

PRESS RELEASE - EUROPE HUNGER STRIKE

We, activists from Europe for justice in Palestine, are going on an international hunger strike in solidarity with Palestinian political prisoners. Palestinian political prisoners are currently denied basic human rights. 1500 Palestinian political prisoners began a hunger strike on 17/04/17 for demanding family visits, proper medical care, an end to Israel's practice of detaining Palestinians without charge or trial in so-called administrative detention and stopping the use of isolation. Their demands are part of a larger struggle for self-determination and basic human rights.

We are students and non-student groups standing with the Palestinian society from England, Scotland, Ireland, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy. Following the successful hunger strike at the University of Manchester, more groups across Europe have joined them in solidarity. Students at the University of Edinburgh started their hunger strike on April 30th, activists from Exeter Palestine Action and London began theirs on May 2nd, activists from Turin and Belgium will start theirs on May 4th and activists from Bologna will begin on May 8th. We hope everyone who stands with Palestine, including MPs, will show their support. Through our actions, we hope to raise awareness of the Palestinian cause in our respective towns and cities across Europe.

We seek to pressure Israel into complying with the Palestinian political prisoners demands in line with international law, and to promote boycott, divestment and sanctions against the state of Israel until Israel complies with international law and the universal principles of human rights. Two decades ago, international boycott played a key role in defeating apartheid South Africa (1948-1991). Boycott, divestment and sanctions, is the only effective non-violent way of ending the plight of the Palestinians that the international community can use. As European citizens, we feel a responsibility to support the Palestinian cause for an end of the occupation, apartheid and settler colonialism. It is not only our right, but also our responsibility to end this injustice.

Please see our FB event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/165331540662107/>

