

Israel/Palestine

[Israel Palestine \(9 October 2023\)](#)

The ITUC is gravely concerned at the escalating violence between Israel and Hamas, following the attacks launched against Israel from Gaza, which have drawn strong condemnation from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

The ITUC utterly condemns attacks on civilians, with hundreds believed to have been killed already, many more injured and others kidnapped.

This latest outbreak of violence risks spiralling into all-out war, with devastating consequences for Israelis and Palestinians and for the region as well. Extremist rhetoric will only worsen the conflict, costing yet more lives and leaving a peaceful and just solution further out of reach.

The ITUC calls for all sides, and the international community, to act for peace. This decades-long conflict can only be brought to a just outcome through dialogue, respect for international law, in particular human rights law, and the full implementation of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions to bring about a two-state solution.

[Middle East \(20 October 2023\)](#)

The ITUC calls for an immediate ceasefire by all parties and the return of all hostages and people held in Gaza and Israel without legitimate legal basis to their homes.

We support the UN Secretary General's position for a major humanitarian effort for the people of Gaza and others displaced since October 7. The Palestinian people, who have been living in very difficult conditions for years, should not have to pay for the current escalation. Just as the Israeli people should not live in fear of attacks coming from Gaza or elsewhere.

We reiterate our call on all governments to strive for peace and towards the realisation of a two-state solution with an end to the occupation and two sovereign, democratic, countries living in conditions of lasting peace, based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The ITUC also refers to its statement of 9 October.

The human rights of every person must be respected. The rule of law must prevail over the rule of war.

[Palestine: Urgent humanitarian need to fund UN Agency UNRWA \(8 February 2024\)](#)

With the severe and growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the ITUC is calling on 16 governments to reverse their decision to suspend funding to the key UN aid agency for Palestine, UNRWA.

The 16 governments took the decision following allegations made against a small number of the 13,000 UNRWA staff in Gaza.

Nine employees were dismissed by UNRWA and the highest investigative body in the UN system, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), is investigating. UNRWA has also appointed an independent Review Group to “assess whether the Agency is doing everything within its power to ensure neutrality and to respond to allegations of serious breaches when they are made”. The panel is due to deliver its report in April.

ITUC General Secretary Luc Triangle said: “The people of Gaza are experiencing a grave humanitarian crisis, and UNRWA is the main humanitarian agency for them. Depriving UNRWA of funding deprives Palestinians of vital support at a time when they are most in need.

“The UN system reacted quickly and is investigating all allegations brought to it. The outcome of those investigations should not be pre-empted by stopping funding. Besides restoration of suspended funding, other countries should also step up to support the chronically under-funded UN agency. Gulf States in particular should allocate more of their vast wealth to match their rhetorical support for Palestinians with action.

“As a UN agency, UNRWA’s mandate is not limited to Gaza. Palestinians in the West Bank and refugees in neighbouring countries also depend on it for support. Restoring and increasing funding will not only relieve the humanitarian tragedy, it would also contribute to easing tensions as the essential work to bring about a durable cease-fire continues. With that, the international community must also set the conditions for rapid progress towards a just two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine existing side-by-side in conditions of genuine democracy.”