



5 Reasons Why We Support **Resolution 70** at 2021 CUPE National Convention

1. Join the picket line:

Resolution 70 answers the call of Palestinian unions and civil society organizations to use a campaign of non-violent Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS). The BDS movement aims to apply international pressure until Israel complies with international law. This call from Palestine is a call to support an international picket line. Just as international solidarity was a decisive factor in ending apartheid in South Africa, so too is it a necessary labour contribution to the struggle for freedom, justice, and equality for Palestinians.

For more info about workers in Palestine see: <https://www.labourforpalestine.com/resources>

2. CUPE joins the movement:

Unions in Canada and across the globe have endorsed the call for BDS, including our own CUPE Ontario, as well as national unions such as Unifor, PSAC and CUPW. At its last convention in June 2021, the CLC also endorsed an emergency resolution to Support Palestinian Human Rights that includes boycott and sanctions on Israel. Our vote at the CUPE National Convention will contribute to the growing global solidarity movement and send a clear message that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity.

3. End ethnic cleansing and occupation:

The Israeli occupation of Palestine has meant decades of dispossession of the Palestinian people from their lands and homes. Palestinians continue to be subjected to house demolitions, arbitrary imprisonment, assassinations, and the siege and bombardment of Gaza. This spring, Israeli authorities carried out a violent ethnic cleansing of the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in Jerusalem. Palestinian residents who protested illegal evictions from their homes were shot at, arrested, injured, or killed. The Canadian Labour Congress condemned this, saying, "Ongoing evictions and Israel's illegal occupation is in blatant violation of international law and amounts to the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians."

4. Stop the attacks on Gaza:

On the heels of the violence against the Palestinian residents of Sheikh Jarrah and attacks on the Al-Aqsa mosque, the world watched in horror once again as Israeli forces attacked the besieged people of Gaza in May. That assault alone killed over 220 Palestinians (including more than 60 children), wounded 1600, and displaced more than 52,000 people. Gaza is an open-air prison, under siege since 2005, where infrastructure has been decimated by the Israeli military.

5. The Canadian government is complicit:

Since 2015, Canada has exported \$57 million worth of weapons to Israel, including \$16 million in bomb components. A recently signed contract with Elbit Systems supplies 85% of the drones used by the Israeli military to monitor and attack Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. The Canadian government has repeatedly put arms deals with Israel ahead of the rights and lives of Palestinians. In June of this year 40 labour organizations across Canada - including CUPE Ontario and CUPE BC, many CUPE Locals, Federations of Labour and Labour Councils - called for an immediate arms embargo on Israel. CUPE National must join the call!

We call on all delegates to the CUPE National Convention to support Resolution No. 70 (Palestine Solidarity) and join this vibrant worldwide solidarity movement of unions, academic associations, faith-based organizations, human rights defenders, and grassroots movements.