



# Sinn Féin

## INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN



July 2020  
PALESTINE SPECIAL

# RECOGNISE THE STATE OF PALESTINE!

## STOP THE ANNEXATION

In a passionate address to the Irish parliament Sinn Féin President, Mary Lou McDonald, said:

“Ireland has secured a seat on the UN Security Council. This is a mighty achievement and I acknowledge the hard work of all who contributed to it. It is also important to grasp this opportunity to advance the cause of human rights and justice internationally. It is time now for the Irish Government to stand up for the beleaguered people of Palestine. Thousands of Palestinians have died as a result of the illegal Israeli occupation. Gaza is an open-air prison with an economic blockade. Apartheid walls scar the landscape, and international law is openly and brazenly flouted by the Israeli occupiers whose violent settlement of Palestinian lands has displaced countless thousands of Palestinian people, rendering them refugees. The Palestinian people have been badly let down by the international community. There is strong support among the Irish people for the rights of Palestine, but this has not been matched by those in power.

“In 2014, the Dáil voted unanimously to recognise the state of Palestine, and with this, the Irish political system was finally moving beyond symbolism to a principled stance. The then Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Deputy Charles Flanagan, pledged at that time to advance matters further. That was six years ago, and since then the Taoiseach and the Government have refused to act on the democratic vote of this House. Instead, they have retreated to the previous position that now is not the time. In fact, the recognition of the state of Palestine advances the prospect of a peace agreement and bolsters the hope of a stable future for the region based on the two-state solution. It is simply wrong to tell the Palestinian people that we support their call for statehood but then turn our backs on them when they reach out to us for recognition. That is the politics of copping out. That is the politics of the blind eye, and it flies in the face of achieving a lasting peace.

“This copping out, we now learn, has extended into Government negotiations between Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and the Green Party. The decision



**“THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, BELEAGUERED, BESIEGED AND BETRAYED BY THE INACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, NOW LOOK TO THE WORLD AND TO IRELAND FOR HELP, AND WE MUST NOT FAIL THEM.”**

– Sinn Féin President, Mary Lou McDonald TD

to drop the Occupied Territories Bill from your proposed Programme for Government was both cynical and wrong. Any incoming Irish Government must take action now to demonstrate our solidarity with those living under the cruel and illegal occupation. When Deputy Neasa Hourigan of the Green Party was asked recently what happened to the Occupied Territories Bill, her answer was very stark. She said, ‘Simon Coveney happened’. Taoiseach this is an indictment of Fine

Gael policy when it comes to the rights of the Palestinian people.

“Any incoming Irish Government worthy of the name must take a strong stance against the proposed further annexation of Palestinian lands by the Israelis due to commence on 1 July. This proposal is a reprehensible continuation of open aggression against the Palestinians. The Irish Government must tell Prime Minister Netanyahu that this must stop.

“Ireland, with our history of conflict and conflict resolution, is uniquely placed to help to build real and lasting peace in the Middle East. We know that dialogue works and that repression does not work. We know that an inclusive process built on equality and respect works. Dominance does not work. This is the perspective that we must take to the UN Security Council and into our meetings with other European leaders.

“We need to make a start at home by defending our commitments and by acting in defence of human dignity. The people of Palestine, beleaguered, besieged and betrayed by the inaction of the international community, now look to the world and to Ireland for help, and we must not fail them.”

# Adams calls on Irish Government to give lead to oppose Israeli annexation

Five times in recent years I have visited Palestine and Israel. I have spoken to leaders and to citizens and human rights advocates on both sides. I have been in Gaza City and the West Bank. I have been in the refugee camps. I have walked along the monstrous separation wall which cuts Palestinian families off from their land and created the biggest ghettos in the world. All of this is in breach of international law. It is illegal.

The plan by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to begin annexing up to 30% of the West Bank beginning 1st July is also illegal. But the Irish Government refuses to challenge this criminal act in any meaningful way.

If we, the Irish, who have experienced the trauma of colonisation and who understand its consequences don't stand by the Palestinians who will? It is time for the international community to uphold international law. It is time for the Irish Government do likewise. Muted and meaningless words of condemnation are no longer sufficient.

The Government, and in particular the civil servants who worked on this initiative, are to be commended for winning a seat on the UN Security Council.

Of course, there are many people, including this writer, who are openly sceptical and critical at the lack of reform of the United Nations, and in particular the ability of any of the so-called 'big five' - the USA, China, Britain, France and Russia - to veto a resolution going to the Security Council. However, Simon Coveney - if he remains Minister for Foreign Affairs in any FG/FF/GP government - described the extent of his ambition for the Security Council as akin to being a "pebble in the shoe" of the large states.

At a time when Covid-19 is a major pandemic with unparalleled economic consequences for the world; when human rights abuses and the rights of citizens enshrined in UN charters are everywhere under attack; when



**Gerry Adams has called on the Irish Government to oppose Israeli annexation of occupied territory in Gaza and the West Bank**

**“I HAVE WALKED ALONG THE MONSTROUS SEPARATION WALL WHICH CUTS PALESTINIAN FAMILIES OFF FROM THEIR LAND AND CREATED THE BIGGEST GHETTOS IN THE WORLD. ALL OF THIS IS IN BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. IT IS ILLEGAL.”**

the numbers of migrants and refugees across the world is spiralling out of all control; and when a US President is attacking the funding for the World Health Organisation and for UNWRA - the UN agency that looks after Pal-

estinian refugees - we need the independent members of the UN Security Council and the Irish government which will now sit there, to be more than a 'pebble' in a shoe.

But, lest we forget, this is the same Minister



## FACT...

**“THE RECENTLY FORMED UNITY GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL PROPOSES TO BEGIN THE ANNEXATION OF THE JORDAN VALLEY AND THE ILLEGAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE WEST BANK ON JULY 1ST. THIS PROPOSAL IS IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW WHICH PROHIBITS THE ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY THROUGH WAR OR THE TRANSFER OF POPULATION BY AN OCCUPYING POWER ONTO LAND TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED BY MILITARY NECESSITY (FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION).”** (Kairos lobby)

for Foreign Affairs who ensured that the Occupied Territories Bill – which seeks to prevent the Irish state from trading in “the import and sales of goods, services and natural resources originating in illegal settlements in occupied territories” – from being referenced in the putative Programme for Government 2020 agreed between the leaders of Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and the Greens.

Israel isn't even mentioned in the Bill. It is aimed at all states with illegal settlements and is about preventing them from profiting from their occupation through trade. Including Israel of course. But Simon said no. Micheál Martin and Eamonn Ryan agreed.

Minister Coveney and his two putative coalition partners in government are prepared to ignore international law and allow Israeli goods and services originating in the occupied territories to be traded in the 26 counties.

In these circumstances what hope is there that an Irish Government of this kind, will vigorously oppose, inside and outside of the Security Council, the plan by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to annex up to 30% of the West Bank?

Annexation of occupied territory is prohibited under international law since 1945. Emerging out of a world war whose roots where in part to be found in the annexation of land at the end of the First World War and then in the 1930s by the Nazis, the founders of the United Nations had the foresight to outlaw annexation because it inevitably leads to conflict, discrimination and human rights abuses. The UN has on many occasions since the 1967 six-day war, which saw Israel occupy the West Bank, Golan Heights and Gaza, affirmed the principle of the “inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory” by force.

Regrettably, the refusal by this and previ-

ous Irish governments to oppose the illegal actions of Israel and of its occupation forces, has encouraged and emboldened Netanyahu to believe that now is the time to annex substantial parts of the West Bank. Last April Netanyahu said that he intended annexing Jewish settlements and outposts in the West Bank. These settlements, which are illegal under international law, number over 240 and house almost three quarters of a million Israeli settlers. On the occasions I have visited the region I have seen for myself the extent to which these settlements steal Palestinian land and water rights and mineral resources and are strategically used to separate and control the Palestinian population of the West Bank. As part of this process Palestinians have been killed, their homes demolished, olive groves uprooted and farms destroyed.

Last September the Israeli Prime Minister – encouraged by the support of US President Trump - said that he also planned to annex the Jordan Valley. This makes up almost 30% of the West Bank. Palestinian families living in the Jordan Valley will find it increasingly difficult to stay there. Much of the Valley is already under the control of Israel which bars Palestinians from digging wells or building home extensions, including tents, or irrigation works. From 2009 to 2016 ninety-eight per cent of almost three and a half thousand applications for permits for new infrastructure were rejected by the Israeli authorities.

Nor will Palestinians living in the annexed territories be allowed to hold Israeli citizenship. They will be barred from having any say in the state in which they are being forced to live.

The United Nations, the EU and individual states including the Irish state, have failed to defend international law. This failure and Israeli expansionism will usher in an Israeli

apartheid state similar in design and intent to the Bantustan scheme created by the White apartheid government in South Africa. Bantu territories were pieces of land – essentially ethnic ghettos - into which black South Africans were pushed. It was the apartheid regime's means of control and exploitation in which poverty was widespread and human rights abuses a constant reality.

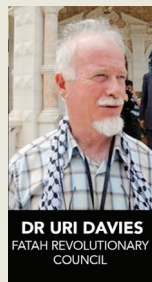
To its shame the international community has turned a blind eye to Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. The separation wall, the theft of land and water, the murder of civilians, the use of torture, the victimisation of children, the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip, the denial of human rights are all products of this. Israel's strategy and Netanyahu's plans for annexation have grievously undermined the little remaining hope in the peace process, which for decades now has staggered from crisis to crisis.

But it's not too late to stop the slide into even greater chaos and conflict. The international community can still make a difference. The Irish government can give a lead. If Minister Coveney wants the Irish government's two-year term on the Security Council to be more meaningful than simply keep a seat warm, and to be more than an occasional irritant to the big states, then he has to stop making excuses for doing nothing. Firstly, the Irish government should commit to passing the Occupied Territories Bill. Secondly, it should officially recognise the Palestinian state as the Oireachtas agreed in December 2014 thereby providing some measure of solidarity and legal protection to the Palestinian people at this dangerous time. And thirdly, the government should introduce a motion to the Security Council rejecting Netanyahu's annexation plans.

# Sinn Féin's VOICES FROM PALESTINE online discussion



**DECLAN KEARNEY**  
SINN FÉIN NATIONAL  
CHAIRPERSON



**DR URI DAVIES**  
FATAH REVOLUTIONARY  
COUNCIL



**DR MUSTAFA BARGHOUTI**  
PALESTINE NATIONAL  
INITIATIVE



**DR BASEM NAIM**  
FORMER HAMAS MINISTER  
OF HEALTH - GAZA

Sinn Féin's National Chairperson, Declan Kearney MLA, hosted an online discussion entitled 'Stop the Annexation - Voices from Palestine' on Wednesday 24th June.

The contributors from Palestine were:

- **Dr Uri Davis** - academic, civil rights activist and member of Revolutionary Council, Fatah
- **Dr Mustafa Barghouti** - former Minister of Information in the Palestinian unity government and currently Secretary General of the **Palestinian National Initiative**
- **Dr Basem Naim** - former Minister of Health, currently head of the Council on International Relations, Hamas

Over 7,000 people tuned in to the live discussion to hear the Palestinian representatives outline the current critical situation in Palestine as the Israeli Government plans to annex between 30 and 60% of Palestinian land. These representatives of the three main political forces sent a clear and united message to both the Irish people and the Government in Dublin calling them to:

1. Recognise the State of Palestine
2. Oppose the Annexation
3. Enact the 'Occupied Territories Bill'
4. Sanction the apartheid State of Israel

Declan Kearney expressed the total support of Sinn Féin for these demands.



The online discussion can be viewed on youtube at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CE8EOFFweI>



Sinn Féin President, Mary Lou McDonald TD, has added her name to an international call from a coalition of Palestinian civic society organisations and individuals.

"The appeal details the increasing extremism of the Israeli occupation forces and settler enterprise, and suggests steps which can be taken by the international community to curtail and stop the injustices faced by the people of Palestine.

- ➔ Oppose the annexation of the Jordan Valley as a grave violation of international law;
- ➔ Abide by the UN security council resolutions, specifically 2334, and do not recognize any changes to the 1967 borders;
- ➔ Take specific measures against illegal settlements and settlement products in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention;
- ➔ Civic and political organisations should resist attempts to criminalise legitimate economic sanctions;
- ➔ Those states which have agreements with the occupying power should take punitive measures against these agreements, in the event of annexation;
- ➔ Recognise the State of Palestine along the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital;
- ➔ Support the International Criminal Court investigations against Israeli war crimes;
- ➔ Support international efforts in the UN security council to halt or oppose annexation;
- ➔ Reaffirm opposition to the US administration Trump plan;
- ➔ Support the Palestinian authority in their efforts to stop the annexation.

The settlements, annexation of Palestinian territory and extension of Israeli sovereignty outside its 1967 borders are illegal under international law. Ethnic cleansing IS taking place in Palestine against the Palestinian people. Self-determination is our right, and the establishment of the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital is our goal. Concrete measures which will lead to genuine progress on a peaceful, two state solution are needed."

# 'Palestinian struggle has arrived at a crossroads'

## – Declan Kearney

EYAD al-Hallaq was autistic, and had special educational needs.

On 30th May he was going to school through the Lion's Gate in the old city of Jerusalem when he was summarily shot dead by Israeli soldiers.

Eyad's killing made me think about John Patrick Cunningham who also had special needs and was shot dead by British soldiers in a field near Benburb, County Tyrone in 1974.

I also thought about several family members, and my own son, Fiachra, who all have autism, and, or special needs.

In December 2018 I walked through that part of Jerusalem where Eyad was killed, with our Sinn Féin delegation to Palestine.

It is very heavily militarised. There are Israeli soldiers and security personnel everywhere.

Military incursions take place regularly in Palestinian neighbourhoods like Al-Esawiah, a small neighbourhood on the edge of the city, with 20,000 residents, and from which there are well over 100 political prisoners currently detained in Israeli jails.

Palestinians are being forced from their homes in Jerusalem's old city in order to relocate Israeli settlers, and create a single identity population.

Palestinian homes are also being summarily demolished not only in Jerusalem, but right across the West Bank to enable continued expansion of the illegal colonial settlement strategy.

In one of the most recent demolitions of Palestinian property in East Jerusalem, Israeli forces entered the Ras Shihada neighbourhood and bulldozed a residential and commercial building belonging to the Alqam family.

As a result, 30 family members have been left homeless,



**Sinn Féin President, Mary Lou McDonald, along with party colleagues Declan Kearney and Pat Sheehan meet Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, and senior PLO official, Nabil Sheath, while in Palestine 2018**

**“PALESTINIANS ARE BEING FORCED FROM THEIR HOMES IN JERUSALEM'S OLD CITY IN ORDER TO RELOCATE ISRAELI SETTLERS, AND CREATE A SINGLE IDENTITY POPULATION.”**

18 of them underage. All of their furniture and belongings were destroyed, including six apartments, four shops, and a ground floor car garage.

Such incidents are not accidental.

These are the actions of an occupation force.

Palestinians are viewed as the enemy, and a non-people; to be dehumanised and criminalised. They are subject to a systematic strategy of repression based upon integrated use of Israeli military law, military repression, and propaganda tactics.

The strategic aim of the Israeli state is to colonise all of Palestine.

That long term strategy began in 1948 when 750,000 Palestinians were forced from their villages and farm land.

This phase of colonial occupation became known as the 'Nakba' or 'Catastrophe', because of its devastating consequences for the Palestinian people. It was a direct violation of international law.

The reality is that since 1948 Israel's military and political establishment has wanted to occupy the West Bank.

However, a systematic plan was needed to do so.

The opportunity to devise a more structured strategy arose in 1963, and it took shape in

the form of the 'Shacham Plan' (named after Mishael Shacham, general military governor of the Palestinian territories inside Israel).

From as far back as 1963, the Shacham Plan set out a strategy for the future military occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Then in 1967 Israel occupied and further divided the west Bank and Gaza. A further 400,000 Palestinians were displaced. It also formally annexed Jerusalem, again in violation of international law.

The author Ilan Pappé argues that the decisions made by the Israeli government in the summer of 1967 have remained a cornerstone of Israeli policy towards the West Bank and Gaza to this day: That is, one of ongoing military control, occupation, and colonial expansion, and the permanent imprisonment of those living in the remaining Palestinian territories.

During 1993 permanent Israeli military checkpoints were concentrated in the West Bank.

In 2002, Israel began the

construction of a wall throughout the West Bank. This was ruled by the International Court of Justice to be illegal and amounting to annexation.

Today it provides a concrete perimeter behind which over 600,000 settlers have built Israeli controlled cantons on stolen Palestinian land.

Earlier this year both the Israeli and US administrations announced an intention to further annex the West Bank and East Jerusalem by seizing an additional 30% of that land mass after 1st July.

This will hollow out the existing, and already internally divided State of Palestine, and will fatally damage any remaining prospect of a sustainable 'Two State solution', as provided for under the Oslo Agreement in 1993.

Whilst the extent of compromises made under Oslo were considered highly contentious both at the time and since, the widely held view is that this new annexation (or 'Deal of the Century') will finally bury that Agreement.

These latest annexation plans will constitute another 'Nakba', for the Palestinians.

The human and political consequences will be catastrophic resulting in huge displacement of people, and wholesale seizures of land and natural resources, including water.

The Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Negotiations Affairs Department makes the point that de facto annexation already applies in Palestine in the form of the colonial settlements and the annexation wall which carve up Palestine towns and villages, and the multiple permanent Israeli military checkpoints which control the movement of Palestinian people and goods.

However, the PLO states the new annexation plans aim to formally declare permanent Israeli sovereignty through the implementation of de jure annexation.

It will establish the reality of a full fledged and open ended apartheid system, further institutionalising the oppression of Palestinians.

To date, the occupation of



Ahed Tamini

the West Bank, Jerusalem and the siege of Gaza have had a devastating impact on the lives of Palestinian children and youth. Young people aged between 15-29 years old make up 30% of Palestine's total population.

Israel's colonial occupation has robbed them, and previous generations of their childhoods.

On the last day of our trip to the West Bank and Jerusalem in December 2018, we visited the home of Ahed Tamini in Nabil Saleh.

Earlier that year Ahed, then 17 years old, was imprisoned for slapping an Israeli soldier.

Bassem, her daddy, told me that even though the nearest beach to their home was only 35km away, the imposition of Israeli restrictions on Palestinians'

movements in the West Bank, meant Ahed's first experience of a beach was on a recent visit to Spain!

A couple of weeks ago I watched a video by Ahed about what this new annexation plan would mean for her.

She described it as a form of silent ethnic cleansing and an attempt to nullify the existence of Palestinians, by denying her, and future generations the land upon which to live.

The annexation intended to begin on 1st July is the culmination of a decades long process to liquidate any concept of a viable Palestinian homeland.

It is much more than just the latest wanton violation of international law.

This combined Israeli and US

plan represents a new humanitarian and political catastrophe for the people of Palestine.

A new 'Nakba'!

It carries within it the potential for an escalation of political conflict between Palestinians and Israelis.

The Foreign Minister of Jordan has already warned of the potential for significant political instability within this region of the Middle East.

Israel's latest annexation of Palestine must be opposed.

No right-thinking democrat can stand by and acquiesce in silence.

The international community failed to act in 1948, and in 1967, and it failed to intervene when Israel used the Oslo Agreement and Camp David as distractions to intensify the expansion of colonial settlements and ongoing human rights abuses through the late 1990's and into the 21st century.

Last week 47 UN human rights experts condemned Israel's plans to annex the West Bank a vision of '21st century apartheid'.

They have predicted increased human rights violations after annexation, saying that:

"What would be left of the West Bank would be a Palestinian Bantustan, islands of disconnected land completely surrounded by Israel and no territorial connection to the outside world".

In recent weeks myself and Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald TD have spoken with a very representative cross section of Palestinian political leadership figures, including Nabil Shaath, a veteran and icon of their national liberation struggle.

They all spoke of the urgent need for decisive international action to oppose these annexation plans.

The Palestinian people are fed up with hollow words and meaningless sympathy from international agencies and foreign governments who purport to support Palestinians' political and human rights.

James Zogby, President of the Arab American Institute was blunt when he said in recent days:

"And so while I hear European diplomats say they are concerned

## FACT...

**"WE ARE AT A WATERSHED MOMENT. IF IMPLEMENTED, ANNEXATION WOULD CONSTITUTE A MOST SERIOUS VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND GRIEVOUSLY HARM THE PROSPECT OF A TWO-STATE SOLUTION AND UNDERCUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF A RENEWAL OF NEGOTIATIONS. I CALL ON THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO ABANDON ITS ANNEXATION PLANS."**

– UN General Secretary António Guterres.

about annexation, I say that's great - but what are you going to do about it? Are you going to whine, are you going to complain, are you going to protest, or issue a diplomatic note, which the Israelis will pocket - maybe pocket by throwing it away in a newspaper basket. This is exactly what (the Israelis) want. Because those behaviours only feed impunity - there's no price to pay...

Accountability is key, and accountability requires that there will be a price to pay."

The Irish government, caretaker, or newly formed, should internalise those words.

It must listen to the leaders of the Palestinian people, and what they are asking of Ireland. Their message is clear: The Irish government must end its foot dragging and refusal to implement the decision of Dáil Éireann in 2014, and immediately recognise the State of Palestine. It should also end its opposition to the Occupied Territories Bill and pass this legislation at the same time.

That is the sort of international leadership and concrete initiative required at this time.

Ireland's new seat on the UN Security Council should be used to uphold international law, and to assist in coordinating promotion of the humanitarian and national rights of Palestinian citizens.

The facile, diplomatic pretence of waiting for a right time, or a point 'to generate some positive momentum', needs to be set aside. That has become an excuse for Fine Gael ministers to do absolutely nothing.

The time to act is now, and not a moment later.

The Palestinian struggle has arrived at a cross roads.

The 1st July annexation represents a new strategic challenge for the political and civic leaders of Palestinian national

## FACT...

### ANNEXATION WILL:

- REMOVE THE ASSET AND RESOURCE RICH JORDAN VALLEY FROM THE STATE OF PALESTINE;
- ISOLATE AND SUFFOCATE EAST JERUSALEM, THE PALESTINIAN CAPITAL;
- DENY PALESTINIAN CONTROL OVER USE OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES;
- PREVENT EFFICIENT AND FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS;
- RESULT IN INCREASED VIOLATIONS OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS;
- DESTROY THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION.
- BRING THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES UNDER "OFFICIAL" ISRAELI STATE AUTHORITY
- REINFORCE THE APARTHEID SYSTEM IN PALESTINE.
- VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL LAW.
- ESTIMATES OF LAND ANNEXATION RANGE FROM 30% TO 60% OF PALESTINIAN LAND.

**“THE FACILE, DIPLOMATIC PRETENCE OF WAITING FOR A RIGHT TIME, OR A POINT ‘TO GENERATE SOME POSITIVE MOMENTUM’, NEEDS TO BE SET ASIDE.”**

liberation.

They are correct to demand serious, substantial international action, including from the Irish government.

Our international community now has a moral and political duty to act in the way it ultimately mobilised against South African apartheid.

The UN, European Union (EU), and Irish government must end their acquiescence towards Israel's occupation and this planned annexation.

They need to demonstrate there will be a price to pay for the continued flouting of international law, and repression of Palestinians.

The situation is too grave. The UN, EU and Irish gov-

ernment need to finally decide which side they are on.

But Palestinian political leaders also need to urgently assess how to influence international actors.

They can give a powerful mandate for a decisive step change in policy and action from the international community, by agreeing common national, democratic strategic and political positions, and by speaking with one united voice.

At this time of even deeper crisis for the cause of the Palestinian people, national unity and reconciliation among all political forces under the representative leadership of the PLO has never been more essential.

The greatest leverage which

the Palestinian leaders have at this time to mobilise maximum international, political and economic pressure against Israel, and stop the proposed annexation, is by embracing Palestinian national unity; adopting an agreed political strategy; and acting collectively.

Resolving disunity and healing old divisions is never easy.

However, achieving national reconciliation and unity among the various political forces is the most potent strategic initiative which Palestinian political and civic leaders can take to change the balance of forces against annexation, and to influence international opinion.

Sinn Féin knows what side we are on,

Irish republicans, and other international progressives remain committed to the objective of Palestinian national liberation and helping to secure a democratic, and peaceful Palestine...

"We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians."



This article is dedicated to the memory of my friend and comrade **BOBBY STOREY** who was a committed friend of the Palestinian struggle and a true internationalist

- 1956-2020 -



# FACT...

“THE ANNEXATION WOULD HAVE TREMENDOUS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS ON PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES AND WORKERS. THE PLAN IS IN FACT EXPECTED TO DISCONNECT AROUND 200,000 PALESTINIANS FROM THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT. 23 PERCENT OF THE AREA TO BE ANNEXED IS PRIVATELY OWNED PALESTINIAN LAND, WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE PALESTINIAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IS LOCATED AND PALESTINIAN WORKERS GAIN THEIR LIVELIHOODS. VITAL WATER RESOURCES AND FERTILE AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN THE SAME AREAS WOULD BE PERMANENTLY SUBJECT TO THE ISRAELI LAND SETTLEMENT LAW OF 2017 WHICH ENABLES THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL THE PROPERTIES OF “ABSENTEES” IN AREA C, AND OF PROPERTIES IT CLAIMS TO BE “PUBLIC PROPERTY”.”

(From the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to the three party leaders involved in the Irish government formation talks 04.06.20)

“THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS PROHIBITED ANNEXATION PRECISELY BECAUSE IT INCITES WARS, ECONOMIC DESTRUCTION, POLITICAL INSTABILITY, SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHT ABUSES AND WIDESPREAD HUMAN SUFFERING. WHAT WOULD BE LEFT OF THE WEST BANK WOULD BE A PALESTINIAN BANTUSTAN, ISLANDS OF DISCONNECTED LAND COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY ISRAEL AND WITH NO TERRITORIAL CONNECTION TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.”

- Amnesty International



## WHAT CAN WE DO?

- **RECOGNISE THE STATE OF PALESTINE.**  
A SINN FÉIN MOTION IN THE DÁIL THAT CALLED ON THE THEN GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE THE STATE OF PALESTINE WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY IN DECEMBER OF 2014. SINCE THEN THE IRISH GOVERNMENT HAS DRAGGED ITS HEELS ON RECOGNISING THE PALESTINIAN STATE, DESPITE A PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT. OFFICIAL RECOGNITION WOULD SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY TO THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE.
- **IMPLEMENT THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BILL**  
HAVING PASSED THROUGH THE SEANAD, THE DÁIL VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOUR OF THE BILL, WHICH PASSED COMMITTEE STAGE IN DECEMBER 2019. SIX OF THE SEVEN MAIN PARTIES SUPPORT THE LEGISLATION, WITH FINE GAEIL BEING THE EXCEPTION.
- **LOBBY FOR EU WORDS OF OPPOSITION TO ISRAEL'S PLANS TO BE ACTED UPON.**  
ON 15TH MAY 2020, THE EU'S FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF, JOSEP BORRELL, AID THE EU WOULD USE “ALL OUR DIPLOMATIC CAPACITIES” TO TRY TO DISSUADE ISRAEL'S INCOMING GOVERNMENT FROM GOING AHEAD WITH THE MOVE, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES THE ANNEXATION OF ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS, APPROVED UNDER UNITED STATES PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S SO-CALLED MIDDLE EAST PLAN.  
THE EU IS ISRAEL'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER — GIVING IT A POWERFUL POSITION OF INFLUENCE.
- **DEMAND THAT THE NEW IRISH GOVERNMENT USES ITS SEAT IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO PROMOTE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN RIGHTS.**

“EUROPE MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN BRINGING INTERNATIONAL ACTORS TOGETHER TO PREVENT ANNEXATION AND TO SAFEGUARD THE PROSPECTS OF THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION AND A JUST RESOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT.”

Public statement signed by over 1,000 MP's