



ECONOMIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE TRUST

27 August 2024

Press statement

Appreciation for taking a stance against genocide

Last week, the Economic and Social Justice Trust (ESJT) was alluded that a vessel carrying military equipment and ammunition for Israel was heading for Walvis Bay to dock there on 25 August. On Thursday, 22 August, the ESJT wrote an open letter to the CEO of Nampoert, which is the state-owned company operating Namibia's ports. In the letter, the ESJT demanded that no vessel should be not be allowed to use any Namibian port and that Namibia must not be complicit to the genocide in Gaza by allowing any shipments of military equipment to use Namibian facilities. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all Namibian media houses who publicized our call and thus made the information about the vessel public.

We also want to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Namibian government, particularly the Ministry of Justice, for upholding Namibia's obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Due to our government's rapid response the Israel bound vessel, MV Kathrin IMO 9570620 was prevented from docking at the Walvis Bay on 25 August 2024.

Without this intervention it is likely that this ship carrying military equipment would have aided Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza where a to date over 40 000 people (70% of them being women and children) have perished under Israel's relentless attacks.

We thank the Namibian government for its principled stance on the matter, which could set the standard for other countries to emulate. We trust that Namibia will consistently deny entry to vessels that carrying arms to Israel and demonstrate it's the country's refusal to be complicit to genocide.

Herbert Jauch

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