



**TRADE UNION FRIENDS
OF PALESTINE**
*Campaigning in solidarity
with the Palestinian people*



WE REMEMBER



THE SPANISH REPUBLIC

When the workers of Spain fought against Franco's fascists

FASCISM IN GERMANY

When we fought the Nazis who created the Holocaust



THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

When we stood in solidarity with the Cuban people

THE VIETNAM WAR

When we protested against imperialist wars and mass bombings of civilians



APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA
When we opposed racism and
boycotted all South African products

PALESTINE
In 40 years time what will we
remember about what we did?



ICTU SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE

The TUIFP CALL “Time to fully implement our BDS policy”

TAKING THE LEAD - ICTU took its place on the world stage in 2007 when it became the first Western Trade union movement ‘to **actively and vigorously** promote a policy of **divestment** from Israeli companies...and all companies that directly support the occupation’. ICTU policy also was to ‘**actively and vigorously** promote a **boycott of Israeli goods and services** similar to the boycott of South African goods during the era of apartheid. ICTU accused Western governments of appeasement and collusion with Israeli human rights abuses, ethnic cleansing and war crimes.

BDS – ICTU like other organisations, political parties and governments is supporting a ban of **settlement goods** as part of its implementation of the BDS campaign. Settlement goods are already illegal. It will not be enough to say something akin to ‘don’t buy stolen goods.’ This needs to be a high profile campaign targeted at retailers to prevent them from stocking illegal goods in the first place. We also need to take a lead from the many ICTU affiliates that have a strong total boycott of Israeli goods and services underway. Given the escalation of **ethnic cleansing** and atrocities, and the massacres in **Gaza**, it is time to move on from our principled position to one of actively ‘**campaigning in solidarity with the Palestinian people**’ (2005 BDC) and the implementation of our full BDS policy. In this way ICTU will fully implement its commitment to **support BDS against all Israeli goods and services**. Targeting settlement goods alone is not a direct challenge to the rogue Israeli state policy of **occupation, colonisation and apartheid**. **We do not want** any relationship with Israel that fails hold them to account for war crimes and breaches of international law, and therefore **allows Israel to act with impunity**.

Churches are showing the way –In the USA **Presbyterians** have divested from Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett Packard; the **United Methodists** have divested from G4S; the **Quaker** Friends Fiduciary Corporation divested from Caterpillar, Veolia, and Hewlett Packard; the **United Church of Christ** have divested from all of the above; and the **American Friends Service Committee** and **Mennonite** Central Committee have divested from many others.

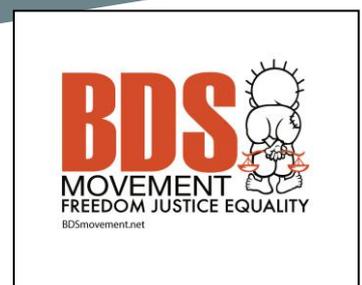
Who do we look to – who do we get our mandate from? Is it Hamas or Fatah? Do we support one-state or two-state?

The answer is that we support self determination for the Palestinian People. The question of which kind of state they prefer is for the Palestinian people to decide – whether they are refugees, or live in the West Bank, East Jerusalem or Gaza.

We in the Irish trade union movement should not take direction from political parties but should look instead to Palestinian civil society, and in particular its trade unions, for a mandate for action.

The Palestinian civil society call for BDS

10 years ago this July the Palestinian people, represented in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, a broad-based coalition of all the major Palestinian civil society organisations including all the trade union federations, called upon international civil society to end complicity in Israel’s regime of occupation and oppression, and to support the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality. Their demand was simple – that Israel be called to account and made to respect Human Rights and International Law. They asked us, the trade union movement in particular, to do what we did to bring about an end to Apartheid South Africa.



Get active in your union. Support the work of TUIFP.

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