



Scottish Palestinian Forum

The Scottish Palestinian Forum views with concern the publication by the Trump Administration of its “peace plan”, clearly intended to entrench the political, economic, and military interests of Israel and the United States, without any regard either for international law or for the rights and entirely legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

The document endorses Israel’s incremental annexation of Palestinian land, expulsion of the indigenous population, and the creation of a dismembered Palestinian “bantustan” with very limited autonomy, but no real self-determination, and no right to self-defence. It is intended to guarantee permanent and illegal occupation, with further deprivation of land and livelihood, further economic strangulation, and further political oppression.

The document is disingenuous in referring to the 1967 war as “defensive”, and in using this claim to justify Israel’s retention of land captured then and still illegally occupied. Notwithstanding the breakdown in the armistice with Egypt, Israel launched an unprovoked attack on Jordan, in which the land in question was occupied, large numbers of people massacred or driven into exile, and those who remained subjected to a brutal and oppressive regime to this day.

Any peace will have to be founded on justice, and negotiated between Israel and the Palestinians as equal partners. If separate states are the outcome of such negotiations, this will require that they be equally sovereign, with the same right to defend land and people militarily, and with constitutionally guaranteed civil rights for minorities resident in both entities. Israel has never been prepared to negotiate on this basis, and the United States and other Western powers have never been honest or impartial mediators. Until this changes, there will be no prospect of peace in the Middle East.

This is not a “peace plan” but is the attempted imposition of permanent subjugation on the Palestinians. There is no acceptable peace that is not rooted in compliance with international law and recognition of equal rights.

Adopted by the Committee on 30 January 2020.

Statements issued by the Committee do not necessarily reflect the views of all member groups.