



Emergency resolution on the situation in the Middle East

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The European Youth Forum and its member organisations, that for years have worked in the Middle East region, look upon with great fears and worries the escalation of violence occurring in Israel and Palestine, its consequences in the Middle East region, and its threat against world political and economic stability.

The situation has entered a cycle of escalation of violence and retaliation from both sides that reinforces extremists and weakens the advocates of peace and negotiations.

The European Youth Forum calls for a peaceful and non-violent resolution of the conflict through negotiation based on the implementation of the UN resolutions for a comprehensive, long lasting peace in the Middle East.

In order to restore a favourable climate for peace:

- The European Youth Forum demands that the Israeli government immediately implements UN Security Council Resolutions 1402 and 1403, which call for the withdrawal of the Israeli Defence Forces from the Palestinian territories, which is one of the causes of the current escalation.
- The European Youth Forum supports the demand from the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to send international peace forces to the region, as well as the UN decision for an international investigation of the recent events
- The European Youth Forum strongly condemns all acts of violence and terror against civilians

Like in UN Resolution 1397, the European Youth Forum calls for the recognition (mutual and international) of the State of Palestine next to the State of Israel.

The European Youth Forum also wants to emphasise the important role of youth organisations in the Middle East in the process towards peace. It is important that young people from different backgrounds meet and discuss common challenges in order to progress in the process. Youth NGOs, through their work, contribute to increased understanding and co-operations across old divisions of conflict.

In order to contribute, the European Youth Forum will:

- Support, promote and participate in activities promoting the common message "two people, two states" living in peace and co-operation
- Organise a delegation to their region, strengthening a dialogue with the youth actors engaged in the peace process.

The European Youth Forum expresses its full support for the Israelis and Palestinians working for peace individually or in organisations of the peace

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movement. The European Youth Forum especially recognises the efforts of the Refusnik movement, and of all organisations refusing terror and violence.