

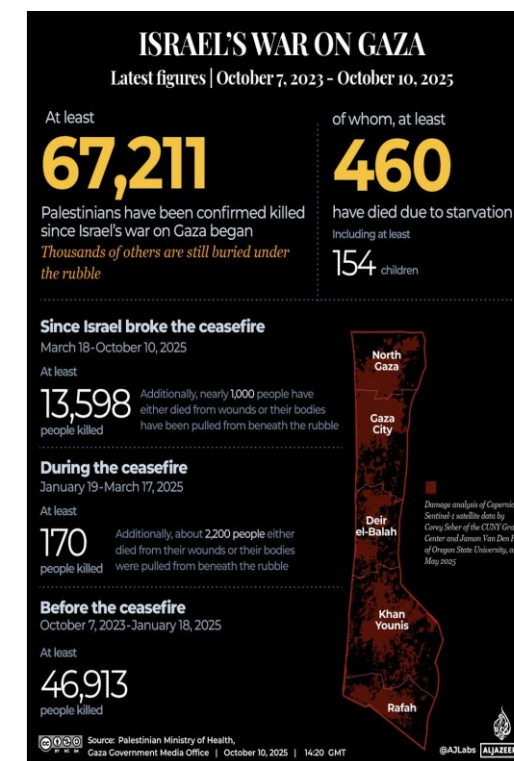


**Presentation to SATAWU
Workshop
Richards Bay
16 October 2025**

**coal embargo campaign:
South Africa must end complicity
in Israel's genocide**

Settler colonialism, Occupation and Apartheid





[It's not just Gaza - ethnic cleansing accelerates in West Bank](#)



Who is the BDS Coalition and what is the energy embargo campaign?

- Palestinian call for boycotts, divestment and sanctions (2005)
- South African BDS Coalition (2020)
- Energy Embargo campaign



South African coal is fueling genocide and illegal occupation

- For decades coal has been, and still is, South Africa's primary export to Israel.
- Whilst only amounting to less than 2% of our total coal exports, South African coal amounts to between 15-17.5% of Israel's coal imports.
- Coal makes up around 17% of Israel's total electricity supply.
- The amount of coal sent since October 2023 is now 2.7 mn tonnes (i.e., \$11.1 billion in climate damage).



South Africa brings about legal obligations to end our complicity

South Africa case against Israel to the ICJ under the Genocide Convention

- Provisional measures – prevent and punish

Advisory Opinion ruling of the ICJ on illegality of settlements and system of apartheid

- UN General Assembly Resolution (September 2024) super majority in favour of sanctions against Israel

Hague Group commitments:

- Prevent the provision or transfer of arms, munitions, military fuel, related military equipment, and dual-use items to Israel;
- Prevent the transit, docking, and servicing of vessels at any port.... in all cases where there is a clear risk of the vessel being used to carry arms, munitions, military fuel, related military equipment, and dual-use items to Israel.
- Prevent the carriage of arms, munitions, military fuel, related military equipment, and dual-use items to Israel on vessels bearing our flag... and ensure full accountability, including de-flagging, for non-compliance with this prohibition.



We called on unions for an energy embargo against Apartheid South Africa



ENERGY EMBARGO NOW!

**FOR PALESTINE, FOR OUR COMMUNITIES, AND FOR THE CLIMATE
JOIN THE FIGHT FOR AN ENERGY EMBARGO ON THE GENOCIDAL STATE OF ISRAEL**

DID YOU KNOW SOUTH AFRICA STILL SELLS COAL TO ISRAEL?

Since October 2023, 17 shipments of South African coal have left Richards Bay Coal Terminal to the Israeli port of Hadera. The latest shipment is at sea right now.

THE ISRAELI POWER GRID DEPENDS ON COAL

Coal sales to Israel make up a small amount of our coal exports, but for Israel, South African coal means everything. Israel touts itself as a 'green' utopia but their grid burns coal for about 17.5% of it's output. Burning coal supplies electricity to illegal settlements and military infrastructure, powering the genocide against Palestinians. While South African coal powers the Israeli grid, Israel cuts off power to Gaza – a war crime

MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR A GENOCIDE IS AGAINST THE LAW

Colombia, Russia and South Africa are genocidal, apartheid Israel's biggest coal suppliers. Since Colombia has instituted a Coal Embargo on Israel, South African coal made up 48% of Israel's coal imports from January to May 2025, compared to 16.6% in 2024, a 32% increase this year.

The ICJ ruling triggers the legal obligation of all states to end complicity in Israel's illegal occupation and apartheid regime. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition's continued permission for coal to be exported to Israel blatantly contravenes international law.

COAL MINING IS BAD FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Coal mines poison our society, our water, soil and our air. The bosses get rich but local people live with the social, health and environmental devastation for generations.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOCIDE

1.6 million tonnes of coal releases 3.68 million tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere. Every tonne of CO₂ costs R26.5k in environmental damage. Every 4,340 tonnes of CO₂ causes roughly one climate-related death, which means South African coal sold to Israel has already caused 848 additional climate deaths and R97.5 billion in environmental damage. The bombing campaign in Gaza has emitted 2 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions itself, in the genocide's first 100 days the campaign released more emission than 26 countries, combined. By powering the military infrastructure, our coal enables this ecocide.

Poster based on a historic anti-Apartheid mobilisation to boycott the South African Coal Conference – a campaign launched by the AAM and the British National Union of Mineworkers.

That's more than 1.5 million tonnes of South African coal powering the genocide and the occupation. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition facilitates every lump of killer coal.

SANCTION ISRAEL NO SOUTH AFRICAN COAL





UN Special Rapporteur highlights Glencore South African coal sales to Israel

Glencore was also involved in shipments from South Africa,(186) which accounted for 15 per cent of Israeli coal imports in 2023 and continuing in 2024 (187).

By supplying Israel with coal, gas, oil and fuel, companies are contributing to civilian infrastructures that Israel uses to entrench permanent annexation and weaponises in the destruction of Palestinian life. The same infrastructure services the Israeli military while it obliterates Gaza, including the network supplying the resources that these companies have provided (204). The ostensibly civilian nature of such infrastructure does not exonerate a company of responsibility (205).

Francesca Albanese, July 2025: *From the Economy of Occupation to the Economy of Genocide*

Vessel Name	Richards Bay	Destination	Tonnes	Ship Owner
<u>Seafighter</u>	12/10/2025	Israel	170 000	Thenamaris
<u>Navios Felix</u>	28/09/2025	Israel	170 000	Glory Ocean
<u>Ernandin</u>	29/08/2025	Ashkelon	174 205	First Cape
Algoma Value	21/07/2025	Ashkelon	75 569	CSL Americas
CSL Metis	20/06/2025	Ashkelon	69 304	CSL Americas
Algoma Value	18/05/2025	Ashkelon	75 569	CSL Americas
Fortune	14/05/2025	<u>Hadera</u>	182 620	Eastern Med.
CSL Metis	03/04/2025	Ashkelon	69 304	CSL Americas
<u>Schinousa</u>	11/03/2025	<u>Hadera</u>	176 247	Minerva Dry
Algoma Value	28/02/2025	Ashkelon	75 569	CSL Americas
Cape Friendship	06/01/2025	Hadera	185 879	Fml Ship Mgt
<u>Parea</u>	16/11/2024	Israel	181 000	Diana Shipping
<u>Seamelody</u>	09/11/2024	Israel	82 031	Thenamaris
<u>Seabulk</u>	18/10/2024	Hadera	81 996	Thenamaris
<u>Seastrength</u>	17/10/2024	<u>Hadera</u>	81 134	Thenamaris
<u>Zea</u>	03/10/2024	Hadera	81 434	Eastern Med.
Sea Commander	16/09/2024	Hadera	81 856	Eastern Med.
Navios Felix	11/08/2024	Hadera	181 221	Navios
KSL Seattle	20/01/2024	Hadera	181 015	Golden Ocean
KSL Salvador	04/12/2023	Hadera	180 958	Golden Ocean
Golden Cumulus	25/10/2023	Hadera	180 499	Golden Ocean

Ships carrying coal from Richards Bay to Israeli ports of Ashkelon and Hadera from October 2023 to October 2025



Algoma Value – transported coal from RBCT to Israel three times in 2025

Colombia bans coal sales to Israel!



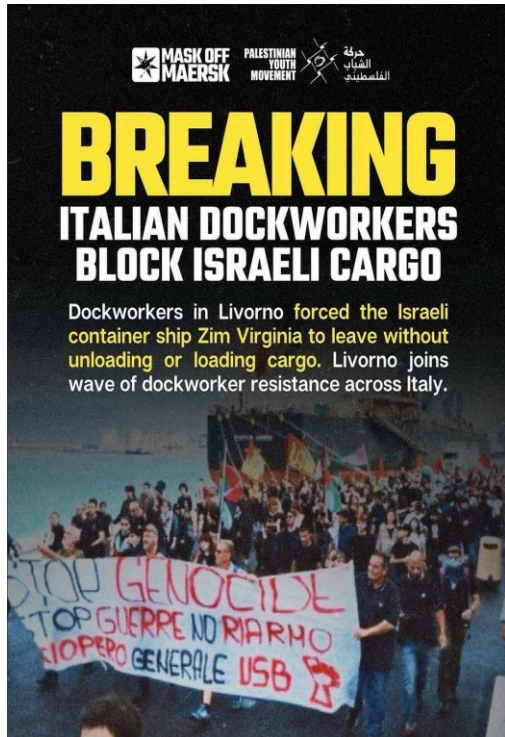
Colombian President Gustavo Petro has ... [ordered] the Navy to intercept and block all coal shipments leaving Colombian ports en route to Israel. This move comes nearly a year after his government issued a formal decree in August 2024 banning coal exports to Israel, a measure intended to express Colombia's rejection of what Petro has repeatedly called a "genocidal" offensive against the Palestinian population.

Despite the ban, which included limited exceptions for previously approved contracts and customs-cleared shipments, Petro claims that officials within his own administration have continued to authorise coal exports, effectively undermining the government's foreign policy. On Thursday, 24 July, he publicly rebuked this defiance on social media, stating: "They took out a ship full of coal again today, bound for Israel. A challenge to my government. (...) The Navy will receive a written order to stop ships bound for Israel." Later, he doubled down, declaring: "Not a single ton of coal should leave Colombia for Israel."

The president's order has reignited tensions with multinational mining giants such as Glencore, which operates Cerrejón — the largest open-pit coal mine in Latin America and US-based Drummond. Both companies have defended their operations, asserting they are complying with the legal exceptions outlined in the original export ban. However, Petro alleges that internal deception and corporate pressure allowed coal exports to continue unlawfully...

Petro has also called on Colombian society to take a more active role. He urged Labor Minister Gloria Inés Ramírez to convene an emergency dialogue with coal sector unions and emphasised the need to consult with indigenous communities — especially the Wayúu people, who inhabit the region surrounding the Cerrejón mine in La Guajira. "A meeting should be held with the Wayúu indigenous authorities and other communities affected by coal mining," he said. Petro has often tied Colombia's extractive economy to the exploitation and marginalisation of indigenous populations, and his coal export policy is now interwoven with both environmental and human rights concerns.

global trade union support for Palestinian trade union call: no fuel for genocide!



Dockworkers unions in [Belgium](#), [India](#), [Catalonia](#), [France](#), Italy, [Greece](#), Turkey, [Morocco](#), [California](#), and South Africa have stood against and/or tried to block Israeli ships or arms shipments to Israel.



Our struggle for justice in Palestine is inseparable from the global struggle against systemic racism, exploitation and oppression.





COSATU 8th Central Committee

DECLARATION

15-18 September 2025

5.7 On Concrete International Solidarity Work and Campaigns – Solidarity in action

Therefore, resolve that;

On Palestine – The CC endorsed two concrete action plans.

- The energy embargo and call for active engagement with our unions in the energy sector on the non-handling of coal campaign to Israel within a specified time duration.
- The Special resolution on Gaza and ending the genocide - to intensify the global call for an end to genocide and cleansing of Palestinians by the Israeli settler apartheid regime. To find practical ways for the federation and its affiliates to support the people of Palestine.



Never Again is Now! A Palestinian call to South African Trade Unions

The New Federation of Trade Unions extends revolutionary greetings of solidarity to COSATU on the occasion of its 8th Central Committee and 40th Anniversary in December 2025 at this critical global moment when fascism, racism and right-wing extremism is on the rise and allows Apartheid Israel to commit a live-streamed genocide against the Palestinian people with absolute impunity.

The proud history of COSATU and the unique role it played in leading the South African working class during the struggle against apartheid is an inspiration to Palestinian workers as we face the barbaric Apartheid Israeli genocidal onslaught.

We look to the formidable organisations of South African workers to join unions in Colombia, Greece, Italy, France, and many other countries to implement...

We know that the ongoing legacy of apartheid in South Africa ensures that the trade with Israel is still ongoing. Especially coal, a dual use item literally fuelling Israel's genocide, is still being exported to Israel. South African miners are still sustaining apartheid – only this time in Palestine. After powerful civil society mobilization, in which Colombia's trade unions have played a crucial role, Colombia has already put a blanket ban on coal exports to Israel.

Today, we [call](#) the international trade union movement and each and every worker to stand at this horrifying moment in history together with the Palestinian working class and the Palestinian people. We call on you to mobilize working class power to end all ties of complicity with Israel and impose concrete and effective sanctions, including:

- Ending South Africa's coal shipments to Israel.
- Ensuring South Africa's ports and flag are not used by vessels that transfer essential supplies for Israel's crimes against our people.
- Pressuring the government to cut diplomatic ties and promote the expulsion of apartheid Israel from the UN by withdrawing its accreditation to the UN General Assembly, similar to what was done to apartheid South Africa.



Boycott, Divest and Sanction Israel Now!

Palestine is the central location of the struggle within the broader context of global resistance to imperialism, racial and fossil capitalism and white supremacy.

Our collective aspirations for freedom and liberation for all, rests on a decolonised Palestine.



“Solidarity is not an act of charity but of unity between allies fighting on different terrains towards the same objectives”

Samora Machel



RESIST!!!!