

STATEMENT

# STRIKE FOR PALESTINE THIS MAY DAY AND NAKBA DAY

GLOBAL ACTION April 11, 2024



## Call to Action from the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions - Gaza Strip

Scroll down to download the original call in Arabic and other languages

انظر اسفل الصفحة لتحميل النداء باللغة العربية ولغات اخرى

Please register your solidarity action with the call through this form, which will help momentum towards the day of action: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/108PCC-ZlpFtgS4JLjY2d0lqdRDNabCmuVyyY7V\\_c3Xo/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/108PCC-ZlpFtgS4JLjY2d0lqdRDNabCmuVyyY7V_c3Xo/edit)

This May Day and Nakba Day, we, the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions - Gaza, urgently appeal to our brothers and sisters in the international trade union movement to take a stand in solidarity with Palestine by joining us in collective action to disrupt business as usual. We ask you to challenge the status quo in your workplaces and communities, refusing to support violence against Palestinians. Raise your voices and take action to disrupt the flow of commerce and trade that sustains Israel's military occupation and exploitation of Palestinian workers.

Our people, especially those in Gaza, are enduring unspeakable atrocities – Israel's relentless genocidal bombardment, starvation policies, forced displacement and land

confiscation have been broadcast worldwide. These atrocities compound years of a brutal siege and military occupation that have decimated our working conditions. Israel's genocidal war against the Gaza Strip is not an exception, but a continuation of our ongoing 1948 Nakba and a feature of Israeli settler-colonialism.

Palestinian workers have always been the backbone of the Palestinian struggle for freedom and justice. Israel's deliberate targeting of trade union facilities, including the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions headquarters in Gaza, along with all our offices, constitutes a flagrant assault on the very livelihoods of Palestinian workers. Despite this unrelenting onslaught, we persist in safeguarding our communities, educating children in makeshift tents, getting the news out, tending to the wounded, and organising food distribution. As Palestinian workers, we make a commitment to stand strong for our communities.

This May Day and Nakba Day, as governments continue to turn a blind eye, we draw on the long tradition of trade union internationalism and speak directly to you: **we urge you to stand in solidarity with our struggle and take decisive action to honour the countless martyrs lost and the families torn apart, and build pressure for a free Palestine.**

Fellow workers, particularly those in the arms and transport sectors, we implore you to consider that your livelihoods should not be based on the destruction of our homeland and lives. While we know too well the importance of decent jobs, we urge you to think about the products you manufacture and transport and where they are ultimately deployed. Decent employment should never come at the expense of countless Palestinian lives. As the ones directly affected by arms manufactured and moved internationally, we simply ask you to embrace the principle that an injury to one is truly an injury to all.

Throughout history, workers have bravely opposed oppressive regimes. We have refused to handle goods from apartheid South Africa, and factory workers have rejected the production of arms for dictatorships like Chile's Pinochet. As the Palestinian death toll continues to climb, this May Day and as we mark 76-years since the colonisation of Palestine and the uprooting of over 750,000 Palestinians from their lands during the *Nakba* (Catastrophe) of 1948, we ask you to stand with us – and let us strive together to construct economies rooted in justice not destruction.

Stand with us as we demand an end to Israel's genocide and siege in Gaza.

Stand with us as we demand our rights as workers for a decent living, free from settler colonialism and military occupation.

Here are some actions you can take this May Day (May 1, 2024) and Nakba Day (May 15, 2024):

1. Refuse to handle goods coming from or destined to Israel.
2. Organise a work stoppage or slowdown.
3. Hold educational meetings within your trade union branch to discuss the Palestinian struggle.
4. Distribute informational flyers, pamphlets, or newsletters in your workplace to educate colleagues and provide resources for action.
5. Circulate a workplace petition among coworkers calling for specific actions or policy changes, such as divesting pension funds from companies complicit in the occupation or implementing boycott measures against complicit companies.

Now is the time for courageous worker-led solidarity!

Long live international solidarity with Palestinian workers in their struggle for return and liberation!

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