

## AWR Updates

### **Middle East Conflict, Simchat Torah Massacre and Gaza War: AWR Resolution of 12 March 2024**

*AWR German Section, Presidency*

The Presidency of the Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem – German Section (AWR), adopted the following resolution on 12 March 2024 related to the Middle East Conflict, the Simchat Torah Massacre of 7 October 2023 and the ongoing Gaza War 2023/2024 since:

AWR bemoans

1. the Middle East conflict that has been smouldering for over 75 decades and, as a result, wars, death, displacement protracted over generations, flight, suffering, occupation, terror, insecurity, non-fulfilment of the Palestinians' right to self-determination and the settlement sprawl of the Palestinian autonomous territories in violation of international law.
2. the Simchat Torah massacre in which Hamas and other armed groups according to the UN (based upon numbers provided by the Israeli government) killed more than 1,200 people in Israel, injured several thousand others, took around 240 hostages, of whom around 134 are still abducted on 12 March 2024, and as a result of which Israel continues to face shelling from Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen.
3. the ongoing war in Gaza, which, as of 12 March 2024, according to the UN (based upon numbers provided by the Ministry of Health or the Government Media Office in Gaza) has killed over 31,000 people and injured almost 73,000, displacing approximately 1.7 million people, destroying over 60% of the housing units in Gaza in whole or in part, leaving 2.2 million Gazans in a state of crisis, emergency or catastrophic levels of food insecurity.
4. a border regime that exposes hundreds of thousands of people, crammed together in a confined space, unprotected and with no means of escape, to armed attacks and a humanitarian catastrophe caused by a blockade of available aid right across the border.
5. the accelerated construction of settlements and the increasing violence of settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank.
6. the inability of the United Nations Security Council and the international community to put a stop to this.

AWR demands

1. an immediate ceasefire.
2. the unconditional release of all hostages.

3. the opening of all available border entries for humanitarian, medical and psychosocial aid, as well as unhindered access of international relief and aid organisations as demanded by humanitarian law.
4. the reconstruction of the infrastructure of the Gaza Strip.
5. the start of determined negotiations, led and supervised by the international community (including neighbouring states, the UN, the EU, and the U.S.) on a final solution to the Middle East conflict and the realization of self-determination for the Palestinian people, until this is achieved.
6. an international investigation into the actions of all parties to the conflict with respect to crimes under international law.
7. if necessary, a robust mandate from the U.N. Security Council to enforce the demands above.
8. strengthening the United Nations in their capacities for conflict prevention and solution, as well as respect for their resolutions, decisions, judgements and the existing universal human rights framework.