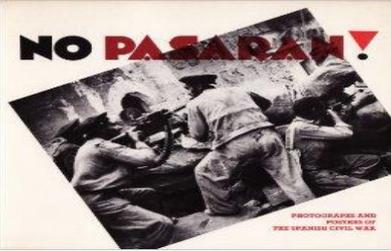




**TRADE UNION FRIENDS
OF PALESTINE**
*Campaigning in solidarity
with the Palestinian people*



WE REMEMBER



THE SPANISH REPUBLIC

When we supported the workers of Spain in their struggle 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?



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. Given the escalation of population control, **ethnic cleansing** and **colonisation**, with the effective annexation of the West Bank, the recurrent **massacres in Gaza**, and the deliberate **traumatisation of Palestinian children** and their families, it is time to move on from our principled position of ‘**campaigning in solidarity with the Palestinian people**’ (2005 BDC) to one of full implementation of our BDS policy. ICTU and the affiliate unions should agree to implement the policy 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 to hold them to account for war crimes and breaches of international law, and therefore **allows Israel to act with impunity**. Similarly, and in line with our policy, we should be seeking to end **EU complicity, corporate complicity**, and the **arms trade** with Israel. Supporting the European trade union campaign will help achieve this.

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.

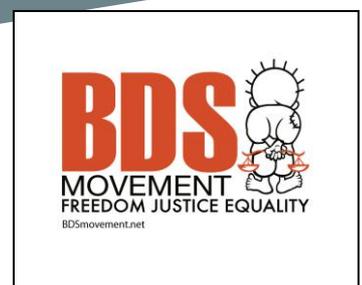
Who do we look to – who do we get our mandate from? Is it Hamas or Fatah? Do we support one-state or two-state?

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 mobilise in the same way as we did when we helped to bring about an end to Apartheid in South Africa.



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

CONTACT: NI: eamonmcmahon@hotmail.co.uk Rol: dkeane@forsa.ie