

31 October 2023

Rt Hon Chris Hipkins
Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

Dear Prime Minister,

Urgent action required to end attacks on civilians in Gaza.

The New Zealand Council of Trade Unions Te Kauae Kaimahi (the CTU) has watched recent events in Israel and occupied Palestine with growing concern and horror, and we passed a resolution at our Biennial Conference last week accordingly.

The CTU condemns all acts of violence against civilians, including the attack by Hamas on 7th October 2023, and condemns Israel's siege and bombardment of Gaza, which has created a major humanitarian catastrophe.

The CTU recognises that the New Zealand Government has recently called for a humanitarian pause in the conflict, the establishment of humanitarian corridors, and the establishment of designated safe areas for civilians. The CTU's view is that the New Zealand Government has a moral and political responsibility to take far bolder action than this in response to the unfolding crisis.

The CTU urges the New Zealand Government to publicly denounce all attacks on civilians, by all parties in the conflict, and to use its full diplomatic weight to continuously call for:

- An immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, and the withdrawal of the Israel Defence Forces from all Palestinian territories.
- An immediate end to the siege of Gaza, and the admission of all necessary humanitarian aid, including water, food, medical equipment, and fuel.
- The protection of all civilians, including the immediate return of all hostages, and the upholding of international law.
- An International Criminal Court investigation into the possible crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes committed by the state of Israel, Hamas, and other parties to the conflict.
- A solution to the conflict that recognises and enables the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to self-determination and sovereignty.

In addition, the CTU urges the New Zealand Government to significantly increase the humanitarian assistance it is providing for Gaza. New Zealand is a wealthy country and has a moral obligation to provide life-saving assistance to the people of Palestine.

The CTU notes that New Zealand has long prided itself on its commitment to the rules-based international order, to international law, and to global peace. In the face of this unfolding humanitarian crisis, it is incumbent on the New Zealand Government – and wider New Zealand society – to actively uphold these values and to honour our commitments to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Wagstaff

President

New Zealand Council of Trade Unions Te Kauae Kaimahi