**COSATU calls for end to US support of Israeli racism and for total Shutdown of Israeli embassy at a Mass Picket, 15th February (Thusrday) in Sandton**

Congress of South African Trade Unions

February 14, 2018

<http://www.cosatu.org.za/docs/pr/2018/pr0214.html>

COSATU calls on workers and all who stand for democracy and anti-racism, to join the Mass picket scheduled for this coming Thursday, the 15th February at the US Consulate in Sandton.

Working together with the SACP and the whole alliance, as well as all progressive and solidarity movements in the country, COSATU regards this important picket as mainly about 4 concrete things;

* The practical means to advance the proud legacy and 100 years birthday Celebration of our great legend, Nelson Mandela, who walked free from Robben Island on the 11th February, 1990. In his profound words of wisdom, �Our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians�, he called us into action against any and all forms of apartheid, racism and colonialism as a struggle for our own dignity too.
* The workers struggle for jobs, by building our own manufacturing and industrial capacity as a country, using our massive mineral resources for local development than exporting them to prop up the profit interests of hostile countries, including and particularly, Israel
* Proud Celebration of great women freedom fighters, with the 100 years birthday celebration of Albertina Sisulu, the former UDF President and our stalwart in the struggle against apartheid, particularly, women and children�s oppression and for dignity and freedom of all people. In that spirit, we pay special tribute to Ahed Tamini, the child prisoner in Israel, whose outstanding bravery inspired many all over the world to intensify the struggle against Israeli barbarism.
* Fighting racism, slavery and the dehumanisation of Africans by Israeli Zionism and their frontline representative, the US President Donald Trump and his shameful racism against our own dignity

COSATU fully supports the ANC 54th National Conference resolution to immediately and unconditionally downgrade the Israeli embassy in Tel Aviv, which we view as a major step towards the total shutdown and isolation of Israel, as the only remaining peaceful method against the colonial apartheid state of Israel and its arrogant violation of international law. It was the most decisive force against apartheid South Africa and surely, will deliver necessary pressure towards a Free Palestine too.

We remain inspired by the BDS growth in South Africa and globally, particularly as we move towards the Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) 2018 in March and the theme being racism against Africans in Israel.

Bongani Masuku (International Relations Secretary)

Congress of South African Trade Unions

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