

DM 2021

DRAFT ORDER PAPER 20

COVID 19

Saturday, May 22nd 4.00 – 5.00 pm

Time limits for speakers:

3 minutes for movers of motions and first opposition speakers

2 minutes for all other speakers

LNLM 25 **SOUTH YORKSHIRE** will move

Motion will be put

LNLM 26 **MANCHESTER & SALFORD** will move

Motion will be put

LNLM 27 **DMC** will move

Motion will be put

LNLM 28 **BBC LONDON** will move

Motion will be put

LNLM 29 **LIBNM** will move

Motion will be put

LNLM 33 **OXFORD AND DISTRICT** will move as amended by themselves

LNLM 15 **BIRMINGHAM AND COVENTRY** will move as amended

Motion as amended will be put

NUJ Delegate Meeting 2021

Draft Order Paper 22

Late Notice Motions – International

5.00pm-5.45 Saturday May 22

Speaking Times; 3 minutes for movers and first opposition speakers
2 minutes all other speakers

Composite NEC will move **LNLM 18**, amended in the following form

D

(covering

LNMs 18

and 19)

After “DM instructs the NEC to” (line 35) insert

“voice its concern to the TUC and the UK Foreign Office, and press for the immediate release of the arrested journalists, and”

Composite D will be put

LNLM 30

NEC will move as amended by itself, *Dublin Broadcasting, Derry & North-West, Glasgow, West of Ireland, Irish South East, London Central and Photographers’ Council*, in the following form:

DM condemns in the strongest terms the deliberate targeting of journalists by Israeli forces, including the storming of the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem on May 7th, which, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent, resulted in over 250 worshippers being injured.

DM notes that the attacks continued in the following days and spread to other cities. By May 12th, Israel carried out hundreds of air strikes in Gaza, killing at least 35, while Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups fired multiple rockets killing five Israelis. At the beginning of DM week, nearly 200 people in Gaza and 10 in Israel have been killed.

DM joins the International Federation of Journalists in deploring the targeting of journalists, mainly photographers and videographers, by the Israeli police despite the fact that they were wearing and carrying press emblems identifying them as newsgatherers.

According to the Palestine Journalists’ Syndicate, some 15 journalists were shot by rubber bullets and stun grenades, some incurring serious injuries, while they covered events at Al Aqsa and at Sheikh Jarrah, Bab Al Amoud and Wad El Joz. Others were injured while reporting on unfolding events at Camp Salem, North Jenine and Aqraba, South of Nablus. They are:

Mahmoud Aliane; Rajai Al Khateb; Diala Jawaihane; Misaa Abu Ghazala; Lewaa Abu Armeela; Ahmed As Sharif; Mustapha Al Kharoof; Rami Al Khateeb; Fayeez Abu Armeelah; Nadir Bayarsee; Wahbi Mekeyah; Zeena Al Halwani, Layali Eid; Faras Ed Debs; and Ithar Abu Gharbia.

At the beginning of DM week, the number of injured journalists throughout the West Bank and Gaza has climbed to 110 documented by the PJS.

DM shares the outrage of the IFJ and the PJS at Israel's wanton destruction of media offices and studios in Gaza, described by the union as targeted and deliberate and join them in their call that the Israel government must compensate these medias for their losses – on May 11th the Al Jawhara tower which hosted the offices of 13 media organisations was flattened down, followed by the destruction on May 13th of Al Shorouk tower housing 15 media organisations, and on May 15th the Al Jalaa tower housing the offices of Al Jazeera and Associate Press was razed to the ground. Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu described the tower as a "legitimate" target.

Although notice was given which allowed for evacuation, there was not enough time to save much media equipment. Not only have journalists lost the building they worked in, they have lost many of the tools to do their job.

DM applauds the IFJ's lobbying of the Security Council meeting, with the support of its unions from the UK, Ireland and France, to demand that the UN takes immediate action to protect journalists.

DM deplores the one-sided statement by the UK Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Dominic Raab, which condemned the firing of rockets and ignored the horrendous violence against Palestinians meted out by the Israeli authorities and in particular their treatment of journalists and media.

DM agrees with the judgement of Al Jazeera Jerusalem Bureau Chief Walid al-Omari that "those who are waging this war do not only want to spread destruction and death in Gaza, but also to silence media that are witnessing, documenting and reporting the truth of what is happening in Gaza".

DM notes the recent finding by Human Rights Watch that the Israeli authorities are committing the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution.

In a report published last month Human Rights Watch concluded that Israel was fulfilling the legal definition of apartheid as set out in international laws.

It found that "the Israeli government has pursued an intent to maintain the domination of Jewish Israelis over Palestinians throughout the territory it controls. In the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, that intent has been coupled with systematic oppression of Palestinians and inhumane acts committed against them".

It concluded that "when these three elements occur together, they amount to the crime of apartheid.

DM notes that for years the IFJ has made representation to the Israeli authorities regarding their deliberate attacks against journalists which the PJS now reports quarterly and annually. An NUJ delegation met with Israel's ambassador to the UK in 2019 only to be told that these were not journalists but propagandists.

The PJS 2020 annual report documented over 600 violations against journalists – 490 violations by the Israeli army and security forces, 76 cases in the Gaza Strip by Hamas' security forces and 42 attacks in the West Bank perpetrated by Palestinian security forces.

DM supports these efforts by the IFJ, in particular demands that its International Press Card is recognised by the Israeli authorities, and its work within UN agencies to continuously raise these attacks taking place in contravention of international law.

DM believes that it is unacceptable that Palestinian journalists should continue to endure almost daily physical attacks and humiliation just for doing their job, and that it is time to give them the support needed to put a stop to this impunity.

DM applauds the effort of the IFJ and PJS to jointly submit two formal complaints to the United Nations in December 2020.

DM further welcomes the decision, after five years of preliminary examinations by the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, to open an investigation into these crimes. The door is now open to bring specific cases of crimes against Palestinian journalists, including killings, to the court.

DM believes that the role of the media is vital in ensuring that the truth of what is happening in the region is known. While journalists 'on the ground' are risking their lives, journalists closer to home must be supported in adhering to ethical reporting principals in the face of pressure from the Israeli government and lobby groups.

DM instructs the NEC to call on members to refuse paid junkets to Israel organised by the Israeli government or Israeli lobby groups and to support all members who resist pressure from Israel and its lobby groups.

It instructs the NEC to encourage journalists to do the following, and support journalists who do so:

- challenge biased and dehumanising editorial lines, and avoid the unprofessional and unethical repetition of propaganda terminology;
- use language that is grounded in international humanitarian and human rights law as used by the UN and authoritative human rights organisations in describing the context of the current conflict;

- ensure that the voices of those most affected by the aggression are at the centre of reporting.

DM instructs the NEC to continue its support to the PJS and the IFJ in this major effort and campaign with the NUJ Parliamentary group and across the union's nations and regions to play its role in holding those who persecute Palestinian journalists properly to account.

This DM condemns the multiple attacks on Israeli journalists, mainly by right-wing Israelis, for simply trying to do their jobs and a death threat issued against the Israeli television journalist Dana Weiss. It calls on all sides in the conflict to allow journalists to do their jobs.

This DM instructs the NEC to work with groups such as Media Workers for Palestine in developing initiatives to help give a voice to Palestinians and support journalists and media workers in the region.

DM further instructs the NEC to back AP's calls for an independent inquiry into the attack by Israel on the Al-Jalaa tower, including what justification was there for the attack, what evidence there is that Hamas were using the building and what other options could have been taken other than destroying the building."

Motion will be put

LN M 34 **LONDON FREELANCE** will move

Motion will be put

DM report and appendix will be put