



# Sinn Féin

## INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

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PALESTINE SPECIAL



# HISTORIC MOMENT AS DÁIL ÉIREANN SUPPORTS SINN FÉIN MOTION ON ISRAELI ANNEXATION OF PALESTINE

The Dáil has backed a Sinn Féin motion on the annexation of Palestinian lands by Israel as Ireland becomes the first country in Europe to adopt this position. This is an historic moment and a victory for justice, and a recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Speaking after the motion passed, Sinn Féin spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Defence John Brady TD said:

“I wish to convey my thanks to the members of the Dáil who have voted unanimous support for the Sinn Féin motion, to the co-signatories to the

**“THE IRISH PEOPLE HAVE PUSHED THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE LINE. THE RECOGNITION THAT DE FACTO ANNEXATION HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES IS NOW THE FORMAL POSITION OF IRELAND.”**

John Brady TD

motion, the Labour Party, the Social Democrats, and the various independent TDs.

“I also want to express my gratitude to Trócaire, Sadaka, Christian Aid, Al Haq, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and the other members of the Oireachtas who have worked with us in developing this motion.

“The Irish people have secured an historic victory for the people of Palestine.

“The decision by the members of the Dáil to vote to accept the Sinn Féin



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## Historic moment as Dáil Éireann supports Sinn Féin motion on Israeli annexation of Palestine (continued)

motion on annexation is a sure reflection of the strength of feeling that runs in this country at the treatment of the Palestinian people by the apartheid state of Israel.

“Ireland now stands as the first country in Europe to categorically state without equivocation that Israel has carried out the crime of annexation in the occupied Palestinian Territories.

“The respected international groups, Al Haq, Human Rights Watch, and B’Tselem have placed before the world the undeniable evidence that the state of Israel is guilty of the crime of apartheid.

“I still recall my pride in our country when in the 1980s, the Dunnes Stores Workers took the decision to strike, and run the risk of losing their jobs, rather than handle produce from the apartheid state of South Africa.

“But I need to stress that this is more than mere symbolism. Annexation is a crime under international law.

“Such is the importance attached to what has occurred today, that the United Nations Special Rapporteur for the situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territory Occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, felt compelled to write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney, in advance of last night’s debate imploring the Irish government to act to recognise that de facto annexation has taken place.

“The Irish people have pushed the government over the line. The recognition that de facto annexation has taken place in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is now the formal position of Ireland.

“The Irish people, through the Dáil, have stated that Israel is guilty of the crime of annexation.

“The significance of the victory in getting the Irish government to acknowledge that annexation has taken place is enormous.

“It is now incumbent upon the Irish government to accept the imprimatur of the Irish people and take this motion and press for action in the EU, and for action on the UN Security Council on this issue.

“By shifting the discourse away from the outdated colonial discourse that has been allowed to prevail for decades, and

which has been used to give licence to the concept of Israeli exceptionalism, a discourse which is satisfied to allow Israel to attempt to justify its acts of violence against innocent Palestinian civilians, and to receive a dispensation, an exemption if you like, from the international community for its deliberate targeting of civilians.

“We have stated clearly in this motion, and in our commentary on this motion, that we wish to frame a fresh discourse on the conflict, a discourse which focuses on the primacy of international law.

“And under the law there must be

accountability.

“And now the international community must be pressured into holding Israel to account for the treatment of Palestinian civilians, and the destruction of their homes and infrastructure.

“The Irish government must act to introduce the Occupied Territories Bill. It must recognise the state of Palestine.

“It must ensure that Israel is held accountable for its action by the international community.

“Hopefully other countries can follow Ireland’s lead, and take this motion as a template to use in their own parliaments.”



## McDonald Palestine speech viewed by 1.5 million

Almost 1.5 million people tuned in on Facebook to a fiery Dáil speech by Mary Lou McDonald calling out the cruel onslaught against the Palestinian people.

“Israel needs to be finally called out for what it is: a racist, apartheid regime. We in Ireland have a special obligation to act because we know the colonial experience of dispossession, division and what it is to be left destitute”, she said.

The speech can be viewed here:

[facebook.com/148726998530273/videos/782405062419530](https://facebook.com/148726998530273/videos/782405062419530)



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# Irish government must take political action against the oppression of the Palestinian people – Declan Kearney

Sinn Féin National Chairperson Declan Kearney MLA has called on the Irish Government to use its influence to urge support within the international community for the oppressed people of Palestine.

Writing in his blog on An Phoblacht, Declan Kearney MLA said:

“Hundreds have been killed in Israeli air strikes against Gaza, including children. Thousands of others have been injured and, or paralysed.

“This new wave of atrocities, combined with the devastation to buildings and public services, is a concerted attempt to destroy the morale and resistance of Gazan Palestinians.

“Although the main focal point of this phase of greater conflict has shifted to Gaza at this time, many Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces across the West Bank. Eleven were shot dead on Friday 14 May alone.

“Our world is currently watching the latest terrible chapter of the Palestinians’ 73-year-old Nakba unfold on our TV screens.

“The repression of the Palestinian people and denial of their rights is an international crime. It is no longer sustainable.

“The internationally recognised national and human rights of the Palestinians must be upheld.

“Apartheid was wrong in South Africa. Today apartheid is wrong in Palestine.

“The international community should reflect on what was required to end that injustice, and act to develop a new, global anti-apartheid campaign.

“We in Ireland, and throughout the global community must do more than simply raise our voices in anger and to express solidarity by making an unambiguous choice in support of the oppressed in Palestine.

“The Irish government now holds a seat on the UN Security Council; it also sits on the European Council – we must press this Irish government to seek full enforcement of the UN resolutions on Occupied Pales-



**“THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED NATIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE UPHELD. APARTHEID WAS WRONG IN SOUTH AFRICA. TODAY APARTHEID IS WRONG IN PALESTINE.”**

– Declan Kearney, Sinn Féin National Chairperson

tine and East Jerusalem.

“The Irish government should immediately respect the will of Dáil Éireann and finally recognise the state of Palestine.

“The government must end its frustration of the Occupied Territories Bill and

allow it to be returned to parliament for passage into Irish law.”

DECLAN KEARNEY’S FULL BLOG CAN BE READ HERE: [www.anphoblacht.com/contents/28094](http://www.anphoblacht.com/contents/28094)



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# McDonald hosts emergency online meeting with Palestinians

In the midst of the onslaught in Gaza and attacks on Palestinians in the Sheikh Jarrah area of East Jerusalem, Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald hosted an emergency online meeting with Palestinians which included Sabreen Abeerallah, a young activist based in East Jerusalem working with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, Dr. Mosheer Amer, Director of the Centre for Political and Development Studies based in Gaza and Kamel Hawwash, a British-Palestinian professor based at Birmingham University. All of the participants praised the solidarity of the Irish people with the Palestinian people.



## John Brady TD welcomes ceasefire in Gaza

Sinn Féin spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Defence John Brady TD welcomed the announcement of a ceasefire in Gaza.

The Wicklow TD has called on the International Criminal Court to now hold the Apartheid Israeli state to account for the war crimes it has committed during the bombardment of Gaza.

Teachta Brady said:

"I welcome the announcement of a ceasefire in Gaza.

"In the space of 11 days, over 230 people, including 65 children, have been slaughtered in the open-air prison that is Gaza.

"The deliberate destruction of homes, media offices, libraries, police stations, the only Covid-19 test centre in Gaza, schools and hospitals are all grave breaches of the Geneva Convention.

"In other words, Israel has committed war crimes, and these must be included in the ongoing investigation being carried out by the International Criminal Court.

"Action must also be taken to deal with the Apartheid Israeli policies of remove, fragment and replacement.

"There are 250 illegal Israeli settlements and 650,000 illegal settlers in the occupied territories - this is an annexation and this is the root of the issue."

# ASSEMBLY MEMBERS SLAM ATTACKS ON GAZA

Sinn Féin MLA Emma Sheerin raised the crisis in Gaza and East Jerusalem in the Stormont Assembly and challenged breaches of international law by the Israel.

Speaking during the debate, The Mid Ulster MLA said:

"Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is in contravention of the Geneva Convention.

"Those people have to acquire a permit to move around their own homeland and are denied access to basic utilities.

"The most recent violence erupted following further forced evictions



in east Jerusalem. Missiles were fired on a mosque as people were inside. It is ethnic cleansing.

"The Gaza Strip is smaller than County Louth; many children have been murdered

there, 40,000 people have been displaced from their homes and a building housing international media has been bombed into extinction.

"We, in the North of Ireland, know what co-

lonialism does to people and what human rights abuses do to communities, but you do not have to know that to know right from wrong. We all must stand against the war crimes of the Israeli state."



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# SINN FÉIN DAY OF ACTION TO MARK NAKBA DAY

Sinn Féin activists and representatives across the island from Derry to Cork took part in a day of action to mark the anniversary of the Nakba amid plans to evict families in East Jerusalem.

Speaking on the anniversary of the Nakba in Belfast, Sinn Féin's Middle East spokesperson Pat Sheehan said.

"We remember the Nakba when over 700,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes.

"Since 1948, Israel has denied Palestinian refugees the right to return to their homeland and ignored international law.

"Today, in 2021, history is repeating itself.

"Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem are being evicted from their homes and Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people is worse than ever.

"Hundreds of people are dead after days of Israeli airstrikes against the people of Gaza. This is an onslaught and a worsening crisis.

"The international community and the Irish Government must act urgently to help end this assault and defend the rights of the Palestinian people."



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