



Occupied Palestine, January 7 2025

## **Solidarity statement with the miners and the mining communities in Stilfontein**

As the Palestinian New Federation of Trade Unions (PNFTU) we express our full solidarity with the up to one thousand miners trapped in the shafts of the mines in Stilfontein, their families, friends and communities.

The Palestinian people and workers over the decades of common struggle against apartheid, colonial and capitalist exploitation, dehumanization, and for survival and dignity have formed a strong and lasting bond of solidarity. We are profoundly grateful to the South African people for their unwavering support for our struggle against Israel's settler-colonial apartheid, military occupation, and now genocide, and for the post-apartheid government's bold stance in taking the case against Israel at the ICJ under the Genocide Convention.

As a people upon which Israel's ongoing live-streamed genocide in Gaza has forced ever worsening conditions of starvation and deprivation, on top of endless bombings and destruction, it is particularly painful to witness the ever deteriorating conditions and harrowing accounts coming out from the depths of the Stilfontein mines. We are appalled by the incapacity or unwillingness of the mining companies, South Africa's post-apartheid court system and authorities to prevent and end this atrocious tragedy and uphold human rights, including the right to life, for all.

South African workers have been viciously exploited and killed in the mines across the country to line the pockets of international and apartheid capital. During the apartheid era, much of their production was sent by these corporations to Israel, used to fuel and fill the coffers of Israeli apartheid. Especially through the ongoing coal exports by Glencore to Israel, South Africa's mines are still today fuelling Israel's ongoing genocide and crimes against our people.

We implore the South African government to intervene, expedite a rescue operation and end the starvation and horrendous suffering of those underground. We are acutely aware that denying access to food, water, medicine and basic supplies is always wrong, whoever they are, wherever they are, whether its citizens or migrant workers desperately trying to survive.

In solidarity,

Mohammad Bleidi,  
President of the Palestinian New Federation of Trade Unions