



Democracy & Workers' Rights Center/Palestine

مركز الديمقراطية وحقوق العاملين - فلسطين

WORKERS' RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

LABOR & TRADE UNION NEWSLETTER IN PALESTINE

JULY-AUGUST 2025

Nearly 1,200 Roadblocks Cut Through the West Bank as Gaza Faces Famine

Palestinians continue to endure one of the harshest periods in recent memory, where movement restrictions in the West Bank and a deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza are reshaping daily life, work, and survival. The West Bank is gasping for breath as nearly 1,200 military checkpoints and gates, according to a DWRC researcher, slice through towns and villages, turning short commutes into exhausting journeys and cutting workers off from their jobs, schools, and essential services. The economy is buckling under this pressure, factories are closing, wages are disappearing, and unemployment has remained very high at 28.6% in the West Bank, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, pushing thousands of households deeper into poverty. Meanwhile, Gaza faces an even darker reality: in August, UN agencies confirmed a famine, warning that hundreds of thousands of families are running out of food, clean water, and hope, as daily survival becomes a desperate struggle.



OUR ROLE

Against this backdrop, the Democracy and Workers' Rights Center intensified its efforts to respond where the need is greatest. In Gaza, where families face famine, DWRC organized training in sewing and clothes upcycling for 18 women, equipping them with the skills and tools to start small projects and regain a measure of independence. Additionally, DWRC organized professional training for 20 women, including small business owners who lost their livelihoods and women who had never worked before but became breadwinners, helping them gain practical skills to rebuild income and support their families.

In the West Bank, where checkpoints and economic paralysis have left workers without jobs, DWRC launched an employment initiative in Tulkarm, securing jobs for 82 displaced workers and those excluded from the Israeli labor market, amid the displacement of nearly 60,000 people from Tulkarm due to Israeli military operations, while also distributing 680 food and hygiene parcels to families in Ain Shams camp. Alongside this, the centre held an awareness workshop in Tulkarm on violence, harassment, and discrimination in the workplace, helping workers defend their rights despite an increasingly hostile environment.



The fifteenth trade union forum

To amplify workers' voices more broadly, DWRC convened the fifteenth trade union forum with parallel sessions in the West Bank and Gaza, bringing together over a total of 110 union representatives to exchange strategies and build solidarity in defense of workers' rights. In addition, 28 unionists, including 21 women, received advanced training in leadership and union skills, ensuring that unions remain capable of protecting workers even in the most difficult circumstances.

👉 Read the full statement of Gaza unions appealing to stop the genocide on our website: www.dwrc.org/en/news/gaza-unions-statement



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CALL TO ACTION

The Palestinian people are living through one of the harshest periods of occupation, where daily life, work, and survival are all at stake. Yet even in the face of these trials, solidarity can make a difference. By standing with DWRC, you help us achieve our mission of reducing the effects of poverty and unemployment while reinforcing respect for human rights. Your support can bring food to the table, dignity at work, and hope for tomorrow.