

11. DISARMAMENT OF ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS IN WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP

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The monopoly of the use of physical force is a pivotal requirement for the constitution, subsistence and credibility of an independent state.

Democratically controlled armed forces and law enforcement are the organization and demonstration of a legitimate rule of law.

Together with the most discussed and observed issues, we point out this monopoly as a central goal in the process of Peace between Israel and Palestine.

The situation of Palestinians is known: many armed gangs and an uncontrolled spread of weapons among civilians prevent the construction of a Palestinian civil society and thus are an obstacle to the implementation of the rule of law.

On the other side, Israel cannot sleep peacefully about this matter. The settlers in the West Bank have organized a real paramilitary force threatening Palestinian civilians and the authority of the Israeli government.

In this situation is impossible thinking the application of any peace plan without incurring in the armed response of the discontented parts of the respective sides.

For this reason the Young European Socialists demand to the United Nation to plan a shared disarmament of the Israeli and Palestinian civil populations and the constitution of regular Palestinian army and police, supported by and under the authority of a genuine Palestinian unity government encompassing both Gaza and the West Bank. This would be part of the process of facilitating and anticipating the withdrawal of Israeli soldiers and settlers from the occupied Palestinian territories as a necessary part of a more permanent peace agreement.