

THE MYTH OF “JUST TRANSITION”



IG: @RankAndFileIrvine
X: @RankAndFileUCI
IG: @UC_rnf_zine



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Alt text, bibliography, artist credits, & more resources in comments!

Historically, “Just Transition” has referred to a broad set of programs aimed at ensuring that the so-called process of “greening the economy”, moving away from extractive and fossil-fuel oriented political-economic structures, is as “fair and inclusive” as possible. This has primarily been the focus of UAW and other labor unions in the imperial core, which campaign to ensure that union jobs are preserved and created as so-called green industries are developed while extractive and overtly polluting industries are phased out (which would otherwise mean the loss of much employment for union members).

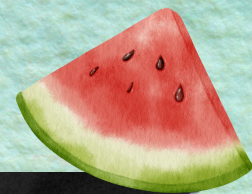
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No Green Capitalism!





COLONIAL GENOCIDE



The UAW has recently adapted this rhetoric to advocate for a just transition away from Israeli industry. According to a Dec. 1 statement from UAW 2865 leadership, preceded by the UAW International signing onto a US Labor for Peace statement which called for a ceasefire while equivocating between Israeli and Palestinian "loss of life" in the aftermath of the October 7th resistance action, the UAW International Executive Board has "committed to form a Divestment and Just Transition working group" to "investigate our union's potential economic ties to the conflict and explore how we can effect a just transition from war to peace for US workers". On a local level, this has been discussed by union leadership as the only and primary concrete action the UAW will pursue in service of divestment, effectively stalling militant solidarity action while paying lip service to BDS. While it boosts the UAW's reputation and symbolic capital, it severely harms global solidarity building.

2 No Performative Solidarity!





We have a fundamentally different vision of just transition; one that does not put the UAW as a member-serving institution, or the short-term interests of U.S. workers, above ending an ongoing genocide. As researcher Max Ajl argues in his book *A People's Green New Deal*, programs of “just transition” which focus on workers in imperial states at the expense of colonized workers ignore the global demand for a “planetary just transition”. The former model centers on a capitalist world-system governed by brutally violent imperial/colonial logics and perpetuates imperial domination by privileging the short-term material needs of a select few in the Global North.

No Climate Imperialism!

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شفقة العشت


No Business Unionism!

Whether used with regard to climate change or BDS, these discourses displace the chance at a true form of labor internationalism focused on combatting genocidal imperial warfare, a necessary prerequisite for a global transformation of our world economic system and collective set of labor regimes. The Palestinian people's struggle cannot wait for vague ideations of a transition that can only be "just" for a relatively small number of workers in the imperial core. Rather, it is our duty to work towards a planetary just transition through unconditional support for Palestinian liberation, using the means we have at our disposal as unionized workers with key strategic placement in the Israeli-U.S. war machine.






We resist UAW 2865 Executive Board's tactics. Paid career staffs don't get to monopolize the representation of our union!!



Since October 2023, Rank-and-File members across UC campuses have been pushing BDS resolutions. Although several campuses (UCLA, UCSB, etc.) have passed a resolution by majority vote in their MMMs, leadership does not officially endorse the resolution on their website. In their occasional usage of BDS language, they ignored substantive lists of boycotted corporations and institutions in the UC-BDS resolutions drafted by rank-and-file members. By proposing to "study" our union's ties to Israeli occupation, which an immense existing body of knowledge already built up through rank-and-file grass-root effort, the leadership seeks to delegitimize members votes and control the narrative.



Shame on Top-down Control!

BDS  **FREEDOM JUSTICE EQUALITY**

**FREE
PALESTINE**



Shame on Manipulation!

THE UC-UAW E-BOARD'S "JUST TRANSITION" CAMPAIGN CREATES KNOWLEDGE GAPS & MAINTAINS U.S. IMPERIALISM

While the current leadership acknowledges the 2014 member-led BDS resolution passed in our local, they erase crucial history of Zionist repression. In 2015, the IEB nullified the vote due to Zionist pressure, a precedent that might still be enforceable. Concealing this history depolitiizes the democratizing struggles in our union.



Local union officials are implementing a condensed timeline for voting on the "Just Transition" proposed referendum. The timeline was announced during winter break, minimizing opportunities for facilitated membership discussion, deliberation, and dissent, something **imperative** for rank-and-file unionism.

Local leadership refuse to specify the content of the ballot or give details on what voting for a "commitment to form a Divestment and Just Transition working group" means in terms of tasks, timeline, accountability practices, and membership participation in the working group, further stifling possibilities for members informed deliberation before the vote.

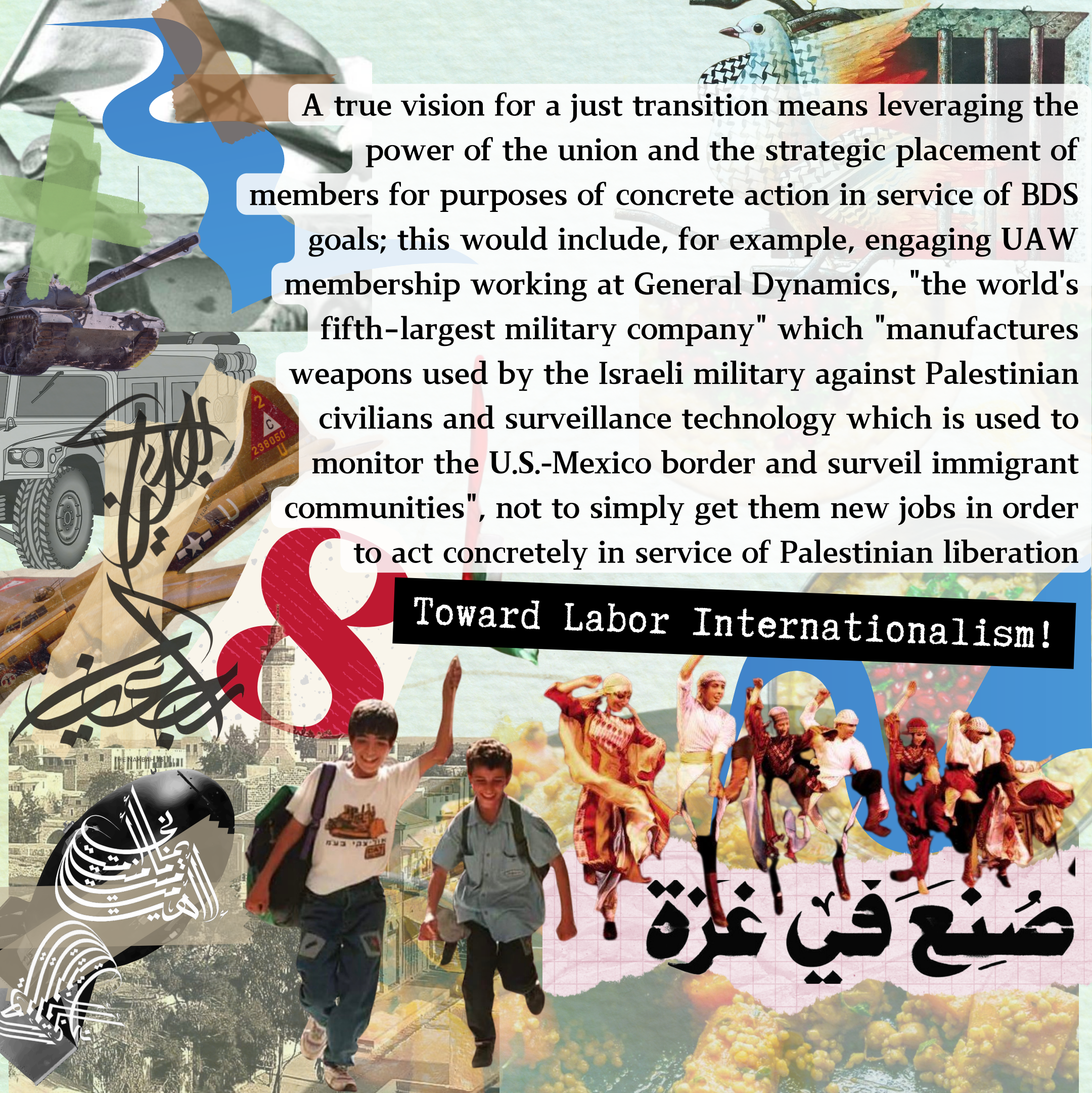


As a collective, we will continue to center an anti-colonial vision and push for an immediate, concrete BDS resolution, listening to and supporting Palestinians on campus and in the broader community, and refuting the false discourse of "just transition and divestment" which serves as a tactic to prevent the radical action of which union members are capable.

Toward a Decolonial Solidarity!

We will continue to pressure our UCI union leadership to hold a vote for a BDS resolution.





A true vision for a just transition means leveraging the power of the union and the strategic placement of members for purposes of concrete action in service of BDS goals; this would include, for example, engaging UAW membership working at General Dynamics, "the world's fifth-largest military company" which "manufactures weapons used by the Israeli military against Palestinian civilians and surveillance technology which is used to monitor the U.S.-Mexico border and surveil immigrant communities", not to simply get them new jobs in order to act concretely in service of Palestinian liberation

Toward Labor Internationalism!

صُنِعَ فِي غَزَّة



9 Immediate Concrete Actions!

THIS IS HOW WE CAN DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY, IN ALIGNMENT WITH 25+ PALESTINIAN TRADE UNIONS' CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION IN FIVE WAYS:

A SHIP DESTINED FOR ISRAEL IS DOCKED IN THE PORT OF OAKLAND!

- 1. TO REFUSE TO BUILD WEAPONS DESTINED FOR ISRAEL.**
- 2. TO REFUSE TO TRANSPORT WEAPONS TO ISRAEL.**
- 3. TO PASS MOTIONS IN THEIR TRADE UNION TO THIS EFFECT.**
- 4. TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST COMPLICIT COMPANIES INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING ISRAEL'S BRUTAL AND ILLEGAL SIEGE, ESPECIALLY IF THEY HAVE CONTRACTS WITH YOUR INSTITUTION.**
- 5. TO APPLY DIRECT PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENTS TO STOP ALL MILITARY TRADE WITH ISRAEL, AND IN THE CASE OF THE US, FUNDING TO IT.**

UAW 2865 BDS Caucus
Supports
Block The Boat

