

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Palestine

Note of meeting – Wednesday 18th September 5.30pm in CR3

MSPs Present – Sandra Whites, Jim Hume, Jean Urquhart, John Finnie. 29 members of public present.

MSP Apologies – Elaine Smith, Drew Smith, Sarah Boyack

1 – Presentation and discussion led by Fasila Hanif – Personality and Foreign Policy – The case of Israel and the US

2 – Discussion – the impact of the present situation in Egypt on Gaza. The closure of the tunnels and the crossings. The humanitarian crisis evolving in Gaza. The western governments lack of action to the overthrow of the elected Muslim Brotherhood government in Egypt. Banning and imprisonment of Al Jazeera journalists. MSPs and members of the public present expressed extreme concern about the motives and the impact of the Egyptian military government's actions.

3 – Actions – the following are being considered.

Locate any representatives of Egyptian government or businesses in Scotland to make representations

Scottish Parliament action – draft motion, member's debate, invite ambassadors and ask them to explain action. Write to Foreign sec, Israeli ambassador

Contact UK All Party Group on Palestine and advise of actions. See if joint actions possible.

UNA may endorse motions etc

Non- parliamentary actions – members to write to MSPs, MPs, MEPs newspapers, UK Government, Egyptian Government, Israel re blockade

Secretary to pass information to other pro Palestinian groups. Build contact list of groups, RG to provide contacts to Jewish Groups.

4 – Emergency Meeting of CPG – it was agreed that when a major emergency/incident (such as operation cast lead) arises that an emergency meeting of the CPG would try to be convened. AGM will look at creating a small quickly assembled sub group to take action if full CPG meeting not practical.

5 – AGM will be held on 6th November at 5.30pm. Minister Humza Yousaf has agreed to talk to meeting. Expulsion of Bedouins also raised at this meeting,

6 – Next CPG meeting 2nd October at 1pm guest Yitzhak Frankenthal, Plan to show 'Children in Chains' at future meeting,

7 – AOB/Announcements – Jan 13 – 18 Gaza exhibition and linkup in memory of Tom Hurndle and Rachel Corrie – details to come

The meeting closed at 7.05pm