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# Solidarity Conferences

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## Benghazi, Libya

### EMERGENCY WORLD CONFERENCE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN POPULAR UPRISING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES — BENGHAZI, LIBYA

The Benghazi Emergency World Conference «appeals to all democratic national and international organizations, solidarity and peace movements, eminent personalities and world public opinion to give a new, fresh, more powerful impulse to all forms of assistance to the Palestinian Popular Uprising in the occupied territories under the leadership of the PLO - so as to bring them relief and thus respond adequately to their sacrifices, determination and confidence in final victory» (final declaration).

On June 14th, 250 delegates from 60 countries, among them Christian Democrats, members of socialist and communist parties, as well as solidarity committees from all Western Europe, adopted a 10-point program in solidarity with the uprising of the Palestinian people in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The program of action stressed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to national independence, and demanded the convening of an international Middle East conference under the auspices of the UN, with the participation of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the

Palestinian people. It stressed the urgency of developing coordinated national and international campaigns. It demanded that governments and international institutions exert concrete, effective pressure on 'Israel' for the immediate release of all political prisoners, an immediate stop to torture, expulsions and the destruction of Palestinian homes. The program of action called for the adoption of sanctions and boycott measures against 'Israel' in the economic, cultural and tourism spheres, until it agrees to abide by the UN resolutions concerning the treatment of the civilian population. It demanded that the Western powers,

especially the US, stop supplying 'Israel' with offensive weapons and nuclear equipment. The conference took upon itself the task of providing material aid in the form of food, clothes and medical supplies, to the Palestinian population of the occupied territories. Sending an international solidarity ship with humanitarian aid was proposed.

The two-day conference gave the delegates the opportunity for intensive discussions and exchange of experience, as well as contacts with a high-ranking PLO delegation, headed by Yassir Arafat.

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## AAPSO, Nicosia

The International Meeting in Support of the Palestinian Uprising sponsored by AAPSO was held in Nicosia, from 28-30 June, 1988. Delegations from Asia, Africa, Europe and Socialist countries, as well as international and regional organizations, and the representatives of the U.N. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, eyewitnesses from the occupied territories, Israel and the AAPSO fact-finding mission to the occupied territories (which was harassed and maltreated by the Israeli authorities) took part in the meeting.

The President of the Republic of Cyprus gave an audience to all the participants in the meeting.

The participants discussed the different aspects of the unbearable conditions of the Palestinian people in the

occupied territories. They extend their full support to the valiant uprising against the Israeli occupation forces.

The participants express their conviction that the crux of the Middle East problem lies in the solution of the Palestinian problem - recognition of their right to self-determination and independent statehood. They demand the complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the illegally occupied Arab-territories.

They condemn the consistent violation of the Israeli Zionist rulers of all international norms and their rejection of all the peace initiatives made by the United Nations and the international community.

The participants examined the documents and facts presented at the meeting by the eyewitnesses who had visited the occupied territories. They condemn the indiscriminate firing at the defenceless civilian people. They

were shocked to hear testimonies about the methods of torture pursued by the Israeli armed forces and police against the Palestinian people. Hundreds of Palestinians were killed, thousands wounded and mutilated and scores of thousands detained in concentration camps under horrible conditions where they are subjected to all kinds of torture. Several are buried alive and a large number of children as well as young and old people are subjected to «bone-breaking». Collective punishment is applied on entire towns and villages while places of worship, hospitals, and educational centres are stormed. The Israeli forces and police also use gas to kill scores of women and children. They close down all press institutions in the occupied territories, detain scores of journalists, demolish hundreds of houses and expel a large number of citizens from their country and homes. All this is being carried out