

October 19, 2024 - Popular demonstration in solidarity with Palestine

For the past year, the Israeli army has continued its military operations in the occupied and besieged Gaza Strip. In January 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered the Israeli government to do everything in its power to prevent the ongoing genocide against the Palestinians, but nothing has stopped it. The massacres continue, one after another, and are spreading to the West Bank. For 76 years, Israeli governments have inflicted the Nakba against the Palestinian people in order to appropriate their land and resources. Relentlessly for a year, we have witnessed the elimination of the population, the destruction of civilian infrastructure, imprisonment and torture, and the blockade of all products, leading to organised famine – all live. These crimes go against international humanitarian law.

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In July 2024, the ICJ issued an advisory opinion on the situation in Palestine, confirming the illegality of the Israeli occupation, the systemic discrimination suffered by the population, and the obstruction of their right to self-determination and to a Palestinian state. The Court thus demands that Israel withdraw from Palestinian territory and put an end to its illegal practices. It also reminds States and the United Nations that they have a responsibility given that respect for the right to self-determination is binding on all. States have an obligation to stop all arms trading, and all economic activity encouraging the illicit practices of the Israeli government.

So what is Switzerland, depositary country of the Geneva Conventions, member of the UN and of the Security Council, doing? Our Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis came to Geneva to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, even though they are flouted every day. The government has renounced its moral and legal obligations. Worse, its foreign policy supports Israel's illegal practices and continuing the genocide, in particular by reducing Swiss aid to UNRWA and other organisations, and by failing to recognise the State of Palestine. Going even further, the National Council, which represents the Swiss people, voted on September 9, 2024 to suspend contributions to UNRWA.

The Swiss government also does not prevent companies from continuing to invest in illicit Israeli practices, such as UBS, which has acquired new shares in Elbit Systems, Israel's largest arms manufacturer. UBS, Pictet Bank and BCV invest in weapons used in the ongoing genocide and profiting from it!

Faced with this moral and legal bankruptcy, we call on the international solidarity movement and all people of conscience to intensify the pressure of BDS campaigns and to isolate Israeli apartheid and its complicit institutions. A military embargo and economic boycott must be implemented immediately!

Let us continue to mobilise against this genocide, “Never again it is now!”

Let us channel our grief and rage and stand up for liberation!

Saturday, October 19

Meeting at 2:30 pm Pl. de Neuve.

Organisation: BDS Geneva

With the support of : Apartheid Free Zone, BDS Neuchâtel, BDS Lausanne, Lausanne-Palestine, Coordination Etudiante pour la Palestine UNIGE, Collectif Sud Global, Collectif Urgence Palestine-Vaud, Urgence Palestine Nyon La Côte, Collectif Urgence Palestine-Genève, Collectif Action Palestine Neuchâtel, MARAD, Collectif juif décolonial, Association Achillée, Espace d'art indépendant “ one gee in fog ”, Les Foulards Violets, citoyennetés libres pour là paix en Colombie, Solidarité Tattes, Centrale Sanitaire Suisse Romande, SolidaritéS, Jeunesse Solidaire, Union Populaire, Action Antifasciste Genève, Collectif genevois de la Grève Féministe, Outrage Collectif, Association de solidarité Nicaragua-El Salvador, Centre Culturel Autogéré l'Usine, Espace Autogéré de Lausanne, GSsA Genève, Collectif Faites des Vagues, Collectif des Foulards Violets, Syndicat des Services Publics Genève, Association Cinélux, Cinéma Spoutnik, Collectif des Internationalistes Tunisien.ne.s en Suisse, Decolonial Action Network, Tournoi Antiraciste Genève, Centre de luttes autonomes Le Silure, Pôle Sud, Center socio-culturel de l'Union Syndicale Vaudoise, Espace d'art contemporain Forde.

- We call for only the Palestinian flag to be displayed.

- No form of discrimination and racism will be tolerated, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.