

THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

MAY DAY | WORKPLACE DAY OF ACTION | ROSEBANK | FILTON 6 | FLOTILLA +



Photo: Matt Sime

WORKERS MAKE SCOTLAND

Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network



Scottish
Palestine
Solidarity
Campaign

BUILDING EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY

SCOTLAND ON THE STREETS TO COMMEMORATE MAY DAY

Over the first weekend of May, International Workers' Day events took place across Scotland, with marches and rallies held in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee – bringing together trade unionists, campaigners and local communities

Hussein Ezzedine
Scottish PSC TU Officer
Edinburgh Branch



Photo: Matt Sime

Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network



Scottish
Palestine
Solidarity
Campaign

BUILDING EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY

THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY | HUSSEIN EZZEDINE

There was a large mobilisation for the Edinburgh march on Saturday, 2nd May – as has been the case for many years. Likewise, on Sunday, 3rd May, members joined the march in Glasgow. The Scottish PSC stalls at the post-march rallies in both cities were busy throughout, with strong engagement among attendees.

These gatherings took place as the Palestinian Unions issued their May Day statement. Our comrades in Palestine reiterated their solidarity with workers across the world resisting all forms of oppression, while calling for an end to complicity in Israel's ongoing genocide and apartheid.

The call to unions worldwide was renewed urgently. We were reminded that trade unions have a duty to ensure that the workers they represent are not involved in actions that make them complicit in crimes anywhere, including Israel's war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

We were urged to take tangible steps in solidarity by adopting Ethical Procurement Policies (EPPs) and, in line with STUC policy, declare our unions Apartheid-Free Zones (AFZs).

TAKE ACTION

Read the [Palestinian Unions' May Day Call](#)

Become an [AFZ](#) today

Campaign Guide for an [Ethical Procurement Policy](#)

Ethical Procurement Policy [Operational Guide](#)

Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network



BUILDING EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY

WORKPLACE DAY OF ACTION



Hussein Ezzedine
Scottish PSC TU Officer
Edinburgh Branch

Responding to the call from Palestinian Trade Unions to intensify pressure against complicity in Israel's genocide and apartheid, workers across Scotland took part in a nationwide Workplace Day of Action on 14th May. Coordinated jointly by the three trade union federations across these islands, the initiative marked a significant milestone.

This was the first time that the [Scottish Trades Union Congress](#) (STUC) officially promoted such a day of action, and the first collaboration of its kind between the STUC, the [Irish Congress of Trade Unions](#) (ICTU), and the [Trades Union Congress](#) (TUC). Together, these developments represent a breakthrough in trade union solidarity and coordination.

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

WORKPLACE DAY OF ACTION | HUSSEIN EZZEDINE

The absence of this level of support, until now, has left Scotland frustratingly behind the other nations. However, the STUC deserves recognition for its genuine commitment and enthusiastic promotion of this initiative. With short notice and without the momentum of previous workplace actions, it was always going to be challenging to achieve a significant impact, but the day proved to be an important starting point.

We know from feedback that many factors are holding workers back, including fear of repercussions, a sense of disempowerment, and a general lack of confidence. Addressing these barriers is a central part of our strategy, which has worker empowerment at its heart.

However, workers did come together and found ways to demonstrate that the struggle for Palestinian liberation belongs in the workplace. There was strong support from several unions on social media, with some sharing photographs of General Secretaries and Executive Committee members holding solidarity placards.

Across a range of workplaces, people wore keffiyehs, Palestine lanyards, badges, and other visible symbols of solidarity. These acts often served as conversation starters and expressions of support, but in line with the lack of confidence alluded to, many participants preferred that such actions remain within their workplace rather than being shared publicly.

One of the most significant actions took place in Glasgow, where PCS members organised a lunchtime solidarity demonstration, inviting workers from neighbouring offices to join them. The Unison National Executive Council organised a group solidarity photograph. Teachers organised lunchtime discussion meetings and sent messages of support.

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



**Scottish
Palestine
Solidarity
Campaign**

BUILDING EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY

THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

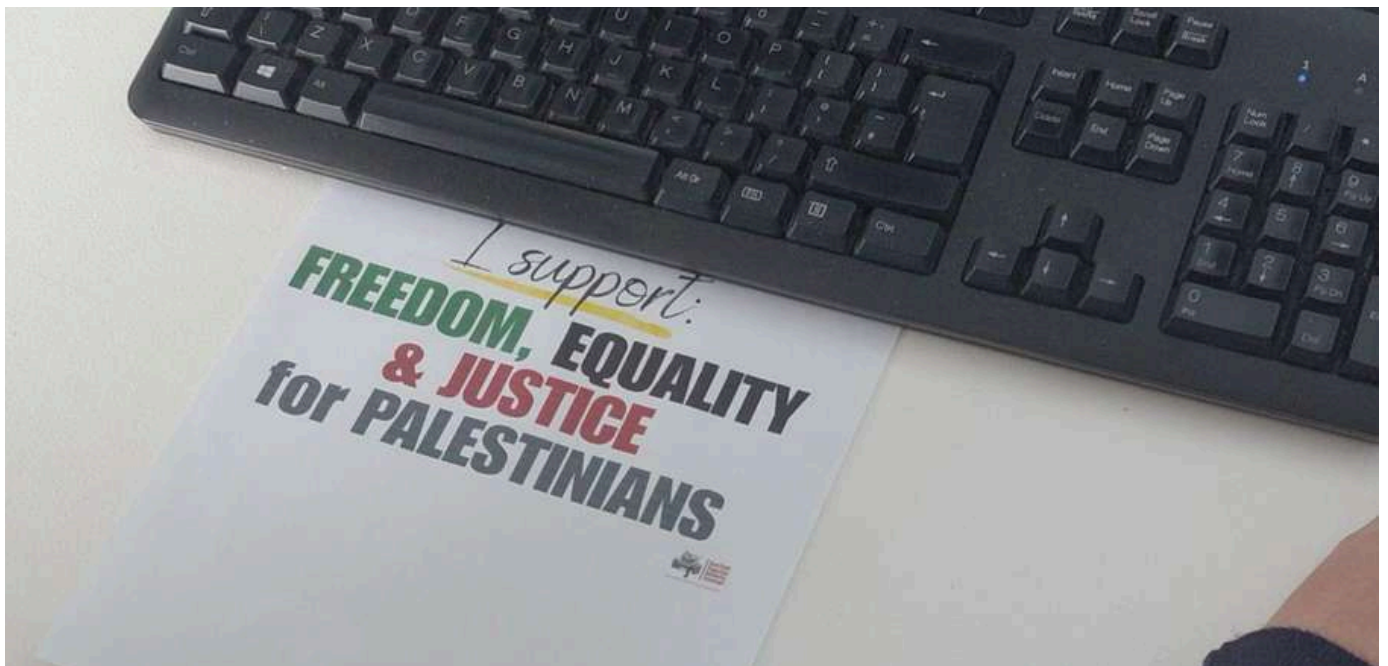
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

WORKPLACE DAY OF ACTION | HUSSEIN EZZEDINE

Andrea Bradley, General Secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), also wrote on behalf of the union to the UK Foreign Secretary. Meanwhile, Unison Aberdeen City Branch held a photo call outside local council offices in support of Palestine. The branch also prepared a motion to join the Apartheid Free Zones network.

These actions must be seen as a starting point from which we can build. There were positives, and if the support provided by the trade union Congresses can be sustained and strengthened for future days of action, there is real potential for these initiatives to become an effective tool for moving workers towards deeper and more meaningful acts of solidarity.

Beyond the collaboration between the three UK congresses, an equally important development has been the coming together – for the first time – of trade union organisers from the **Palestinian BDS National Committee** (BNC) and the main solidarity campaigns in each nation. We look forward to continuing the work of this new coordination group, which will provide an important foundation for future joint work.



Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network



REMEMBERING ALL THE DEAD



Hussein Ezzedine
Scottish PSC TU Officer
Edinburgh Branch

International Workers' Memorial Day is the day we remember workers across the world who have paid the ultimate price in their workplaces. In Scotland, deaths at work are most often the result of health and safety negligence. Palestinian workers face those same dangers, but under intolerable conditions and with the added horror of being deliberately targeted while carrying out their jobs.

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

REMEMBERING ALL THE DEAD | HUSSEIN EZZEDINE

The North Lanarkshire commemoration took place at the Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life in Coatbridge, on Tuesday, 28th April. Organised by North Lanarkshire Trade Union Council, it was once again a poignant occasion, marked by moving speeches and contributions. Kevin Robertson of the SPSC Trade Union Network laid a wreath of olive leaves.



Photo: Kevin Robertson/Scottish PSC

While in Edinburgh, a well-attended ceremony took place at the Memorial Tree in West Princes Street Gardens, where a similar wreath was laid in memory of Palestinian workers murdered by Israel.

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

REMEMBERING ALL THE DEAD | HUSSEIN EZZEDINE

As speakers at both events reiterated, no one should die for a wage, and nobody should be targeted for death because of the job they do.

Workers in Palestine have endured not only another year of unsafe conditions and grinding poverty, but also the deliberate targeting of people carrying out essential work; healthcare and aid workers, medics, journalists and educators in particular.

While the deliberate nature of these killings may differ from the workplace deaths we see in Scotland, both are unnecessary, preventable and rooted in injustice.

International Workers' Memorial Day is not only about reflecting on our own struggles. It is about recognising the plight of workers everywhere and standing in solidarity with them in their fight for dignity, safety and justice.

The choir **Protest in Harmony** once again provided songs at the Edinburgh ceremony – powerfully expressing the comradeship and solidarity we share with workers here and across the world.

When we say “remember the dead and fight for the living,” we mean all workers, everywhere!

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



OBITUARY: RAB PATERSON – A LIFE REMEMBERED, A LEGACY THAT MUST BE HONOURED

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Rab Paterson earlier this month. A committed and dedicated trade unionist, Rab served in a number of important roles, including Chair of Midlothian Trades Council. Throughout his life he worked tirelessly in support of countless causes, including solidarity with Palestine.

A long term member of SPSC, serving for a period on the National Committee, Rab played a key role in securing support within the Scottish Trades Union Congress for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. This at a time when taking such a position was particularly challenging, this contribution helped lay important foundations for the solidarity work that we carry out today.

Just weeks before Rab passed away; the very Congress where Rab has made such an impact, voted to reaffirm the STUC's commitment to Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, including Apartheid Free Zones, and for existing commitments to be fully implemented.

The best way to honour Rab's memory is for each of us to do what we can to continue the work he dedicated himself to; building solidarity, standing up for justice, and delivering on the causes he fought for throughout his life.

REST IN PEACE, COMRADE

Photo: Scottish PSC Archive

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



BUILDING EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY

FOSSIL FUEL, ENDLESS WAR, GLOBAL RUIN



Hussein Ezzedine
Scottish PSC TU Officer
Edinburgh Branch

On the afternoon of Wednesday 13 May, activists gathered at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh and outside Pinsent Masons in Aberdeen to protest against the proposed Rosebank oil field.

As Dave Black, our Energy Apartheid Organiser reported in April, approval of Rosebank could channel around £200 million to Israeli energy giant Delek Group. Delek operates in illegal settlements in the West Bank and, through its subsidiary Delek Israel, supplies fuel to the Israeli military.

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

FOSSIL FUEL, ENDLESS WAR, GLOBAL RUIN | HUSSEIN EZZEDINE

This financial link exists through Rosebank co-owner Ithaca Energy. Through this connection, Delek has already made more than a billion dollars from North Sea oil and gas extraction.

The Edinburgh demonstration took place as newly elected Scottish Greens MSPs were being introduced to their new surroundings in the Scottish Parliament. They received a warm welcome as they enthusiastically joined the gathering outside.

Addressing the crowd, I argued that the destruction in Gaza and the destruction of our planet are not separate crises, but different symptoms of the same economic system.

Climate breakdown, war, genocide, poverty and exploitation are interconnected products of a system built on extraction, dispossession and endless profit for the few at the expense of people and planet.

The same logic that treats land, water and natural resources as commodities also treats entire peoples as disposable.

We cannot speak of a just future while projects like Rosebank lock us into deeper climate catastrophe and enrich the same corporate interests that profit from war, occupation and exploitation around the world.

We must build stronger alliances between the Palestine movement, trade unions, anti-war campaigns, climate activists, and the anti-poverty movements and events such as this are a good opportunity to do so.

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

FOSSIL FUEL, ENDLESS WAR, GLOBAL RUIN | HUSSEIN EZZEDINE

At a time of growing poverty and disillusionment, people are encouraged to blame migrants, minorities and vulnerable communities instead of the systems that create and depend upon inequality and exploitation in the first place.

Our task is to build class consciousness, international solidarity and movements capable of resisting every form of oppression.

If approved, the Rosebank has nothing to offer ordinary people; it will not bring energy security, cut bills, or save North Sea jobs; it will deepen the climate crisis and fuel conflict. Extractive capitalism will always maximise profit by exploiting natural resources, including people.

Trade union members are being asked to sign the [TUs Against Rosebank](#) open letter, and deepen the partnership between climate campaigners, trade unions and the Palestine solidarity movement. Join the [Campaign Against Climate Change](#).



Photo: Scottish PSC Archive

Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network



BUILDING EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY

SAVING LIVES IS NOT TERRORISM: THE COST OF OPPOSING GENOCIDE IN BRITAIN



Colin Sutherland
UNISON City of Edinburgh Branch

On Tuesday, May 5th, four out of six Palestine Action activists – Charlotte Head, 29, Samuel Corner, 23, Leona Kamio, 30, and Fatema Rajwani, 21 – were convicted in a retrial of causing criminal damage after they had broken into a weapons factory in Filton, just outside Bristol, owned by Elbit Systems Ltd. Zoe Rogers, 22, and Jordan Devlin, 31, were acquitted, having spent, like their co-defendants, 16 months on remand.

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

THE COST OF OPPOSING GENOCIDE IN BRITAIN | COLIN SUTHERLAND

Elbit Systems Ltd. is an Israeli military technology company and defence contractor with six main manufacturing sites in this country. It is the main provider to the Israeli military of land-based equipment and unmanned aircraft, such as the Elbit Hermes 450 drone that was used in the killing of the World Central Kitchen aid workers in 2024. Its weapons, armed drones in particular, have been used extensively against civilians and civilian targets in Gaza, Lebanon and, most recently, in Iran.

The six Palestine Action activists broke into Elbit's Filton factory in August 2024, destroying drones, technical systems and computers with sledgehammers and crowbars, while symbolically spraying the premises with red paint. At their first trial, on February 4th, all six were acquitted of aggravated burglary. Fatema, Zoe and Jordan were also acquitted of violent disorder.

Following over 36 hours of deliberation, however, the jury was unable to reach a verdict on the remaining charges, including that of criminal damage. Consequently, the Judge, Sir Jeremy Charles Johnson, brought proceedings to a close in prospect of a retrial. During these proceedings, it is worth noting that he had ruled, when asked, that the belief on the part of the six that they were "performing a life-saving action by destroying weapons used to kill civilians in the conduct of a genocide" was not a lawful defence.

At the retrial, this stricture on the context, rationale and motivation for the action taken against Elbit Systems was formally written into the conduct of the trial, so not only could the word "genocide" and the term "ethnic cleansing" not be used, but Judge Johnson also barred "attempting to stop the commission of war crimes" as a viable defence. He also barred the defendants from explaining the reasons for their action and barred the jury from being informed of their legal right to acquit. Lastly, he barred the jury from being informed that, if convicted of the remaining charges against them, he intended to frame his sentencing as aggravated by terrorism.

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

THE COST OF OPPOSING GENOCIDE IN BRITAIN | COLIN SUTHERLAND

Defend Our Juries, the organisation taking action to uphold the principles of a fair trial by jury, have pointed out that because the facts around this sentencing were hidden from the jury, “the jurors had no idea that these young people would face terrorism sentences if found guilty on criminal damage charges.” The consequence of this is that “it leaves judges free to sentence people of conscience as terrorists without any connection to a proscribed group, without any terrorism charge, without any terrorism conviction, and without the jury being aware of the outcome of their verdict.”

What is on display here is the determination of the British state to suppress action and opposition to its material, political and diplomatic support for Israel over the last three years in its genocidal assault on the Palestinian people, which has resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths and the destruction of basic means to support life. In so doing, the principles of judicial independence and the due process of law have been cast aside.

The immediate implications for the four youths being sentenced at Woolwich Crown Court on June 12th are dire, as “the aggravation of terrorism” charge by Judge Johnson means these activists will probably spend the entirety of their sentences in jail, with every indication that these sentences are likely to be severe.

The wider implications for dissent and protest, for any pretence at upholding free speech and democratic principle, are clear. The use of the judiciary to suppress opposition to the state is, after all, simply by definition, a key feature of totalitarianism.

Reflecting the seriousness of what is at issue here, **[Defend Our Juries is organising an action at Woolwich Crown Court to coincide with the sentencing on Tuesday, June 12th](#)**, to express opposition to this blatant subversion of the law, once again involving volunteers sitting in silent protest with signs stating that “saving lives is not terrorism” and declaring their support for Palestine Action.

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



BREAKING THE GAZA BLOCKADE: THE 2026 GLOBAL SUMUD FLOTILLA



Colin Sutherland
UNISON City of Edinburgh Branch

In early April, the British Foreign Secretary, Yvette Cooper, convened an online summit of some 40 countries to address Iran's control of the Strait of Hormuz since February 28th. Neglecting to note that Iran's assertion of control was in response to the illegal attack launched on it by the United States and Israel, she stated that "Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz is a direct threat to global prosperity," accusing Iran of holding the "global economy hostage."

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

THE 2026 GLOBAL SUMUD FLOTILLA | COLIN SUTHERLAND

Going on to highlight the key importance of the waterway in the provision of energy and material for worldwide domestic, agricultural and industrial use, she proposed measures, principally sanctions, that could be employed to pressure Iran into reversing its decision. These proposed measures, she said, were in respect of “the fundamental principles of freedom of navigation and the law of the sea.”

Cooper’s concern for freedom of navigation and the law of the sea, however, would appear to be selective, because neither she nor any of her predecessors has had much to say about Israel’s closure of Mediterranean shipping routes to Gaza, much less propose measures to end this closure. Illegal control of Gaza’s coastline and territorial waters began in 1967 as a component of Israel’s military occupation, following its seizure of the territory in the Six-Day War. Then, following an end to direct occupation of the Gaza enclave, 38 years later, it imposed a maritime blockade in 2007, as it laid a tightening siege, which has been in place ever since, effectively ending the movement of people and goods, and progressively strangling Gaza’s fishing industry.

Since October 2023, of course, these measures have contributed not only to the devastation of Gaza’s beleaguered economy, but to Israel’s ongoing genocide, as Palestinians are denied not only adequate food supplies by land or sea, but medicine and basic medical equipment, along with the materials needed to repair something of the almost total destruction done to Gaza’s civil infrastructure.

To draw practical attention to Gaza’s plight, maritime flotillas, crewed by volunteers, have attempted to break the blockade since 2008. The courage required to undertake such action, and the impunity Israel assumes in respect of international law, along with its casual disregard for basic human morality, was most clearly shown in 2010.

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



**Scottish
Palestine
Solidarity
Campaign**

BUILDING EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY

THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

THE 2026 GLOBAL SUMUD FLOTILLA | COLIN SUTHERLAND

This was when Israeli forces intercepted and boarded a six-ship flotilla using naval commandos. Nine activists on the Mavi Marmara were murdered, and 30 other activists were injured, one of them later dying of his wounds.

Undeterred by the Mavi Marmara atrocities and subsequent attacks on Gaza missions, in violation of international law, and determined to retain focus on the ongoing siege and genocide, a coalition of organisations gathered to launch the largest flotilla to set sail for Gaza so far. Where Palestinians continue to be murdered, despite an ostensible ceasefire, and to die for want of medicine, medical treatment and adequate nutrition, sixty-nine vessels, carrying over 500 international volunteers, amongst them fourteen Britons, assembled through the first days of April, carrying along with many others, medical professionals, activists, trade unionists and aid workers from over fifty countries. They were taking with them large-scale humanitarian aid, including food, baby formula, school supplies, and life-saving medicine.

Inevitably, however, the Israelis, using drones and communication-jamming equipment, intercepted, boarded and seized twenty-two vessels off Crete on April 30th. All except two of the activists, who were held by the Israelis, were then taken to Crete and disembarked.

The remaining forty-seven Sumud vessels continued their progress to Gaza and it is notable that despite some words of condemnation from a handful of governments, no action was taken either to protect the lawful passage of the flotilla, nor even to deter further illegal actions by Israeli forces, which simply served to confirm the erosion of even the pretence that International law has any remaining credibility as the basis for ensuring safe and legal maritime passage.

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026

THE 2026 GLOBAL SUMUD FLOTILLA | COLIN SUTHERLAND

The Israelis may have hoped that their action on April 30th would deter the remaining boats from continuing their voyage. Since it didn't, they launched a further assault on May 18th, seizing 41 boats, abducting all on board, and again on May 19th, seizing the remainder of the flotilla amidst reports of maltreatment and the use of rubber bullets.

Following this, a video has been released of activists being held on the deck of an Israeli ship, bound in stress positions, being taunted by Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel's thuggish national security minister, who shouted "Welcome to Israel!" at the prostate abductees, while brandishing an Israeli flag, and declaring: "We are the landlords!"

Prompted to, finally, respond – in some way – to Israeli violence and criminality, the British government chose not to do so through Downing Street. Though the foreign secretary, Yvette Cooper, who still has nothing to say about Israel's incessant violations of international humanitarian and maritime law, much less about the ongoing genocide, preferred to comment only on said video, saying that it "violates the most basic standards of respect and dignity in the way people should be treated" and demanded an explanation from the Israelis.

The performative emptiness of this minimal response, carefully calibrated not to draw too much ire from the Israelis or their political and media supporters, whether here or in Washington, speaks for itself. Moreover, its inherent hypocrisy is not only demonstrated by Cooper's contrasting threat of action against Iran, but also by the fact that her government continues to provide political, economic, diplomatic and intelligence support for the Israeli state and its endless crimes.

To learn more about the ongoing maritime action challenging Israel's blockade, visit globalsumudflotilla.org.

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**



**Scottish
Palestine
Solidarity
Campaign**

BUILDING EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY

THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE: A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | June 2026



GET IN TOUCH

Hussein Ezzedine

SPSC Trade Union Organiser
husseine@scottishpsc.org.uk

Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign

info@scottishpsc.org.uk



Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter | Issue N° 21 06/2026

www.scottishpsc.org.uk/TUNetwork

**Scan the QR Code to join the
Scottish PSC Trade Union Network**

