

- [About us](#)
 - [Tadamon! Basis of Unity](#)
 - [Directions for Solidarity](#)
 - [Past Events](#)
 - [Photos](#)
 - [Get Involved](#)
 - [Contact us](#)
- [Projects](#)
 - [Radio Tadamon!](#)
 - [Tadamon! Delegations](#)
 - [Summer 2005](#)
 - [Summer 2006](#)
- [Weblogs](#)
 - [Cluster bombs](#)
 - [Ceasefire violations](#)
- [Campaigns](#)
 - [De-listing Hezbollah](#)
 - [Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions Against Israeli Apartheid](#)
 - [Academic boycott against Israeli apartheid](#)
 - [Cultural boycott against Israeli apartheid](#)
 - [Economic boycott against Israeli apartheid](#)
- [Links](#)

[English](#)

[Français](#)

[عربي](#)

[Gaza: Canadian Union of Postal Workers calls for boycott](#)

9 January 2009 | Posted in [Boycott](#), [Canada](#), [Palestine](#)

Canadian Union of Postal Workers, January 7th, 2009.



Photo: Palestinians in Gaza on Friday prayed next to the bodies of the Salha family.

On behalf of the 56,000 members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, I am writing to demand that

the Canadian government condemn the military assault on the people of Gaza that the state of Israel commenced on December 26th, 2008.

Canada must also call for a cessation of the ongoing Israeli siege of Gaza, which has resulted in the collective punishment of the entire Gaza population.

Canada must also address the root cause of the violence: Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

Israel's current actions are totally out of proportion with any notion of self-defense. Israel's actions are resulting in the massacre of people in Gaza.

Israels action will not bring peace to the region. they will result in Israel being less secure.

Professor Richard Falk, the UN's Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in the Occupied territories, has characterized the Israeli offensive as containing "...severe and massive violations of international humanitarian law as defined in the Geneva Conventions, both in regards to the obligations of an occupying power and in the requirements of the laws of war."

CUPW strongly urges the Canadian government to condemn the serious violations of humanitarian and international law by the state of Israel.

The Israeli Government's siege and military incursions into Gaza are not isolated events. It is a direct result of Israel's ongoing occupation of Palestine and the refusal of the Israeli government to abide by numerous United Nations security council resolutions.

Therefore, as a longer term strategy, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers is asking your government to adopt a program of boycott, divestment and sanctions until Israel recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and complies with international law, including the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes as stipulated in UN resolution 194.

Yours truly,

Denis Lemelin

National President

cc.

Michael Ignatieff, Liberal Leader

Jack Layton, NDP Leader

Gilles Duceppe, Bloc Quebecois Leader

Ken Georgetti, Canadian Labor Congress

7 Comments »

If I'm wrong, please correct me, but as of yet , I haven't seen this latest news made public in any of the mainstream media outlets. If you can please source the above letter, it can be widely and quickly disseminated to media, but not before it is properly identified. Checked the CUPW site , but can't find it.

Comment by carla — 11 January 2009 @ 9:27 AM

Here are a few facts in contradiction to the assertions of an Apartheid Israel.

Jews in the Middle East: have been,all but a few ,ethnically cleansed from the Arab/Muslim world,with well over 900,000 Jews expelled from their Arab homes,in where they lived for generations,and some well before the creation of Islam.

Places in the Middle East that Jews are effectively allowed to live are :ISRAEL...! - and for a limited amount of time,240,000 Jews are living among 3.5 Million Arabs in the West Bank.

Places that Palestinians can and do live:ISRAEL, WEST BANK AND GAZA! In fact there are more Arabs living in Israel than Jews in the entire Middle East and North Africa.1.5 Million.Yet no Jew is allowed to live in Gaza and eventually in most if not all of the West Bank.

Israel is being erroneously referred to as an “APARTHEID STATE”,when the irony is that Jews are prevented from living in most if not ALL of the Arab/Muslim Middle East,either by written or unwritten law, in a genuine case of Segregation or Apartheid”.

Keep in mind the actual size of this tiny territory referred to as an apartheid state, as compared to the vast territory considered the Muslim/Arab world,and than compare the relative generosity of Israel to Palestinians,considered an enemy of Jews and Israel,versus the Muslim world. The contradiction could not be more obvious.

Has it occurred to anyone that Israel,size of the state of New Jersey, has limited space and resources? Even China implemented a “one child “law because of limited territory and resources for what was a population that believed in having unlimited numbers of children.Gaza is an example of exactly the same problem with families having up to 30 children.Even Israel proper cannot accomodate an unlimited number of citizens without creating kaos and poverty.

It can be accurately stated that for a Jew there is no safe place in the Middle East,including Israel.But for a Jew there is only one place in the world where a Jew will be protected,and that is the only place where a Jew is effectively allowed to live... Israel.

Ironically there are more Jews living,(72,000), and permitted, to live in South Africa where the term Apartheid originates than there are Jews living in the ENTIRE Muslim/Arab Middle East and North Africa.

As few as one Jew,living in Afghanistan,and as many as a 10 thousand oppressed and persecuted Jews left in Iran.

Yemen,Iraq,Syria,Jordan,Egypt,and other places where Jews once thrived ,now boast 100 or less Jews because of a CAMPAIGN OF PERSECUTION against Jews that has fallen on deaf ears at the UN.Yet the UN ,Human Rights Commission,Durban,makes Israel the target of over 1/4 of all of the worlds Human Rights Violations.While holding the President of Sudan,an Islamic leader,harmless for the ongoing Genocide of 300,000 civilians in Darfur.Durban is headed by Iran,Syria,Libya and Cuba.These are some of the most brutal human rights violators in the history of the world,and they sit at the helm of Durban II as JUDGES on Human Rights.

This is mind Boggling!

Comment by Ahmad Yaqeen — 11 January 2009 @ 1:25 PM

Salam,

Les médias Mainstream ont reçu cette info et bien d'autres mais ils censurent systématiquement. Ils sont totalement complices des crimes contre l'humanité et du nettoyage ethnique de la Palestine. Ils sont non seulement sionistes purs et durs mais plus largement alignés à 100% avec les intérêts du complexe militaro-industriel occidental (génocide de l'Iraq, Afghanistan, Géorgie...)

En plus il y a le format des médias qui garantit que tout est traité de façon superficielle, a-historique, amnésique.

Maintenant dans une stratégie de solidarité avec la Palestine, on peut inonder les médias de courriels, telephones aux lignes ouvertes, faxes, occupation de rédactions... dans 2 buts différents: soit dans l'espoir de ré-équilibrer leur couverture des nouvelles et qu'ils seront “un peu moins” orientés, soit dans le but de subvertir et saturer leur industrie de propagande tout en faisant passer le message que nous sommes

nombreux, en colère et déterminer à soutenir le droit du peuple palestinien et que mentir aura un cout de plus en plus élevé pour eux.

Personnellement je pense que mettre temps et énergie envers les MSM vaut la peine s'il c'est clairement dans la 2e stratégie...

Dans ce "ils" : les responsables des salles de rédactions, les éditorialistes et tous les journalistes ayant un minimum de marge de manoeuvre ainsi que les pseudo-experts de plateau

PS: une nouvelle d'un site socialiste mais intéressant sur NPD et médias:

"Canada's government and opposition trumpet Israel's "right" to wage endless war in Gaza"

<http://wsws.org/articles/2009/jan2009/cana-j10.shtml>

Comment by [karim](#) — 11 January 2009 @ 11:39 PM

I agree with carla. Could you kindly confirm the accuracy of this? I have seen it also in French but quoting Tadamon at <http://bellacio.org>

Comment by Simeon — 12 January 2009 @ 10:42 AM

A PDF of the original letter - in English:

http://www.socialistproject.ca/bullet/cupw_e.pdf

and in French:

http://www.socialistproject.ca/bullet/cupw_f.pdf

Comment by more info — 12 January 2009 @ 2:35 PM

Congratulations to the Postal Union for having the necessary intestinal fortitude to call an end to normal relations with such a criminal regime.

Comment by al simon — 12 January 2009 @ 3:07 PM

Mr Lemelin and the postal workers union deserve our respect and support for their courage.

Unfortunately it will take more than economic boycotts to put Israel back in its' place. The Gaza Ghetto Massacre is one of countless criminal acts of war which are made possible by the fact that that nearly all western countries too (their political and media institutions) are "Israeli-occupied territories". Why just last week, the US Congress passed a law drafted by AIPAC making it illegal to boycott Israel with only 5 Representatives voting against.

Comment by Marc Seemayer — 12 January 2009 @ 3:19 PM

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Website

• Search

• Bulletin by category

- [Agriculture](#) (7)
- [Beirut](#) (39)
- [Boycott](#) (157)
- [Canada](#) (62)
- [Civil-war](#) (11)
- [Cluster Munitions](#) (5)
- [Culture](#) (61)
- [Darfur](#) (1)
- [Dubai](#) (2)
- [Egypt](#) (8)
- [France](#) (5)
- [Hezbollah](#) (49)
- [Iran](#) (11)
- [Iraq](#) (6)
- [Jordan](#) (4)
- [Labor](#) (10)
- [Lebanon](#) (107)
- [Mexico](#) (1)
- [Palestine](#) (263)
- [Prisoners](#) (3)
- [Quebec](#) (38)
- [Radio Tadamon!](#) (9)
- [Religion](#) (13)
- [Syria](#) (7)
- [Tadamon!](#) (77)
- [Corporate Media](#) (63)
- [Economy](#) (23)
- [Environment](#) (12)
- [Gender and Sexuality](#) (6)
- [Imperialism](#) (77)
- [Independent Media](#) (54)
- [Other](#) (43)
- [Politics](#) (256)
- [Repression](#) (121)
- [Resistance](#) (153)
- [Solidarity](#) (213)
- [War and Terror](#) (269)

• Bulletin by month

- [January 2009](#)
- [December 2008](#)
- [November 2008](#)
- [October 2008](#)
- [September 2008](#)
- [August 2008](#)
- [July 2008](#)
- [June 2008](#)
- [May 2008](#)
- [April 2008](#)
- [March 2008](#)
- [February 2008](#)
- [January 2008](#)
- [December 2007](#)
- [November 2007](#)
- [October 2007](#)
- [September 2007](#)
- [August 2007](#)
- [July 2007](#)
- [June 2007](#)
- [May 2007](#)
- [April 2007](#)
- [March 2007](#)
- [February 2007](#)
- [January 2007](#)
- [December 2006](#)
- [November 2006](#)
- [October 2006](#)
- [September 2006](#)
- [August 2006](#)
- [July 2006](#)
- [June 2006](#)
- [May 2006](#)
- [January 2001](#)

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