



Goa Unit



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Goan human rights groups condemn Balfour declaration

We the members of various Human Rights organisations based in Goa express our solidarity with the people of Palestine as they struggle to win freedom, dignity, and justice in the face of an unrelenting Israeli occupation. Coming together under the aegis of the National Confederation of Human Rights Organisations (NCHRO) Goa Unit, we take this opportunity today, i.e on 02-11-2017, the 100th Anniversary of the Balfour Declaration to stand up for the Palestine people.

We were conscious that we were one among thousands of groups around the world, - progressive religious groups, trade unions, radical political parties, and the human rights community around the world- who came together to condemn the Israeli occupation and the indifference of the international community to the Question of Justice for Palestine.

We recognized that the Balfour Declaration was one of the most immoral of Britain's colonial decisions. It was unjust at its very core because it sought to establish "a national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine in a way that led to the dispossession of the Palestinian people.

We saw how Zionists have long viewed the Balfour document as a "promissory note" that offered a "seal of approval" to the Jewish quest for a homeland in historic Palestine. We were angered by the fact that while the Jewish State would celebrate the occasion, for Palestinians it will be a day of mourning. It was the day that Palestinians were plainly de-peopled by an arbitrary political decision of an arrogant colonial power that had no moral authority to sign of land as if it were there private property. Though the Balfour Declaration included the caveat that "nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine", the British mandate was set up in a way to equip Jews with the tools to establish self-rule, at the expense of the Palestinian Arabs.

We affirmed that there is still no reason why Jews and Arabs can't live together in a single, secular state based on justice for all and democratic rights for all its citizens. The two factors intrinsic to Balfour being racism and imperialism have never allowed for justice for the Palestinians. We pledged our continuing support to the struggle for justice and human rights and for an end to the Israeli occupation along with all likeminded groups around the world. We called for all nations and the United Nations to use all the powers at their command to bring to an end the persecution of the oppressed Palestinians and inaugurate a just and viable state in the here and now of our times.

National Confederation of Human Rights, Goa Unit
Popular Front of India- Goa Unit
Badyl-Goa
Social justice Forum, Sans Jose de Areal, Goa
Bharat Mukti Morcha

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