



**The Palestinian Boycott,
Divestment and Sanctions
National Committee (BNC) is
a wide coalition of the largest
Palestinian mass organizations,
trade unions, networks and
organizations.**

Member organizations:

Council of National and Islamic
Forces in Palestine
Gen. Union of Palestinian Workers
Palestinian General
Federation of Trade Unions
Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)
Palestinian Nat'l Institute for NGOs
Federation of Indep. Trade Unions
Global Palestine Right of Return
Coalition
Occupied Palestine and Syrian
Golan Heights Initiative
Gen. Union of Palestinian Women
Union of Palestinian Farmers
Grassroots Palestinian Anti-
Apartheid Wall Campaign (STW)
Nat'l Committee for Grassroots
Resistance
Pal. Campaign for the Academic and
Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI)
Nat'l Committee to Commemorate
the Nakba
Civic Coalition for the Defense of
Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem
Coalition for Jerusalem
Union of Pal. Charitable
Organizations
Palestinian Economic Monitor
Union of Youth Activity Centers-
Palestine Refugee Camps
Union of Professional Associations

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Occupied Palestine, February 23 2011

To:

Artur Henrique da Silva Santos - National President CUT
Quintino Severo - General Secretary
João Antonio Felicio - International Relations Secretary

Dear comrades of the CUT Brazil,

As the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC), a wide coalition of Palestinian political parties, civil society organizations, unions and campaigns, we would like to thank the CUT Brazil for their public statement in "Solidarity with the Palestinian people and boycott of the policies of the State of Israel".

We know about the historic support of the CUT for the rights of the Palestinian people to end the occupation and to achieve equality, self-determination and the right of return of the refugees to their homes. We deeply appreciate that the CUT has now joined the growing number of trade unions and trade union federations that have endorsed the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions issued on July 9.

The global trade union movement has consistently demonstrated its commitment to justice and international solidarity by adopting labour-led sanctions as a form of effective pressure against injustice meted out against workers and entire people. It has played a crucial role in the international solidarity that contributed to the downfall of Apartheid in South Africa. It can – and in front of the unwillingness of governments around the world to stop their collusion with Israeli apartheid, indeed, it has the moral and political duty – to shoulder the responsibility to build up once again a global movement in support of a people's struggle powerful enough to counter colonial and commercial interests.

The fundamentals for this new BDS movement are taking shape. The South African, Scottish, Irish and Trade Union congresses have all firmly and resolutely endorsed BDS, including reviewing relations with the Histadrut. The TUC UK is taking action within the framework of the BDS call. Trade union federations and coalitions in Belgium, Canada and the Basque country joined other national federations and scores of individual unions

and regional trade union confederations in endorsing the global BDS movement.

In the wake of the attack on the Freedom Flotilla, the dockworkers in Sweden and California, USA implemented blockades of Israeli goods and an Israeli ship respectively. The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) called for a three-day strike against handling cargo to and from Israel. Dockworkers in India, Turkey, Norway and South Africa – where the South African Transport and Allied Workers' Union (SATAWU) pioneered the boycott against Israeli maritime trade in February 2009 by refusing to offload a ship in Durban in protest of Israel's war of aggression on the Gaza Strip – also announced support and plans to implement blockades. The South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) has launched a campaign to make every municipality in South Africa an "Apartheid Israel free zone".

Within this framework of labour activism, the positioning of the CUT is particularly significant for its importance within Brazil, the region and globally. We therefore warmly salute the decision of the CUT to condemn the military ties between Brazil and Israel and the ratification of the Mercosur-Israel FTA and to engage in concrete action against these ties with Israel. We appreciate the initiative by CUT to call for a national conference to gather the forces of Brazilian political and social forces to build effective solidarity with Palestine.

As BNC we look forward to working with the CUT on these and other campaigns and to support the efforts to bring Brazilian forces together in support of BDS.

We reiterate our invitation to the CUT to come to visit Palestine and meet with Palestinian people, workers, unionists and activists to witness the Israeli policies of apartheid, occupation and colonialism and the Palestinian struggle and to discuss with us common efforts to further justice and equality in Palestine and around the world.

We hope we can work on effective actions that raise awareness, speak truth to power, and put pressure on Israel and the states, companies and institutions that are complicit with its regime of apartheid, occupation and colonialism.

In solidarity,

BNC secretariat