

# The struggle for Palestinian rights is an anti-racist struggle

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The issue of justice for Palestine has leapt right up the international agenda for trade unionists. Israel's siege on Gaza, its continued violations of international law and each attack on Palestinians is being responded to by a new wave of international solidarity.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to justify Israel's continued violations of international law, its illegal occupation and its racist policies against the Palestinians.

## The truth

So instead, those who support the Israeli state's actions are attempting to turn reality on its head, and falsely claim that those who support equal rights for Palestinians are motivated by anti-Semitism.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The principle of equality of all – regardless of race or religion – is a concept trodden under the boot of Israeli occupation and oppression everyday. PSC was born out of opposition to racism in all its ugly forms – including Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial. Anti-racism is part of our DNA.

Indeed to try and win the arguments by accepting a framework of inequality and racism would be totally counterproductive.

You can not win an argument against the racist actions of the Israeli state – the discriminatory laws and practices, the ethnic cleansing, the colonisation of Palestine – if you are open to the same criticisms.

## Broad-based solidarity

PSC is building the broadest based solidarity movement – a mass movement that has the capacity to win, to influence Governments, to win public opinion and to build mass protest through boycott, divestment and sanctions. A broad



Moshé Machover, founder member of Israeli Revolutionary Socialist organisation Matzpen (1962) joins RMT Palestinian Solidarity meeting

coalition which includes trade unions, faith groups and a wide variety of NGOs as well as committed activists. All of these operate within an anti-racist framework.

The effectiveness of a solidarity movement is often best seen by the scale of attacks upon it from the country responsible for the injustice. For Israel to be able to continue its illegality and war crimes, it must attempt to silence international public opinion.

## Revulsion

In winter 2008/9 Israel's attack on Gaza, Operation Cast Lead, destroyed vital infrastructure, killed over 1400 Palestinians and injured thousands more. Israeli think-tank the Reut Institute rightly assessed that violence had failed to achieve Israel's ends and had produced worldwide revulsion.

Reut therefore advised a strategy of attacking what it describes as the 'delegitimisers' by 'systematically exposing information about them, their activities, and the organisations that they operate out of. The goal is to eventually frame them, depending on context, as anti-peace, anti-Semitic, or dishonest purveyors of double standards.' Reut also

referred to the danger of 'lawfare' – otherwise known in the real world as 'bringing Israeli war criminals to justice.'

## Think-Tanks

Israeli think-tanks like the Reut Institute have declared London to be the 'hub of hubs' of the solidarity movement, paying particular attention to the rise in trade union solidarity with Palestine. Reut's premise is that the international solidarity movement, particularly in 'hubs' such as London, need to be challenged, including via acts of 'sabotage'.

These frenzied attacks on those standing up for peace and justice reflect an increasingly panicked understanding that Israel's reliance on its overwhelming military superiority is unable to hold back the pro-Palestinian, pro-human rights international tide.

Now is the time for all those concerned with peace and justice and who oppose racism to become actively involved in the campaign for change – join the PSC!

**Contact Palestine  
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## Egyptian Federation Of Independent Trade Unions

### Important Statement

The Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions announces its participation in the sit-in today (19 November 2011), under the slogan 'Achieve the goals of the revolution which have been manipulated for the last ten months'.

**Change – Freedom – Social Justice Change:** The henchmen of the old regime are still in positions of power at the top of public institutions, behaving in the same corrupt and thieving manner, just as they do in their continuing roles at the head of the National Democratic Party's labour organisation, the Egyptian Trade Union Federation.

**Freedom:** The law on trade union freedoms has not been ratified and we fear it will suffer the same fate as the treason law which was sent up to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces around a month ago and which has still not been passed while the law criminalising strikes was ratified at lightning speed.

**Social Justice:** There has been no answer to the demands of the Egyptian working class for a rise in the minimum wage and pension and for the setting of a maximum wage, meanwhile workers face victimisation and the sack for trade union activism and some have been sent to the military courts.

**This is why Egyptian workers, who have contributed to this revolution over many years, have decided to continue towards the realisation of its goals and announce that they are going down to Tahrir Square.**

**It is God whose help we seek**

**The Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions**

19 November 2011