



European Bureau for Conscientious Objection

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

No more bloodshed!

Solidarity with the Israeli conscientious objectors and pacifists who refuse to fight in the current armed conflict against their Palestinian brothers and sisters

Brussels, 17 July 2014

"EBCO strongly condemns the new armed conflict between the Israeli military and Palestinian armed groups, leading to a new bloodshed and war crimes. Another cycle of indiscriminate attacks has been opened by both sides, which is just another vicious circle of endless violence, killings, religious and racial hate and environmental destruction. We urge both sides to do their best to achieve a fair agreement for the immediate end of hostilities, collective punishment and the massacre of civilians, the vast majority of them being, once again, Palestinians. We also call for UN to impose an arms embargo on both sides immediately and to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law", Friedhelm Schneider, EBCO's President stated today.

"We mourn all the dead and we express sympathy for all the victims of the armed conflict. We stand in solidarity with the Israeli pacifists and especially with the Israeli conscientious objectors who refuse to take part in this war and kill their Palestinian brothers and sisters. We congratulate them for their courage to resist and call for their right to conscientious objection to be fully respected – as we do likewise for the young movement of conscientious objectors in Egypt", Friedhelm Schneider, EBCO's President added.

EBCO asks the Israeli troops to get out of the Occupied Palestinian Territories and end the blockade. EBCO opposes all types of war and violence including violence emanating from occupation and colonisation. EBCO promotes non-violent resistance and peaceful civil disobedience.

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EBCO was founded in Brussels in 1979 as an umbrella structure for national associations of conscientious objectors in the European countries to promote the right to conscientious objection to preparations for, and participation in, war and any other type of military activity as a fundamental human right. It enjoys participatory status with the Council of Europe since 1998 and is a member of its Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations since 2005. It provides expertise and legal opinions on behalf of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe. It is involved in drawing up the annual report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament on the application by the Member States of its resolutions on conscientious objection and civilian service, as determined in the "Bandrés Molet & Bindi Resolution" of 1994. It is a full member of the European Youth Forum since 1995.