

PARC/ERA/GZ/49/06

Date: June 14, 2006

To: Sid Ryan, President CUPE Ontario

CUPE Ontario Executive Members

Katherine Nastovski, Chair CUPE Ontario International Solidarity Committee

From: Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)

Subject: Support Letter Regarding the CUPE Ontario Resolution No. 50

The Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)[\[1\]](#) with its six affiliated associations and 400 hundred community-based organizations and grassroots committees representing tens of thousands of Palestinian farmers, women and youths in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would like to express our full support to resolution 50 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)/ Ontario Branch, passed on March 27, 2006.

We wish to express our respect and high appreciation of this courageous and ethical position, which signals the globally rejected racist occupation and colonial policies of the State of Israel inflicted on the native Palestinian people, and comes in response to the call of the Palestinian civil society organizations including PARC for international boycott, divestment and sanctions on Israel.

It came to our knowledge that you are facing vigorous intimidation attempts by the Zionist and pro- Israel lobby groups to pressure you to repeal your stand. With our full understanding of your critical and sensitive position, we call upon all members of CUPE to hold fast to their stance, and to ensure the call of BDS will have concrete effects on the ground.

Be assured that the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people are behind you and have highly welcomed your decision. At this moment, many statements and petitions are raised and signed in support of your campaign as we all believe that what Israel is committing against the Palestinian people is analogous to the practices of the old South Africa Apartheid regime. It requires an urgent action for a vast movement of human solidarity to stop and prevent further indiscriminate killing of Palestinian civilians, bombardment of people's houses, expropriation of land and water resources, undermining of people's ability to obtain jobs and food as well as restrictions on people's movement which contravene the international humanitarian law and are in blatant breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

We are sure that your well explored and articulated boycott initiative is stemmed from Canadians' strong quest for core principles and the shared values toward human rights, world peace and stability. Be sure that BDS action will be productive in the Palestinian case as it proved to be in South Africa.

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[1] PARC is one of the largest NGOs in Palestine concerned with sustainable rural development and social change. It targets the most vulnerable and marginalized groups living in the Palestinian rural areas. Over 23 years of work, PARC achieved solid results in resisting the Israeli occupation, protecting farmed lands from confiscation and enabling rural people to outreach social and economic resources and actively participate in decision-making and development processes.