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BREAKING: Maersk Becomes the First Global Shipping Company to Cut Ties with Israeli Settlements

JUNE 21, 2025 —Following mounting pressure from the Mask Off Maersk Campaign and in a historic victory for the Palestinian people, Maersk—one of the largest shipping companies in the world—has officially cut ties with companies linked to illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This marks the first time in history that a global shipping company has committed to full compliance with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) database, cutting ties with 97 companies involved in illegal settlement development.

This milestone is the direct result of months of research, organizing, and sustained pressure by the Mask Off Maersk campaign of the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM). In January 2025, PYM released a detailed [report](#) exposing Maersk's complicity in Israel's settlement economy and filed a submission to the UN before a convening of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In response to this pressure, Maersk quietly began adjusting its internal policies on transporting settlement-related cargo. By June 2025, the company publicly announced its official policy shift and confirmed it would take "corrective measures" to bring its operations into compliance with OHCHR standards.

Since January, PYM's research team has verified that Maersk has ceased shipments from companies operating in Israeli settlements that are listed in the OHCHR database—demonstrating the direct impact of sustained grassroots pressure. The OHCHR outlines ten prohibited categories of business activity in settlements, including construction, demolition, surveillance, financial services, and transportation infrastructure.

"Maersk's decision proves that divestment from occupation is not only possible—it's necessary," said Aisha Nizar from the Palestinian Youth Movement. "This sends a clear message to the global shipping industry: compliance with international law and basic human rights is not optional. Doing business with Israel's illegal settlements is no longer viable, and the world is watching to see who follows next."

By cutting ties with all associated companies, Maersk is setting a new industry precedent: divestment from occupation must be the standard—not the exception.

"Still, as Israel escalates its military aggression across the region, Maersk continues to profit from the genocide of our people—regularly shipping F-35 components used to bomb and massacre Palestinians," Aisha added. "The Mask Off Maersk campaign is far from over. We will continue to build pressure and mobilize people power until Maersk cuts all ties to genocide and ends the transport of weapons and weapons components to Israel."

Maersk's divestment from settlements is a critical step forward—but not the end. The Mask Off Maersk campaign will continue organizing until Maersk ends all complicity in Israel's colonialism

and occupation. This victory is a testament to the strength of grassroots organizing and the growing global demand: end all ties to occupation, genocide, and war profiteering—now.

Maersk's Statement:

<https://www.maersk.com/news/articles/2025/03/18/maersk-statement-on-military-related-cargo-shipments>

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The Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) is a transnational, grassroots organization of Arab youth worldwide, with chapters spanning the United States, Britain, and Canada. The PYM struggles against the ongoing Zionist colonization and occupation of the Palestinian homeland, by reviving a revolutionary tradition of commitment to the Palestinian national liberation struggle.