

Significant national unions and federations around the world have answered these calls, including COSATU in South Africa, UNISON, Unite, UCU in the UK, and the EL and IT union of Norway. Similar actions have also occurred in the labour movements of Ireland, Spain, and Belgium, among others.

In Canada, only CUPE Local 3902 at the University of Toronto has passed a BDS resolution (2015) that included a commitment to suspend all relations with Israeli trade unions. To date, no other unions at the local, regional, or national level have made such a decision – and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) continues to maintain a relationship with the Histadrut directly and through the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

As an organization of trade union members, Labour for Palestine - Canada, calls on the labour movement to Cut Ties with the Histadrut, and to declare all products, services, and relationships that support Israel's genocide, settler-colonialism and apartheid system as Hot Cargo, not to be touched by workers of conscience, until the historic demands of the Palestinian people are met!



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CUT TIES WITH THE HISTADRUT!



Founded in 1920 during British colonial rule, the **Histadrut**, Israel's General Federation of Labour (known at the time as General Federation of Hebrew Workers in the Land of Israel), **has always served the goals of Zionist settler-colonialism - not workers' solidarity.**

Although presented internationally as an Israeli "trade union," the Histadrut has, since its inception, been an agent and organization of Zionism, tasked with settling and supporting exclusively Jewish workers and laying the foundation for the Zionist colonization of Palestine.

The Histadrut established the Haganah (1920) as the main Zionist paramilitary force in the lead-up to the Nakba and establishment of Israel in 1947/8. The Haganah committed documented crimes, including massacres and the forced expulsion of Palestinians from their land, and was later integrated into Israel's core occupation army, the Israeli Defence Force (IDF).



Histadrut's Director General of International Relations, Peter Lerner, was called to serve as an IDF spokesperson during the genocidal war.

As a labour organization, the Histadrut explicitly discriminated against and excluded Palestinian Arab workers by organizing pickets against employers who hired Palestinian Arab workers, and even launched boycotts against employers selling goods and services produced by Palestinian labour.

After 1948, Palestinian Arab workers, including those who became citizens of Israel, were barred from Histadrut membership. When formal membership was permitted, they remained subject to various forms of discrimination and unequal treatment. Today, Palestinian workers in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are barred from Histadrut membership, while working side by side with Jewish Israeli workers who are granted full rights and recognition.

THE HISTADRUT, ISRAELI APARTHEID AND THE ONGOING GENOCIDE



Histadrut Chairman Arnon Bar-David as photographed during a visit to two weapons factories: *#Elbit* Systems and IAI. On a shell intended for use in bombings in the Gaza Strip he wrote:

"The people of Israel live. Greetings from the Histadrut and the workers in Israel"

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The Histadrut has participated and fully supported the colonization and occupation of Palestinian land, the racist discrimination that maintains it, and the violence used to enforce it.

Since the genocide began in October 2023, the Histadrut, despite its opposition to Netanyahu domestically, has continued to defend and support the State of Israel in its bombardment and genocide of Gaza. Its activities inside international trade union bodies are focused on undermining Palestine solidarity and Israeli accountability for its crimes.

Israeli media has reported that the Histadrut has received millions in funding from the State of Israel in support of their work to oppose the rising BDS campaign among unions and labour federations.

In 2024, the Histadrut brokered a deal to levy funds from workers' paycheques — including Palestinian workers — to fund bonuses for IDF reservists mobilized to conduct the genocide.

EXPEL THE HISTADRUT: GLOBAL LABOUR RESPONDS

In the 1960s and 70s, South Africa's racist, apartheid-era union, the Trade Union Council of South Africa (TUCSA), was expelled from global labour bodies such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and other international labour organizations. Like South Africa's pro-apartheid and racist union federation, the Histadrut:

- Enforces racial exclusion;
- Actively supports an occupying army;
- Defends an apartheid regime, settler colonization, and genocidal war.

In 2007, five major Palestinian unions, including the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU), issued a global appeal for unions to take the same action against apartheid Israel's labour body, the Histadrut, stating:

It is imperative to recognize that since its inception, the Histadrut has supported the Occupation and enacted racist policies against our workers, denying them their rights. It has kept silent in front of Israel's crimes against our people throughout the decades of occupation. We are thus asking the international trade unions to boycott the Histadrut to pressure it to guarantee rights for our workers and to pressure the government to end the occupation and to recognize the full rights of the Palestinian people.

This call was echoed by an appeal from a larger and more inclusive list of Palestinian unions, established as the Palestinian Trade Union Coalition for BDS (PTUC-BDS), in May, 2011.