



03 November 2021

## Message of support to NEHAWU's 12<sup>th</sup> National Congress

Greetings dear comrades, we from #Africa4Palestine and the larger solidarity movement would like to congratulate the NEHAWU for organizing this 12th national congress, particularly during these difficult times of the COVID19 pandemic. You should be commended for consistently organizing congresses such as this from branch levels to national levels - NEHAWU truly displays a dear appreciation for democratic principles, and of course, for internationalism. For an organization to live and breathe it must perpetually reassess its vision and mission and thus renew towards their strategic goal. #Africa4Palestine sees this as an opportunity to share with congress some pertinent issues facing Palestinians, the global left, the rise of right-wing hegemony and imperialism.

We take this opportunity to report to congress, some of the developments in Palestine. We are happy at this point to cement South Africa's position on Apartheid Israel, that our Ambassador is still recalled and our embassy is in effect a downgraded version. It is worth noting that South Africa's working class in its majority continues to support the Palestinian cause and continues to seek guidance on solidarity practices from the Palestinian working-class movements. The South African Communist Party continues to be the voice of reason on the question of Palestine and has not compromised. The ANC itself has, perhaps due to Alliance pressure, become even bolder in its position. This political will has successfully sense itself being expressed into the state.

Civil society is overwhelmingly in support of the Palestinian cause, with key figures like Reverend Frank Chikane from the Christian faith community leading the charge. The not so recent but contentious Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng debacle has shown that South Africa is not a country for Israeli proxies, but a society that is aware of its past and paving a future that's better for the world and Palestinians in particular.

In Palestine, the settler colonial regime of Israel continues its relentless conquest unabated. Aided by the Imperialist government of the United States, they have now stolen 85% of historic Palestinian land. Number of Palestinian political prisoners are ridiculously on the increase, the construction of the illegal settlements, large annexation plans, and human rights violations are aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

But all is not lost, the International Criminal Court has started investigations into Israeli War crimes, a huge milestone in our international campaign to hold Israel accountable. On that same subject, great news coming out of the United States and parts of Europe, is the Israeli lobby losing frivolous 'terrorism and anti-Semitic' cases against solidarity movements and recently as well, the Palestine solidarity movement in South Africa won a case against Labia Theater, in favor of it showing a Palestinian film it refused to broadcast. The Chief Justice of South Africa was found guilty of violating the Judicial Code of Conduct and sanctioned to apologize publicly, although he is appealing, we are certain of a favorable outcome. Retired progressive Judge, Siraj Desai, is enduring a relentless offensive from the Israeli lobby in South Africa and they are not winning. Comrades, these victories are significant in our fight against Israeli influence and patronage in our society, it is a message that not everyone can be bought or coerced.

We have a special report to Congress, that Israel's pathetic attempts to be part of the African Union are being fought across all fronts. We are happy to report that from the states that are vocal we have an overwhelming

majority who are in favour of reversing the unanimous decision taken by the AU Chairperson to grant Israel observer status. We also recognize the swift and decisive action taken by our government to counter this act and rally support for Palestine in the continent.

Going forward Africa4Palestine appeals to NEHAWU to working together on a local level to translate union and political support into government support. For example, municipalities twinning with Palestinian cities, local councils passing international solidarity resolutions etc.. Secondly, to work jointly on the African continent, as we have in the past, in launching an annual one week campaign Africa - Palestine campaign. And, thirdly,, in ensuring that international forums including global trade union forums as well as international bodies such as the UN General Assembly, ICJ and ICC are mobilised to take action against Israel for the crime of apartheid.

Comrades, the fragmentation of the global left is of enormous concern. The continued Isolation of Cuba, the right-wing onslaught on Venezuela, the coups in Latin America, the isolation of left-wing activists in the labor party in the UK and rogue elements in liberation movements, are developments difficult to ignore. Whilst is consolidation of right-wing hegemony from Europe to Africa, the left seems to have an opposite effect, we are losing our hegemony and solidarity. We urge this congress, to interrogate the building principles of our working-class solidarity, to renew them and perhaps we would find ourselves again.

We would like to lobby congress, to dedicate this 12th edition to all our fallen comrades due to COVID19 and in particular, Spokesperson of NEHAWU and board member of #Africa4Palestine Comrade Khaya Xaba. We dare not fail where they left off and we must make the world a better place in honor of their memories.

Towards absolute freedom for Palestinians and international working-class hegemony!

AMANDLA!

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