



A broad coalition of Palestinian civil society organizations, including trade unions, have called for Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel, until Israel respects the internationally recognized rights of the Palestinian people. (See <http://www.stophthewall.org/news/boycot.shtml>) Unions, as the organized labor power of working people, play a crucial role in any such campaign.

The Role of Unions in Ending Apartheid

HOW YOUR UNION CAN HELP END ISRAELI APARTHEID

UNION ROLE IN SOUTH AFRICAN STRUGGLE

- Unions throughout the country formed direct links with COSATU (The Congress of South African Trade Unions) because of its close links to the African National Congress. Although the AFL-CIO as a whole distanced itself from COSATU, Auto, Mining, and Textile unions invited South African unionists to the US, sponsored educational tours, lobbied Congress for sanctions, and sponsored fact-finding delegations to South Africa. This solidarity was seen as a crucial element of the anti-apartheid struggle by the leaders in South Africa.
- Public employee unions in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Chicago, New York City, Detroit and elsewhere passed measures divesting the members' pension funds from companies doing business in South Africa.
- NYC municipal workers led the successful fight to divest city pension funds.
- The New York Labor Committee Against Apartheid, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and other rank and file organizations around the country were central to the divestment movement.
- Numerous AFSCME locals supported divestment and worked in broad anti-apartheid coalitions.

UNIONS SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE

- COSATU supports BDS: "As someone who lived in apartheid South Africa and who has visited Palestine I say with confidence that Israel is an apartheid state. ... workers and democrats of the world ... heeded our call when we struggled against apartheid. Boycotts, disinvestments, and sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa hastened our march to democracy. Why should it be different for Palestinians?" [Willie Madisha, president, COSATU].n
- Prominent South African leaders, including Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, and Dennis Brutus have documented the parallels of Palestine to South African apartheid.
- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Ontario, passed a resolution in May, by unanimous vote of 900 delegates, to support the campaign against Israeli apartheid, and to participate in the international campaign of BDS.
- The Association of University Teachers in Britain voted to boycott Israeli universities supporting the occupation. Though the vote was since overturned, the issue is ongoing.
- Labor coalitions in NY have recently formed to support BDS
- In November the Norwegian Electrician and IT workers' union adopted a resolution calling for a comprehensive boycott of Apartheid Israel.



The US Campaign is a diverse coalition of over 200 groups working for freedom from occupation and equal rights for all by challenging US policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Campaign is based on human rights and international law, providing a non-sectarian framework for everyone who supports its *Call to Action*. Its strategy is to inform, educate, and mobilize the public so as to change the US role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Join this movement for justice and equality in Israel/Palestine. You can play a positive role by:

- encouraging your union to divest its pension funds from corporations that profit from Israeli Apartheid;
- Issuing a statement of solidarity with the Palestinian call for BDS;
- Refuse to continue business with US corporations that are profiting from Israeli Apartheid including Caterpillar. (Cat bulldozers are used to destroy thousands of Palestinian homes, demolish tens of thousands of olive trees, build illegal settlements, and construct the apartheid wall. Cat, a notorious union-busting company, refuses to halt sales to the Israeli military.)

For more information on how to get involved, please contact organizing@endtheoccupation.org or call (202) 332-0994. www.endtheoccupation.org