

MEDIA STATEMENT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEHAWU STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN SOCIAL WORKERS AND CALLS FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL SOCIAL WORKERS DETAINED BY APARTHEID ISRAEL.

Monday January 15, 2018

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union [NEHAWU] unflinchingly stands in solidarity with Palestinian social workers and calls for the immediate release of all social workers detained by apartheid Israel.

As NEHAWU, we condemn the use of brute force by apartheid Israel in their quest to silence what they deem as dissenting voices. Since 2014 many social workers have been detained by apartheid Israel for participating in peaceful marches requesting the release of detainees and an end to the occupation of Palestinian land by apartheid Israel.

Most recently apartheid Israel has criminalised peaceful protests under Military order 101 and Palestinians who transgress are detained by military authorities and tried in military courts which have a conviction rate of close to 100%.

Social workers play a huge role in helping Palestinian children and families deal with the daily stresses, and longer term trauma, of the occupation and gross atrocities inflicted by apartheid Israel. Palestinians are subjected to daily harassment, detention, imprisonment and death at the hands of the occupiers and they need social workers to help them deal with these atrocities.

As NEHAWU, we call on all peace loving people all over the world to stand in solidarity with these workers and to recognise their role as human rights defenders in Palestine. We also call for the unconditional and immediate release of all incarcerated social workers. We will discuss with our reliable ally the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions South Africa [BDSSA] on a way forward in helping these workers.

NEHAWU also calls on all international social work organizations to help Palestinian people by affiliating to the BDS movement and to boycott apartheid Israel. This is a struggle that as NEHAWU we are willing to wage until Palestinian people enjoy both the independence and freedom that they deserve.

Issued by NEHAWU Secretariat

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