The pandemic and the Palestinian people: a matter of human rights

Dear member organizations,

Since April 9 the occupied Palestine has confirmed 495 cases of COVID-19. On April 10 the Gaza Strip, particularly, had 13 people confirmed. This territory is the fourth region in the world with the highest demographic unemployment rate to the tune of 46.7% as well as the third-highest population living in extreme poverty. Additionally, since 2007, Gaza is being blocked by land, sea and air and other territories have long been occupied – depriving Palestinians from basic needs. All these factors create an increasing concern over the proliferation of the pandemic.

For the reasons stated above, Gaza and the Palestinian people are simultaneously unable to respond to this crisis on their own and to receive foreign aid.

That said, the international community fears the anticipation of a humanitarian crisis as never seen if this situation remains. Therefore, and knowing that the young socialists stand for the unconditional liberty of nations, we call to the end of the blockade of all medical supplies which is considered unfair and contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Furthermore, we cannot tolerate the principle of military force that is leading the international relations.

Bearing in mind the activities that have been taken by the United Nations, the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and in solidarity with all Palestinians we demand that no blocks are maintained when it comes to delivering proper and essential medical help. We encourage all member states of the United Nations to adopt this recommendation in the light of understanding health as a human right which “creates a legal obligation on states to ensure access 26 April 2020 to timely, acceptable, and affordable health care of appropriate quality as well as to providing for the underlying determinants of health”.

It is time to ensure that all Palestinians have access to medical care to deal with this pandemic regardless of the place where they live or work.