

Ist INTERNATIONAL SESSION OF THE RUSSELL TRIBUNAL ON PALESTINE - PROGRAMME:

1 March 2010

9:30 - 10:00

Registration

10:00-11:30

Inaugural address:

"Violations by the State of Israel of international law and United Nations resolutions"

- **Stéphane Hessel (France)** - Ambassador of France and co-drafter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

11:30 - 12:00

Coffee break

12:00 - 13:30

"The right of self-determination of the Palestinian people"

Expert and witness statements:

- **Madjid Benchikh (Algeria)** - Professor of Public International Law at the University of Cergy-Pontoise and former dean at the Law Faculty of Algiers.
- **David Bondia (Spain)** - Professor of Public International Law and International Relations at the Universitat de Barcelona.
- **Raji Sourani (Palestine)** - Vice President of the International Federation of Human Rights.

13:30 - 15:00

Lunch break

15:00 - 16:45

"The blockade of Gaza and Operation Cast Lead"

Expert and witness statements:

- **Derek Summerfield (United Kingdom)** - Honorary senior lecturer at London's Institute of Psychiatry.
- **Desmond Travers (Ireland)** - Retired colonel and member of the UN fact-finding mission that produced the Goldstone Report
- **Ewa Jasiewicz (Reino Unido)** - Journalist and eye witness of Operation Cast Lead.

16:45 - 17:15

Break

17:15 - 19:00

"The settlements and the plundering of natural resources"

Expert and witness statements:

- **James Phillips (Ireland)** - Lawyer.
- **Michael Sfard (Israel)** - Lawyer.

2 March 2010

9:30 - 11:30

"The EU-Israel Association Agreement" Part 1

Expert and witness statements:

- **Patrice Bouveret (France)** - President of Armaments Observatory.
- **Raül Romeva (Spain)** - Member of the European Parliament.
- **Agnès Bertrand (Belgium)** - Researcher and Middle East specialist with APRODEV
- **Clare Short (United Kingdom)** - Member of Parliament and former Secretary of State for International Development.

11:30 - 12:00

Coffee break

12:00 - 13:30

"The EU-Israel Association Agreement" Part 2

Expert and witness statements:

- **Phil Shiner (United Kingdom)** - Lawyer.
- **Francis Wurtz (France)** - Former Member of the European Parliament.
- **Véronique De Keyser (Belgium)** - Member of the European Parliament.

13:30 - 15:00

Lunch break

15:00-16:45

"The annexation of East Jerusalem"

Expert and witness statements:

- **Meir Margalit (Israel)** - Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions and member of the Jerusalem City Council.
- **Ghada Karmi (Palestine)** - Author and physician.

16:45 - 17:15

Break

17:15 - 19:00

"The construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory"

Expert and witness statements:

- **François Dubuisson (Belgium)** - Law Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.
- **Luisa Morgantini (Italy)** - Former Vice President of the European Parliament.

19:00

The Jury withdraws for deliberations

3 March 2010

12:00 - 14:00

Press conference and presentation of the Jury's conclusions (views and recommendations)

The first Russell Tribunal met in 1967 to investigate war crimes committed in Vietnam and to adjudicate them on the basis of international law. It was set up by Bertrand Russell, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1950, and chaired by Jean-Paul Sartre. Eminent intellectuals such as Julio Cortázar and Simone de Beauvoir participated in the Tribunal's proceedings.

More than forty years later, the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation is sponsoring the establishment of a Russell Tribunal on Palestine, a people's tribunal promoted by international civil society as a result of the violations of international law perpetrated against the Palestinian people. The Tribunal will examine the responsibility of international organisations and states regarding the non-compliance of international law. Although its rulings are non-binding, the Tribunal is based on international law and is composed of experts and jurists of world renown.

The first session of the Tribunal will be held from 1 to 3 March 2010 in Barcelona to examine the range of errors, omissions and complicity of the European Union and its member states in the ongoing occupation of the Palestinian Territories and in Israel's impunity regarding the violations of the rights of the Palestinian people.

The Jury of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine is composed of nine persons of internationally recognised moral or legal prestige:

- Michael Mansfield (United Kingdom)** - Barrister
- Gisèle Halimi (France)** - President of the Research Commission for the Russell Tribunal on International War Crimes in Vietnam
- José Antonio Martín Pallín (Spain)** - Supreme Court judge
- Ronald Kasrils (South Africa)** - Anti-apartheid leader and former minister
- Mairead Corrigan-Maguire (Northern Ireland)** - Nobel Peace laureate, 1976
- Cynthia McKinney (United States of America)** - Former US Congresswoman and presidential candidate for the Green Party
- Aminata Traoré (Mali)** - Activist, writer and former Minister
- Alberto San Juan (Spain)** - Actor and activist
- Arcadi Oliveres (Spain)** - Professor of Economics at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and social justice and peace activist
- Juan Guzmán Tapia (Chile)** - Retired judge (he will not be in Barcelona for the first session, but he will be part of the jury for next sessions)

After the experts and witnesses hearings, the Tribunal Jury will determine whether the European Union and its member states have breached their obligation to foster and guarantee the compliance of international law regarding the following items:

- 1) The right of self-determination of the Palestinian people
- 2) The blockade of Gaza and Operation Cast Lead
- 3) The Palestinian people's right to full sovereignty over their natural resources
- 4) The annexation of East Jerusalem by Israel
- 5) The construction of the Wall by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
- 6) The agreements signed between the European Union and the State of Israel

Russell Tribunal on Palestine - Ist International Session / 1 - 2 - 3 March 2010

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Ajuntament de Barcelona
Cooperació Internacional

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Organised by:

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Ist International Session

1 - 2 - 3

març / marzo / March

2010

"Que aquest Tribunal previngui el crim de silenci..."

"Que este Tribunal prevenga el crimen de silencio..."

"May this Tribunal prevent the crime of silence..."

(Bertrand Russell)

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