

Media Release

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Thursday 18 February 2010

Palestinian Ambassador addresses CFMEU leadership

The Ambassador and Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Mr. Izzat Abdulhadi spoke at the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the CFMEU yesterday in Sydney.

Mr. Abdulhadi briefed the meeting on the situation in the illegally occupied Palestinian territories and the current status of the peace process. Mr. Abdulhadi also urged major Australian unions such as the CFMEU to get involved with a number of positive initiatives that can strengthen the position of the Palestinian people on the ground.

The meeting raised the issue of the growing Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Mr. Abdulhadi reinforced the Palestinian Authority position of a total boycott of products from the illegal settlements and the need for greater advocacy of the Palestinian cause within Australia.

CFMEU National Secretary John Sutton said today that the union was concerned about ever growing human rights abuses in the occupied territories and strongly supported freedom and self-determination for the Palestinian people.

“The principal officers of the CFMEU will further discuss the unsustainable illegal occupation of Palestinian territories and report back to the National Executive Committee on how we can actively assist the Palestinian people.”

“The CFMEU has a long and proud history of assisting oppressed peoples, such as with Apartheid South Africa and East Timor. We are concerned that the analysis of Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, in identifying the situation in the Middle East as worse than what existed under Apartheid South Africa requires a greater effort by progressive people everywhere.”

For media comment please call John Sutton on 0419 254 180