



Boycott Divestment Sanctions

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

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The Palestinian BDS National Committee welcomes FIOM endorsement of BDS

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Occupied Palestine - The Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC) is delighted at the principled choice made by the FIOM trade union at its XXV National Congress to respond to the call made by Palestinian civil society, including all trade union federations, by deciding to take "all possible actions" within the BDS framework.

The BNC would like to offer its full and unreserved praise to all those who have played a part in this important development. We hope that this policy decision is followed by effective and concrete campaigns to implement it, as is happening in unions that have already adopted BDS policies, such as COSATU, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), the Scottish Trade Union Congress (STUC), the British Trades Union Congress (TUC), as well as a score of trade unions in France, Canada, Norway, Spain, among others. FIOM's decision reaffirms a growing trend in the international trade union movement that seeks to fulfill the duty of international solidarity with the Palestinian people, and its working class in particular, and to end Israel's impunity before international law.

The Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS adopts a rights-based approach that advocates justice of all three sectors of the Palestinian people, including those with Israeli citizenship living under a system of racial discrimination since 1948, and the over six million refugees, denied their UN-sanctioned right to return to their homes of origin. We hope that your adoption of BDS will recognize the basic rights of these three components of the Palestinian people.

The BNC also hopes that the passing of this motion will encourage other Italian unions to take similar steps and to urge CGIL, and indeed the whole Italian trade union movement, to endorse the Palestinian call for BDS and to start taking bold and decisive action as part of the rapidly emerging global movement, as was done against apartheid South Africa.

Italy is a key partner of Israel, as evidenced by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's declaration that it is his 'dream' that Israel becomes a member of the European Union¹ and the growing military cooperation that takes place between the two countries.

Israel's continued occupation, colonization and apartheid could not have continued for decades without international complicity, particularly by the US and the EU. This failure of the international community to hold Israel accountable to international law and human rights principles underlines the importance of the non-violent, civil opposition to its actions that BDS represents. The BNC is therefore delighted that FIOM has adopted BDS and looks forward to cooperating with you in every way to further your implementation of this policy.

- The BDS National Committee Secretariat

¹ <http://www.thejcc.com/news/israel-news/26695/berlusconi-my-dream-israel-join-eu>