Call for Teamsters solidarity with Palestinian trade unions and people

For more information: teamstersmobilize.com/palestine

On October 16th, 2023, Palestinian trade unions issued an appeal and call to action asking their brothers and sisters in the international trade union movement to take action to stop Israel's genocidal war on Gaza, occupation of the West Bank, and racist apartheid system. We should respect this picket line that they've established, and stand in solidarity with the Palestinians because our interests as workers include struggling against all forms of oppression. None of us are truly free while others are facing genocide. But more than that, the fight against the atrocities Israel is committing in Gaza and the West Bank concerns the US working class in particular because this is a fight against our own exploiters and oppressors: the United States government, corporations, and capitalists who have been the state of Israel's most powerful supporters since its founding in 1948. To be clear, we don't oppose the Israeli people, but the Israeli government and military, which, much like in this country, serve the interests of the wealthy and powerful.

The unfortunate reality is that some national and local Teamsters leaders have played a key role in drumming up financial and political support for the Israeli state in the past. Not only did IBT leaders loan tens of millions of dollars to the state of Israel through purchasing its government bonds in the 1970s, but they also have historically widely publicized their support for the Israeli government, and implicitly its apartheid policies. But it is still possible for us to choose a different course.

American unions played a key role in opposing South Africa's apartheid regime decades ago and called for freedom for Nelson Mandela. Today, the United Auto Workers, Service Employees International Union, Starbucks Workers United, Amazon Labor Union, the ILWU, UE, IUPAT, CTU, American Postal Workers Union, and numerous other local unions have taken stands for a ceasefire and more in Palestine. We, the Teamsters, are one of the strongest unions in North America, and we can take a real leading role for all of our brothers and sisters nationally on this issue. As Teamsters rank-and-file, families, staff, officers, and supportive community members, we call on all levels of IBT leadership, including General President Sean O'Brien to release a statement which:

 opposes the U.S. government sending any more weapons or military aid to Israel
calls on the U.S. government to condemn Israel's genocide in Gaza and occupation of the West Bank; immediately issue a call for a permanent ceasefire and an end to Israel's siege of Gaza

Lastly, we call on the IBT leadership to release information on all IBT relationships with and funding of the Israeli government and military, and divest all holdings of any Israeli entities (e.g. government bonds, corporate stock, etc.) which profit from the oppression of Palestinians.

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mletwin@gmail.com Switch account

Not shared

* Indicates required question

Full Name (will be viewable to the public) *

Your answer

1) **TEAMSTERS:** Please fill out the following section if you are a Teamster member, staffer, officer, or family member.

Relationship to Teamsters *	
O Rank and file	
O Shop steward	
O Family member	
O Staff	
O Officer	
O Not affiliated with Teamsters	

Teamsters Local #

Your answer

City, State

Your answer

Company

Your answer

Job Classification

Your answer

2. COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Please fill this out if you are not affiliated with Teamsters.

Affiliation, if any (union, organization, etc).

If you are signing on behalf of your organization or union, please say so.

Your answer

3. CONTACT INFORMATION

Email (for updates related to this petition, will not be shared)

Your answer

Would you like to be added to the general Teamsters Mobilize email list? *

) Yes

) No

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