

## **PGFTU reaffirms call for Boycott of Israel**

Posted on April 17, 2011 by Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU)

***The following is a translation of a PGFTU statement to the Scottish Trade Union Congress. The Arabic version with PGFTU letterhead is available for download below.***

The PGFTU has confirmed what was stated by its general secretary, Mr Shaher Saed, to the Unison delegation to Palestine during the period 27th November to 3rd December 2010. this as follows:

**“Mr Shaher Saed detested the attempts by some organisations to exploit the relationship between the Histadrut and the PGFTU for political gain and to undermine the international trade unions efforts to defend the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.” Mr Saed has confirmed that the relationship between the PGFTU and the Histadrut is one of unequals. We live under an Israeli military occupation while trying to defend the rights of our Palestinians workers who are subjugated by the Israeli army which deny them their rights and subjects them to all sorts of violations in contravention of international conventions on human and workers rights. We, in the PGFTU, call on all international organisations and trade unions not to use the relationship between the PGFTU and the Histadrut to justify establishing relationships with the Israeli occupation and its institutions that contribute towards strengthening the occupation.**

Mr Shaher Saed has condemned specifically the Trade Unions Friends of Israel for trying to portray the relationship between the PGFTU and the Histadrut as a sign of normalisation between the Palestinian and Israeli trade union movements.

Mr Shaher has also accused the Trade Unions Friends of Israel of dishonest behaviour when dealing with PGFTU. The PGFTU was very clear about its relationship with the Histadrut which was specific to representing the Palestinian workers who work inside Israel. He also confirmed that the PGFTU refuses to normalise relations with the Histadrut as long as the occupation exists and as long as the racist practices against our people and workers continue.

Mr Saed welcomes and expresses PGFTU's support for all workers and international organisations that take a stance against the Israeli occupation and its institutions that violate Palestinian human rights. Mr Saed holds in high regard the initiatives and decisions taken by friendly trade unions to boycott the institutions that are implicated in the occupation and its illegal practices.

Mr Saed has called on national and international trade unions to support the Palestinian national project to establish our independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital and to support the efforts of the Palestinian leadership in gaining recognition from their governments for a Palestinian state within the borders of 4<sup>th</sup> June 1967. We are certain of the trade unions positive and active role in supporting our just cause. We salute all trade unions in the world that have passed motions in support of our people against the Israeli occupation.

We at the PGFTU salute all international trade unions and we trust them to make the right decisions that reflect the values upon which the international trade union movement is built, to help our independence, freedom, our right to return to our homeland, and building our independent

Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. We appreciate the role of the unions in rejecting the denial of the rights of individuals and nations. We further appreciate the unions' support to all nations in their endeavour to freedom, justice, equality and development. It is time the world took a stance against the Israeli occupation. It is time all world organisations decided to boycott all Israeli institutions implicated in the occupation and its practices, and to bring pressure on their governments to recognise the independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, support the right of all Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland, demand the release of all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, the removal of the racist separation wall, and the removal of all settlements from our land.

Long live the International Trade Union Movement