



Palestine Conference 2024: We Accuse!

From April 12th to 14th, the Palestine Conference will take place in Berlin. Under the motto "We accuse", activists, along with voices from the Palestinian and Jewish movements, as well as the international community, aim to bring charges against Israeli apartheid, genocide, and German complicity. In January of this year, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in response to a complaint filed by South Africa, found that there was a plausible case of the most serious crime of genocide committed by Israel against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Karin de Rigo (MERA25/DIEM25), one of the congress's speakers, commented:

"The Genocide Convention requires states to ensure they do not become complicit. However, Germany continues to provide diplomatic, military, and financial support to Israel. Yet, the German government's response to the ICJ's ruling has been to blindly adhere to the policy of *raison d'etat*, rather than following international law. With its support of genocide, Germany is increasingly isolating itself on the international stage." De Rigo draws attention to the international debate and highlights the peculiarity of the German discourse, which systematically suppresses voices of Palestinians and those in solidarity with Palestine.

In the face of an unprecedented smear campaign, politically driven and supported by the media, the congress is confronted with an extraordinary challenge. "Our guests, including prominent figures such as Yanis Varoufakis and Richard Boyd Barrett, are being defamed and attacked," emphasizes Wieland Hoban, chairman of the Jewish Voice for Just Peace in the Middle East.

Today, Ghassan Abu Sitteh, a Palestinian doctor specializing in plastic and reconstructive surgery, and the Rector of the University of Glasgow were also denied entry into Germany at Berlin Airport. During the horrors of the Israeli bombardment of

Gaza, Abu Sittah spent 43 days in Gaza with Doctors Without Borders, working at the Al-Shifa Hospital. He wanted to share his experiences at the congress. It is scandalous that such an important voice against genocide in Gaza is denied the opportunity to enter Germany and speak at this crucial congress.

Particularly alarming is the massive presence of 2,500 police officers for an event with less than 1,000 participants. Since the early hours of the morning, the authorities have actively hindered the setup, preparations, and even the opening of the congress. The recent incidents add to a troubling series. "Following the closure of the Jewish Voice's account by the Sparkasse, this is another case of unlawful repression," Hoban added.

The Palestine Conference provides a platform for the exchange of ideas, perspectives, and concrete actions. In addition to keynote speakers, panels, and workshops, it also serves as a space for networking and strengthening the movement. Together, we will adopt a joint resolution to address political repression and end the oppression of the Palestinian people. Furthermore, the congress calls for an international day of action: on April 14th, demonstrations will take place worldwide at German embassies, consulates, official German institutions, as well as at the International Criminal Court and UN sites in New York and Geneva. We accuse! Convict and punish members of the German Federal Security Council and their accomplices for supporting genocide.

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