

Workmates International

Palestine Trade Union Solidarity
Workers change the world

العالم يغيرون العمال



To all international Trade Union solidarity activists and friends of Palestine!

How can you run an effective Trade Union Confederation in Palestine without international solidarity and without money? Especially if you want to organize Palestinian rank and file workers in an independent grassroots movement, under occupation and colonization, without coherent and working labor legislation. This is exactly the task the independent The Palestine New Confederation of Trade Unions, or New Unions (NU) in short, has set for themselves.

The answer: You can, but it is hard.

**We invite you to support this New Unions and give them the international recognition they deserve.
Get to know New Unions! Get involved!**

Join us!



Introduction

Who we are

We are a group of Norwegian Trade Union activists organized in the Palestine Committee of Norway, a solidarity organization for the Palestinian People. Established in 2006, our main goal is to raise solidarity with Palestine in the Norwegian Trade Union Movement. Our main method is to invite Trade Unionists to solidarity visits to Palestine, and we have arranged more than 30 trips since we started.

We met New Unions in Workers Crossing in Tulkarem for the first time in March 2012. Since then we have developed this contact, and we have met them several times. We are impressed by their sincerity, their working capacity and their *sumud* (steadfastness), their will and hope for the future.

Our task is now to introduce solidarity projects between Norwegian Trade Unions and the corresponding Unions in NU. An important prerequisite for the project is that it is based on reciprocity. Both parties provide, both parties learn from each other.

An important impetus for us is, moreover, that we will engage in the developing forces - with people who have hope for the future, and not to immerse ourselves in the occupation misery. We want to do something constructive. To just be witnessing the situation constantly worsening is not to bear.



More about us here:

Annual report 2012

<http://palestinakomiteen.no/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/annual-report-2012.pdf>

Annual report 2013

<http://palestinakomiteen.no/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/annual-report-2013.pdf>

What is New Unions

Unionists in need of a democratic and member-controlled ground plan organization called activists to a meeting in Tulkarem in 2006, where they established the first Union, but the precursor to the current New Union was founded already in 1954.

As a partner in our solidarity project we chose NU for several reasons:

- NU is no small and insignificant organization but growing and getting increasing support. NU is organized in all Palestinian cities throughout the West Bank, from Hebron in the south to Jenin in the north, and in many villages. They are also working to organize in Gaza. They have associations work involving most sectors.

- They aim to build itself up as a real ground plan movement, an organization that is "country"-extensive and organizes workers in all industries, including those who have Israeli employers.

- They will be independent of party affiliation, and to stay out of the political and trade union faction battle.

- In addition to being a trade union, they will also be part of the grassroots popular resistance that fight against the occupation and for human rights and freedom.

- NU fills the requirements from Ministry of Labor and will these days be approved by the General Trade Union of the Palestinian Authority. This gives them greater union rights both nationally and in international Trade Union bodies.



New Unions demonstrating for their rights outside the justice building.

- They have a coherent woman policies and a strong women's organization, with a separate Womens Department, and with the goal of having at least 20% women in all unions. And female participants in all courses.
- They have a trade union ideology and principles of organization that is democratic and which is recognized by the international trade union movement. They have a program of principles (Concept Paper) in which they describe what kind of organization they are, free from corruption, pamperia and abuse of power. They have statutes that safeguard democracy and elections.
- NU is working for unity, not division. They also cooperate with PGFTU where this is appropriate.



Outside their main office in Tulkarem. They want to establish local offices in other cities in West Bank, but at the time being they do not have the economic possibility.

Read more:

- <http://www.stophthewall.org/2015/02/07/international-trade-union-solidarity>
- <http://www.stophthewall.org/2015/03/08/workers-and-women-are-key>
- <http://www.stophthewall.org/2015/01/26/workers-change-world>

Why we have chosen economic support in training their members

The organization is funded by a small membership fee, as they will increase as they become more established and have more to show. NU do not want to be dependent on financial support from abroad. We also do not aim to finance NU with funding from the Norwegian trade unions. We will give them a help on the way, but it is important that they are able to stand on its own clear and provide an economy it is possible to operate an active academic work. As in Trade Unions all over the world. That is what make them independent.

And that is why we chose training courses as our form of economical support. Trade Union knowledge can never be wrong.

They are working hard to organize, and their numbers and unions are constantly growing. With the growth the need for training and capacity building grows correspondingly. Therefore it goes without saying that all plans for training involves an economic boost. Friends of Palestine in the International Trade Union movement now have the opportunity to contribute financially by allocating money to send members on training courses.

New Unions began the implementation of the first training course in January 2015 for the administrative bodies in Textile Workers Union. The course could be held by the support from Workmates Norway-Palestine, who collected the amount of money needed from trade union friends. By October 2015 they have conducted two more. Their further plans are similar courses for the rest of the unions, but first and foremost the General Union of Public Institutions, for workers in the Food and Agricultural Industries, for General Union for Construction Workers and for General Union of Services.



The courses will include multiple subjects about managing meetings, the history of international and Palestinian labor movement, Palestinian and Israeli labor law, financial management, occupational health and safety and Public communication skills.

How to contribute

Bring the issue forwards

in your local Union, and make it a topic for discussion.

Contact

NU and send them your recognition and support!

We can provide you with contact information.

Visit them in Palestine

Send a delegation and learn to know them! You will be witness to horrible repression under occupation, most humiliating treatment and lack of rights, but also great hospitality, valuable friendship and very skillful workmates – men and women.

We are planning a delegation visit early in 2016 under the heading “Workers meet workers”, and can invite you to join this trip.

Support training courses

Collect funds in your local Union. Submit a proposal for financial support in your union or workers committee:

Become a sponsor - Send a Palestinian Union Representative on training!

A complete 36 hours training course for 20 members in 5 days cost 3000 euros. Each participant costs about 150 euros.

You can transfer the money to New Unions bank account:

CAIRO AMMAN BANK SWIFT CODE: CAABPS22

CORRESPONDENT BANK: BANK OF NEW YORK

ACCOUNT WITH BONY BANK: 890-0556-307

SYNDICATE OF GENERAL INSTITUTIONS WORKING IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES-TULKAREM

ACCOUNT NO. 0250053014000

TULKAREM BRANCH 0806

IBAN: PS17 CAAB 0806 0000 0250 0530 1400 0

Do you want to join?

Get to know New Unions! Get involved!

Just do it!

If you have questions and want to know more:

Contact us!

Workmates Norway – Palestine

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in charge of international contacts

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