

**Join Us this Thursday, June 5, 4:30 PM, 125 Barclay St., to Picket the DC 37 Jewish Heritage Committee's Celebration of Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

**AN APPEAL TO DC 37's MEMBERSHIP:**

**LET'S BEGIN A LABOR DIALOG ABOUT THE CATASTROPHE THAT HAS BEFALLEN THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE!**

**On Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 District Council 37's Jewish Heritage Committee will have a celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Israeli state.** The state of Israel was founded on the basis of the ethnic cleansing of the native Palestinian population. **It's about time for the U.S. labor movement to begin to discuss this important issue.**

**Israel does not speak for the Jewish people!** The Zionists played a treacherous role while 6 million Jews were slaughtered by the NAZI's. Zionist racism is no different from the Apartheid racism of the former U.S. backed South African Apartheid regime. Israel, together with the U. S., was Apartheid South Africa's main ally. That is why there are so many Jews today who oppose Israel's claim to represent the Jewish people and why the ANC of South Africa has opposed Israeli Apartheid. The Congress of South African Trade Unions stated (July 10, 2006): *"We call on all South Africans to establish a strong, forceful and determined boycott and sanctions campaign against the Israeli apartheid state."*

***President George W. Bush, the enemy of the U.S. Labor movement, just visited Israel, speaking at the Knesset, heaping praise on Israel and threatening Iran. This is the same President who has defended domestic spying, torture and the destruction of Iraq!***

**Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilnai said last February that Palestinians could face a bigger "shoah" [the Hebrew word for Holocaust] if the rocket attacks on Israeli territory did not cease.** For any Jewish person to threaten a "shoah" shows just how shameful and shameless the Israeli leadership has become. The threat of a "shoah" for the Palestinian people living in Gaza is just further proof that Gaza is today's Warsaw Ghetto and that the oppressed Palestinians of today are equivalent to the oppressed Jews of yesterday!

**There has been a 60 year NAKBA (catastrophe) for the 1.2 million Palestinian third class residents inside the Israeli "Green Line", the more than 4 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the 6.8 Palestinian refugees who have been refused their legal right to return to their homes. The oppressed Palestinian people need to have their voices heard by the U.S. Labor movement.**

**There are many Palestinian members of District Council 37! Don't they also pay dues and have rights to be heard? Where is the District Council 37 commemoration of the 60 year NAKBA for the Palestinian people?**

For decades, the AFL-CIO banned the ANC of South Africa from all union halls. **District Council 37 played a role in breaking that ban.** Isn't it about time for District Council 37 to do the same for the oppressed Palestinian people? We ask you to join us on our picket line on Thursday and to send email protests about DC 37 Leadership's support for Israeli racism and Apartheid to Lillian Roberts at [lroberts@dc37.net](mailto:lroberts@dc37.net) with a copy to Mike Gimbel at ([caiman@ptd.net](mailto:caiman@ptd.net)).

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To obtain detailed background information go to the NYCLAW U.S. Labor and Gaza statement at:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/Gaza/petition.html>

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*For further information on future labor actions contact DC 37 member Mike Gimbel*