

## **ABC Illawarra Mornings with Nick Rheinberger (9 May 2011)**

Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions spokesperson, Ghada Abu Ghalyoun joins Rheinberger on the show. Ghalyoun says her organisation is a free democratic organisation that cares about Palestinian people and represents the Palestinian workers rights and their main concern is the enforcement of the Palestinian labour accord to make the workers have a decent conditions to live distantly. Ghalyoun says negotiations are hard when dealing with Israeli authorities. Ghalyoun says workers have to wait for Israelis to allow them to enter Israel and the process can take a long time and they can be searched in a humiliating way by Israeli soldiers and they can even be turned back to Palestine depending on the mood of the soldiers, their working day can be over 16 hours a day. Ghalyoun says Palestinians are not treated equally when working in Israel. Ghalyoun says they can't deny

Israel is there but she says it's their land and was stolen following the land grab, she believes they will one day get their freedom but a lot of work has to be done. Ghalyoun says Israel denies many rights for Palestinians, they have their own exclusive ways and roads etc, since they stole Palestine land how can you expect Palestinians to accept to live the way they are forced to by Israel. Ghalyoun says she wants a Palestinian state with no Israelis but she has to be realist, they are looking for a Palestine state with east Jerusalem as their capital, they just want to live normally without restrictions and violations. Ghalyoun says she should be optimistic following a united government. Ghalyoun says her people are strong and they have gone through tough periods so a change will be made.

CEO of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, Vic Alhadeff says there has been a refusal by Palestinian leadership to accept an offer of Palestine going back to 1947 when the UN passed a resolution to create an independent Israel and an independent Palestine. Alhadeff says after the West Bank was captured in the 1967 war, Israel was willing to give it back and went to the Arab League in Sudan with that offer. The Arab League replied with no peace, no recognition, no negotiation. Alhadeff says there are offers on peace on the table but the Palestinian leadership has failed to come to the table. He says the danger of Hamas and Fatah coming together now is that Hamas has a genocidal charter which states that Israel should be destroyed and it has not disavowed that charter. Alhadeff says Israel's offer says it would withdraw from 95% of the settlements and Jerusalem would be internationalised and shared by Palestine, Israel and the US and you would have Israel and Palestine living side by side. That offer was put on the table by Israel, but has not been responded to by Palestine. Alhadeff says there is effectively an economic common market between Israel and Palestine, and the Palestinian economy has been flourishing.