

**Motion passed by State Council of NSW Teachers Federation
5 June 2010**

1. ISRAELI ATTACKS ON HUMANITARIAN ACTIVISTS

The NSW Teachers Federation condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the unprovoked attack in international waters by Israeli forces on a peace flotilla carrying humanitarian aid.

Federation notes the spin used by the Israeli government representatives when justifying this unprovoked attack. Federation Council also notes the contradiction of demanding balance in reporting the issue but Israeli personnel seizing video footage and equipment belonging to flotilla participants. Council calls on the Australian media to report on the Palestinian struggle with renewed integrity.

In the light of Israel's unprovoked attack and killing of peace activists who were seeking to deliver aid to Gaza, Federation calls on the Rudd Government to immediately:

1. Condemn Israel for this attack on a peace flotilla in international waters
2. Demand that the government of Israel end the illegal blockade and sanctions against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and to ensure that Gaza's borders are open for unfettered humanitarian access of both people and goods.
3. Demand the Israeli Government comply with International Laws.

The Federation condemns violence and racism, including Anti Semitism, in all of its forms.

The Teachers Federation has particular concern for the children of occupied Gaza who have been made subject to collective punishment and constant militarised coercion. These young people are forced to live existences which harm their families, diminish their life opportunities and undermine their education and their sense of human dignity.

The Teachers Federation will work with political and community organisations in pursuit of the goal of justice and peace for the people of Palestine, including the many millions who have been made refugees by the policies of expansion and expropriation of successive Israeli Governments. This work will have a special focus on supporting the rights of young Palestinian people who face a grim future without the active help of international organisations and progressive forces in the trade union movement.

The Teachers Federation will endeavour to gain the support of Unions NSW, the AEU and the ACTU to ask international trade unions to work to support trade union rights in accordance with international norms and conventions for all workers in Israel, the Occupied Territories and Lebanon. The Federation will continue its support of Union Aid Abroad APHEDA programs with Palestinian refugees and communities in the Middle East.

That a report be prepared on the Boycott Investment and Sanctions Campaign for Palestine. This campaign has been supported by the Executives of the ASU, NSW and ACT branches, and ETO Queensland branch. The report would be included in the next Council Papers.