

DOES THE UAW STAND WITH ISRAEL?

The United Auto Workers (UAW) has sought to remain relevant in a period of declining union membership and an era of rapid evolution in the automotive industry. In recent years, the UAW has turned to organizing industries that have little to do with the union's founding purpose – including graduate students and casino employees.

It seems the union's new president Shawn Fain and his appointed inner circle have only driven the UAW even further away from its original goal of representing the best interests of auto workers. Fain has promoted individuals with often radical beliefs and aligned himself with the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA).

It's no wonder that the union has yet to stand against Israel's attackers – the radical terrorist group Hamas. In fact, the UAW called for a ceasefire in the ongoing conflict. Several UAW union locals throughout the country have echoed the national union's anti-Israel stance.

WHAT IS THE UAW'S OFFICIAL STANCE ON ISRAEL?

The UAW released two statements on the ongoing war in Israel. The first was released on December 1, 2023, when Region 9A Director Brandon Mancilla spoke in front of the White House to call for a ceasefire in a speech that implied that Israel is in the company of Nazi Germany and apartheid South Africa.

“From opposing fascism in WWII to mobilizing against apartheid South Africa and the CONTRA war, the UAW has consistently stood for justice across the globe. That is why I am proud that the UAW International is today officially calling for a ceasefire in Israel and Palestine.” - Brandon Mancilla¹

Notably, Mancilla also said that the UAW resolved to create “a Divestment and Just Transition working group to study the history of Israel and Palestine, the union's economic ties to the conflict, and to explore how to achieve a just transition for US workers from war to peace.” While the UAW has yet to publicize exactly what this would entail, the talk of “divestment” and “study[ing]... economic ties” brings to mind comparisons to the boycott, divest, and sanction movement, which seeks to boycott Israeli products and has been criticized as antisemitic.

The UAW made a second statement on the conflict on December 14, 2023 when President Shawn Fain spoke at a rally in front of the US Capitol.² Fain himself reiterated the UAW's commitment to a ceasefire.

1 “UAW STATEMENT ON ISRAEL AND PALESTINE,” [UAW](#), December 1, 2023

2 Congresswoman Cori Bush, [X](#), December 14, 2023

Fain spoke alongside several congressional representatives, including Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, who herself was censured by the House of Representatives in a bipartisan vote over her “promotion of antisemitic rhetoric,” and Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, who was removed from the House Foreign Affairs Committee over antisemitic comments.^{3,4}

To date, the UAW has not made a statement condemning the initial October 7 terrorist attack that killed 1,300 Israelis.



Shawn Fain Speaking in Favor of a Ceasefire on December 14, 2024

WHAT HAVE UAW LOCALS AND STAFFERS BEEN SAYING?

Although the UAW made its first official statement on the conflict on December 1, the UAW’s locals and staffers started lobbying the union to insert itself into the conflict almost immediately after the attack.

Within two days of the October 7 terrorist attack, the NYU GSOC – affiliated with UAW Local 2110 – released a statement blaming Israel for the deaths of 1,300 Israelis in the terrorist attack and called on the university to cut its ties with the Israeli economy and the University of Tel Aviv.⁵

“We hold the Israeli regime and its apartheid laws responsible for the painful death, destruction, and despair of this past weekend, including the deaths of over 560 Palestinians and 800 Israelis, with the numbers still rising. Indeed, in the months before the attacks of the past weekend, Israeli operations had already claimed upwards of 200 Palestinian lives in 2023 alone.”

“We call on NYU to immediately end its relationship with Tel Aviv University and withdraw its investments from Israeli state institutions and international companies complicit in the ongoing violation of Palestinian human and civil rights.”

Likewise, Student Workers of Columbia – affiliated with UAW Local 2710 – released a statement calling for divestment from Israel on October 16 and accused Israel of conducting a genocide.⁶ UAW members at Make the Road New York and The Bronx Defenders – affiliated with UAW locals 2320 and 2325 respectively – also accused Israel of genocide and ethnic cleansing.^{7,8}

3 “House votes to censure Rep. Rashida Tlaib over her Israel-Hamas rhetoric,” [PBS](#), November 7, 2023

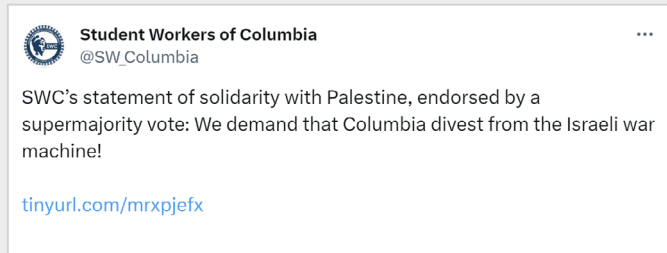
4 “House passes resolution to remove Ilhan Omar from Foreign Affairs Committee,” [CNN](#), February 3, 2023

5 NYU GSOC|UAW, [X](#), October 9, 2023

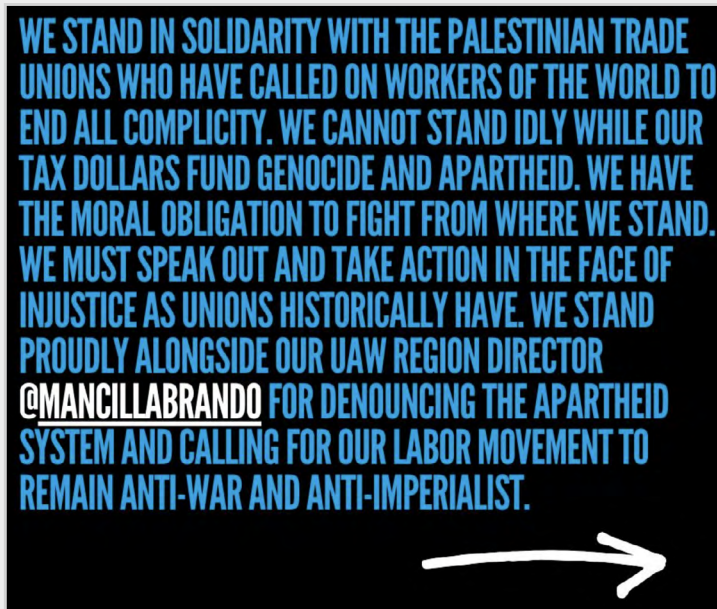
6 Student Workers of Columbia, [X](#), October 16, 2023

7 Make the Road New York Union, [X](#), October 19, 2023

8 The Bronx Defenders Union - UAW Local 2325 Statement in Support of Palestinians, [BxD Union](#), October 20, 2023



Student Workers of Columbia, Affiliated with UAW Local 2710, Demanding Divestment From Israel



Make the Road New York's Statement in Response to the October 7 Terrorist Attack

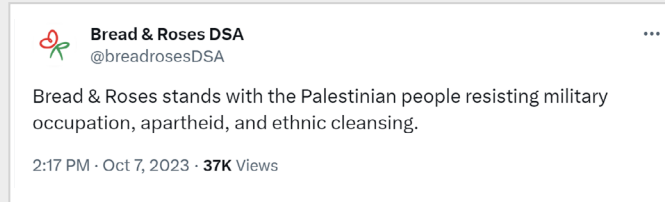
This sort of rhetoric isn't just isolated to UAW locals. Members of the UAW's new leadership cadre have made similar concerning statements on Israel or had concerning associations prior to the UAW's call for a ceasefire.

Chris Brooks, Shawn Fain's chief strategist, was a member of the DSA Bread & Roses Caucus.⁹ The caucus reacted to the original terrorist attack by calling the slaughter of over 1,000 civilians "resistance" and declaring their support for Hamas.¹⁰ UAW Chief Counsel Ben Dictor has accused Israel of conducting an "ethnic cleansing" and a "literal holocaust" in its military response to the terrorist

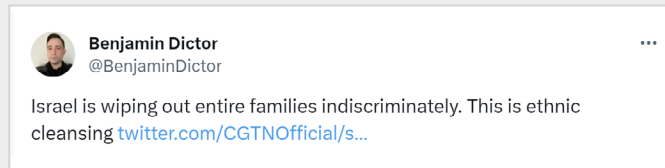
9 The Socialist Call, **Written by: Chris Brooks**

10 Bread & Roses DSA, **X**, December 7, 2023

attack.^{11,12} UAW Region 9A Director Brandon Mancilla, who made the original ceasefire announcement, has in the past referred to Israel as a “violent colonial regime” and accused Israel of “genocide.”¹³



Bread & Roses DSA, a Group That UAW Chief Strategist Chris Brooks Recently Belonged to



Ben Dictor, UAW Chief Counsel, Accusing Israel of Conducting an Ethnic Cleansing

11 Benjamin Dictor, [X](#), October 15, 2023

12 Benjamin Dictor, [X](#), November 17, 2023

13 Brandon Mancilla, [X](#), May 11, 2021