

Why We Mobilise Today

The decision to mobilise on November 4 was made by the International Peoples Assembly, during a conference in South Africa. The conference was hosted by NUMSA, the largest labour union in South Africa, and featured delegates from organisations all over the world. Palestinian delegates from different organisations made presentations and gave speeches to inform others of the situation there. They told the conference that they appreciate every demonstration of solidarity, because the Palestinian people feel alone in their struggle.

LANDS decided to initiate the local effort to join this international demonstration of solidarity with Palestine. Other organisations and members of the general public have been invited to join the effort initiated by LANDS, but they are doing so in their own right rather than as subordinates or affiliates of LANDS.

The demonstration carries its own calls and demands that all participating organisations and individuals should be able to agree on. Each organisation, including LANDS, is expected to have its own stances on Palestine separate from the stances expressed by the demonstration. As such, the demonstration has its own character distinct from LANDS, and the official position of LANDS should not be assumed to represent all the organisations and individuals who participate in the demonstration unless they independently express otherwise.

Our mobilisation is a general demonstration of solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle against occupation and genocide. In addition to our general demonstration of solidarity, we make the following specific demands of our government:

1. **Disclosure of State Deals with Israel:** We are demanding that the government of Jamaica publicly disclose the details of all of its agreements and contracts with the government of Israel and any Israeli companies, as it is the right of the Jamaican people to know.
2. **Official Condemnation of Israel's Actions:** We are demanding that the government of Jamaica condemns Israel's actions and posture towards Palestine. The violence did not begin on October 7 this year. Israel has repeatedly broken international law by building illegal settlements in the West Bank and by using chemical weapons like white phosphorous against the people in the Gaza Strip. Israeli security forces routinely harass, imprison, and even kidnap Palestinian civilians, including children. The segregation of the West Bank makes it impossible for Palestinians to travel between towns and communities without passing through Israeli checkpoints, a situation which is widely recognised as similar to the apartheid regime that existed in the 20th century in South Africa.
3. **Breaking of Ties with Israel:** We are demanding that the government of Jamaica breaks all ties with the State of Israel, a decision which must include the revocation of the credentials of all Israeli diplomats and the closure of the Israeli diplomatic mission in Kingston.
4. **Recognition of the State of Palestine:** We are demanding that the government of Jamaica gives official recognition to the legitimacy and sovereignty of the State of Palestine, and to support its entry to the United Nations as a full member-state with a status no lesser than that of Israel. It is logically inconsistent for the government to claim to support "the two-state solution" when it only recognises Israel while refusing to recognise Palestine.

