

# workers power

National March  
for Palestine

03.02.24

## WE NEED A WORKERS' BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

Protest is not enough. Only action by organised workers can stop the supply of weapons, funding, and diplomatic support from the UK for Israel's genocide. It's time to act.

**T**HE Palestinian trade unions have issued a call for solidarity from the international labour movement. The statement calls on workers to refuse to build or transport weapons to Israel, to break links with companies complicit in the occupation, and pressure their governments to end military trade and funding to Israel.

Israel carries out the colonisation of Palestine and the collective punishment of those who resist under the cover of unconditional military, financial and diplomatic support from the western powers.

The huge demonstrations against Israel's war demonstrate the gulf that separates the mass of ordinary workers and young people from our rulers' 'unconditional support' for Israel's crimes.

Faced with the UK's complicity with Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza, it is the duty of the British labour movement to act on the appeal for solidarity from our Palestinian sisters and brothers.

This takes on even more importance faced with the Labour party leadership's attempt to silence internal criticism of its pro-Zionist policy and ban public expressions of solidarity with Palestine.

### DIRECT ACTION

The campaign group Workers For A Free Palestine has taken the lead organising blockades of factories linked to the Israeli war machine. This kind of action should be stepped up everywhere.

This matters because although the value of UK military exports to Israel is low

compared to other countries, the UK hosts an arms industry of world importance, providing access to skilled workers, a chain of production, and research, exchange and collaboration with Israel's two most important security partners, the US and UK. This gives the UK importance to the Israeli war machine well beyond the monetary value of exports.

All Israel-UK trade contributes to supporting or legitimising Israel's occupation. But Israel is now a developed capitalist country, exporting pharmaceuticals, luxury goods and industrial products. Consumer boycotts are ineffective because they can't really dent the bosses' pockets, and, more importantly, they limit solidarity to the sphere of individual acts of conscience, instead of opening the road of struggle for workers' control in the workplace.

### WORKERS ACTION

Demonstrations, sit-ins, and pickets show that the people stand with Palestine and reject our rulers' 'unconditional support' for Israel's crimes. But millions marching couldn't stop the Iraq war and on their own they won't stop Israel.

The decisive lever that can break Britain's vital support for the Zionist occupation and war is workers' action to impose the boycott. Our aim should be our trade unions' active participation in the solidarity movement at every level, including big contingents on the national protests. That can lay the basis for mass workers' direct action against arms, aid and links to Israel in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Dockers around the world have refused to load ships with arms for Israel, and in the past factory workers have taken action to stop arms being made for repressive regimes.

If we can build an active workers' wing of a powerful Palestine solidarity movement we will be delivering the maximum pressure to stop the war and provide solidarity to our besieged, occupied, oppressed and expelled brothers and sisters in Palestine.

What we need is a campaign of workers' sanctions to boycott the production, transport and sale of all trade with the Apartheid state. Transport, logistics and distribution workers and their unions have the power to exercise supervision and control over goods bound for and from Israel. No worker should have to take responsibility for propping up an Israeli economy based on the expropriation, exploitation and plunder of the Palestinians.

### ASSEMBLIES & ACTION COMMITTEES

To build this campaign, we need to organise open, democratic, decision-making workers' assemblies in every town and university. We don't need more rallies to 'build the next demo', we need committees of action, composed of representatives of trade union branches, large workplaces, and solidarity movements. This way, we can organise working class methods to impose the boycott, and, at the same time, develop rank and file organisation in the trade unions by demanding they end their undeclared boycott of the mass movement.