security of all people of the region. Security for the Middle East demands ending all arms build-ups, the renunciation of all military intervention, and acceleration of the disarmament process in highly armed countries.