

ILPS Commission 3 condemns Israeli gov't's 'terrorist' designation of Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Solidarity

The ILPS Commission 3 on Political Prisoners and Human Rights strongly condemns the latest attack of the government of Israel through its Defense Minister Benny Gantz against the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Solidarity Network by designating it as a terrorist organisation.

Samidoun is a grassroots Palestinian network working for the rights and freedom of more than 5,000 Palestinian political prisoners not only in Palestine but also those detained in various countries. It has chapters in the US, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Brazil, Greece and occupied Palestine, and a network of member organizations including the Collectif Palestine Vaincra in France - forming an international network working to forge solidarity for the release of all Palestinian political prisoners. Samidoun is a member of the ILPS Commission 3 and, as such, has extended solidarity to political prisoners, their families and communities in various countries.

This 'terrorist designation' is a blatant attempt at delegitimising the justness of the cause of political prisoners in Palestine, its occupied territories and the right to organise of the more than five million Palestinian refugees all over the world. It is an undisguised measure to stifle advocacy for Palestinian rights.

This attack comes at a time when the International Criminal Court ruled that it is set to examine possible Israel war crimes in Palestine and occupied territories. This is a significant step propelled by years of struggle towards exacting justice and the accountability of the colonialist Israeli government on crimes against Palestinian people.

The real terrorists are States such as Israel's which has brought much terror through killings, arrests, detention and other human rights violations against the Palestinian people and through its Zionist occupation of Palestinian land and territories.

We salute Samidoun and the Palestinian people for their bravery in standing up against Israel's multitiered system of oppression – colonisation, occupation and apartheid. No designation of an oppressive government can stop the advocacy for and struggle of the Palestinian political prisoners.

Hands off Samidoun!

Long live the Palestinian struggle for freedom and liberation!