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Solidarity to the Palestinian People

Following the reprehensible and bloody attack by Hamas militants on Israeli civilians on October 7th, an attack that deserves our contempt, the Israeli Defence Forces have launched an unprecedented act of aggression against the civilians of Gaza. All this time, under the pretext of assassinating Hamas fighters, IDF are essentially engaging in an ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians, leaving behind destroyed infrastructure (hospitals, schools, manufacturing plants), but mostly thousands of civilians killed, among whom thousands of dead children. This inhuman practice of the IDF has triggered a storm of reactions by peoples all over the world.

We cannot stay untouched and silent facing this huge disaster. The struggle of the Palestinians for self-determination counts more than 70 years and hundreds of thousands of victims. On the other hand, the state of Israel uses in Palestine practices that are all contrary to the International Law (illegal settlements, ethnic cleansing, occupation of territories, land grabbing etc.) attempting to wipe the Palestinians out of this earth.

A few days ago, our unions met with representatives of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) Movement, an international Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equality. BDS upholds the simple principle that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity. The movement aims the boycott of Israeli products manufactured by companies that violate human rights, the divestment from Israeli companies that violate Palestinians' rights and the enforcement of sanctions against Israel by international organisations and governments.

There can be no just solution for Palestine if there first is no Peace and an end to the oppression by Israel. The International Law and the relevant decisions of the UN foresee the establishment of a Palestinian state within the borders of 1967 and the peaceful coexistence of Palestinians and Israelis. Until today, the state of Israel has been applying unacceptable practices of discrimination against Palestinians, both inside and outside of Israel and an orchestrated oppression over the Palestinian territories that reminds of an apartheid regime.

Under the Israeli military occupation, Palestinians are forced to live in their land as prisoners, surrounded by the illegal wall. The long siege of Gaza and the frequent raids by the Israeli military have been condemned by the international community as war crimes and crimes against humanity. Facing the atrocious conditions imposed by Israel, there seems to be just one way for a fair solution for the Palestinians.

We, the workers of Piraeus Port Authority, would like to express our full support and solidarity with the Palestinian people. The escalation of the indiscriminate violence and the disaster now happening in Gaza with the air raids to schools, hospitals and civilian targets makes us feel outraged and appalled.

In this context, we, the workers at the port of Piraeus, declare that we will not participate and we will not work in any illegal shipment of military material to Israel that has Piraeus as a departure or transit port and that will end up killing civilians and children. We will not be accomplices in any way to the crime happening in Gaza.

The BoDs