

A GREAT EXAMPLE OF INTERNATIONAL PROLETARIAN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE !

The news that the dockers of Livorno and Naples - alerted by the Genoa dockers of the Portuali Autonomous Workers' Collective of Genoa and the WeaponWhath association - would not load an arm shipment on an Israeli Asiatic Islands ship, claiming they had discovered it was destined for the Israel port Ashdod, went around the world with articles appearing in newspapers in many countries. They were joined by the Ravenna dockers, who made it clear that port operators "will refuse to be complicit in fuelling a war that is reaping mostly civilian casualties in this formidable theatre of war".

South African dockworkers also joined the SA Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (SA BDS) coalition at the port of Durban in South Africa to support dockworkers who refused to unload cargo from an Israeli container ship. The protest action follows a call by the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) for workers and unions to refuse to unload Israeli ships and goods at ports of entry. The ship in question is the Zim Shanghai, owned by the Israeli state-owned company Zim Lines, which arrived in Durban on 19 May.

In Italy, the news was not widely reported in the media. But above all, the "diplomatic incident" with Israel triggered by the port workers' sacrosanct refusal to be complicit in the Israeli massacre of the Palestinian people was kept hidden.

Italian dockworkers refused to load the Israeli ship after receiving information about the cargo and its destination (thanks to The Weapons Watch, an anti-militarist network based in Genoa that monitors arms shipments in European and Mediterranean ports). In the past, a similar problem has arisen in the port of Genoa in relation to two ships that were to carry weapons for the Saudi-led war against the Houthi rebels in Yemen.

However, some Israeli newspapers revealed background information that was not reported in Italy. When dockworkers belonging to Italian unions - in particular Usb and Sicobas - refused to load "security equipment" onto a ship that was due to arrive in Israel, Histadrut (the Zionist union) decided to prevent the unloading of all ships in the port of Haifa that trade Italian goods in Israel.

At this stage, the Ministry of Transport and the Italian Embassy in Israel and the Israeli Embassy in Italy had to intervene to try to unblock and resolve the crisis.

But the signal went out loud and clear. Among workers, there will be no complicity for those who use weapons to massacre populations, neither in Palestine, nor in Yemen, nor by Israel, nor by Saudi Arabia.

THIS IS AN ACT OF GREAT INTERNATIONALISM AND A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR THE WHOLE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS

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