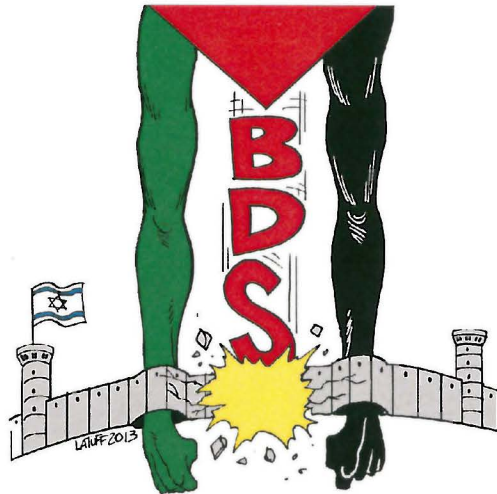


From South Africa to Palestine: Labor's History of Solidarity

the union control over pension investments and discouraging Ford, GM, and Chrysler from investing in South African corporations that refused to abide by strict anti-bias principles; soon after this victory, union members from a number of large manufacturing locals voted to divest their pension funds from South African companies 1984, Local 10 of the ILWU refused to unload South African cargo in San Francisco, and ILWU locals across the state backed them in solidarity.

Labor for Palestine

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Boycott. Divest. Sanction.

A Call for Palestinian Civil Society

In 2005, Palestinian civil society – including more than 10 unions and federations – called for boycotts, divestment initiatives, and sanctions (BDS) until Israel recognizes Palestinian rights in compliance with international law. The campaign for BDS will escalate until Israel ends its occupation, dismantles the separation wall, grants civil rights to Arab Israelis and permits the return of Palestinian refugees.

- 1) Ending the occupation of all arab lands and dismantles the wall
- 2) Granting arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel full equality
- 3) Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes, as stipulated in Resolution 194

Labor for Palestine

Against apartheid
For International Solidarity

The international labor movement has a long history of fighting against discrimination and oppression beyond the workplace. Throughout the 60s and 70s, workers around the world in industries ranging from automobile manufacturing to academia to shipping were central to boycott and divestment campaigns aimed at ending apartheid in South Africa.

The International Longshoreman and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the United Auto Workers (UAW) were prominent in the US anti-apartheid movement, as were academic workers. In 1979, the UAW won contract language giving ->

Occupation 101

In 1947 Israel violently drove 750,000 Palestinians from their homes and land. In 1967, Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip and began building settlements on confiscated land.

Israel has maintained its occupation of Palestine through repeated wars on the people of Gaza, imprisonment of Palestinians, including children, bulldozing homes, destroying crops and the ability to thrive. Israel's occupation has created a system of apartheid, separate roads for Israelis and Palestinians, a separation wall surrounding Palestinian communities and a system of checkpoints, controlling the movement of people, goods and services.



"We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians"

Nelson Mandela

The US labor movement has a proud history of opposing injustice. Since Israel maintains its apartheid system with help from the US, which gives the state of Israel 3.1 billion tax dollars per year, the US labor movement has a special role to play in ending Israeli occupation and apartheid.

- In the summer of 2014, in the midst of Israel's latest military assault on Gaza, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union joined forces with Palestinian solidarity activists to prevent the unloading of an Israeli cargo ship. These actions spread to other ports in the US.
- In December 2014, the labor union representing 13,000 student workers at the University of California (UAW Local 2865), voted to call on the UC system and UAW International to divest from companies

- profiting from the Israeli colonization of Palestine. Crucial to this success were unionwide educational events featuring ILWU and Labor for Palestine activists.
- These two most recent victories reflect increasing recognition of the struggle for justice in Palestine and a long history of struggle and solidarity actions. From the coalition of South African trade unionists' immediate endorsement of the BDS call to the commitment of Britain's largest trade union, UNITE, to devote its resources to BDS organizing, to the Presbyterian church's vote to divest from companies profiting from the occupation, labor and civil society is beginning to speak with one voice.

Let's join together to bring BDS to our local unions.