

# Palestinian Arabs Prefer to Work in Israel

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Israel is accused of being apartheid on a daily basis, so much so that campuses across the country devote an entire week to spread slanderous libel in support of this claim. However, Palestinian Arabs choose to work in Israel over the PA territories.<sup>i</sup>

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**Khaled Dukhi, an Israeli-Arab labor lawyer, testified that Palestinian Arab laborers are treated better and are given higher pay at Israeli companies.**

- Dukhi stated important facts about Israeli labor laws:<sup>ii</sup>
  - They do not discriminate based on gender.
  - They do not discriminate between Israelis and Palestinian Arabs.
  - In the agricultural field, Palestinian-Arab wages are higher than the minimum wage.
  - They receive 14 vacation days per year
  - Sick or injured workers receive 2,000 NIS per month (convalescence pay).
  - Workers receive payment on both Jewish and Muslim holy holidays.
- The issue lies in the Palestinian Arab middleman system, where Dukhi states that women rarely receive these benefits.
  - These middlemen can take anywhere from 50-70% of a woman's salary.<sup>iii</sup>

**Qassem Abu Hadwan, a Hebron worker, stated that Palestinian Arab employers exploit their workers. For this reason, Hadwan feels compelled to work in Israel.**

- Lack of government monitoring of Palestinian Arab companies and factories has led to institutional exploitation of workers.<sup>iv</sup>
- Palestinian-Arabs working in Israel are paid twice as much as those working in the PA and 3 times as much as those working in Gaza.<sup>v</sup>
  - As of February 2016, the average daily salary for PA workers is 94.1 NIS and the average for Gaza workers is 61.9 NIS, while in Israel the average is 198.9 NIS.
- The PA's Central Bureau of Statistics stated that 112,300 Palestinian-Arabs worked in Israel in 2015.<sup>vi</sup>
- In May 2016, Hassan Al-Barghouti, Director of Democracy and Workers' Rights Center, said that 120,000 Palestinian-Arabs work in Israel either legally or illegally.<sup>vii</sup>
  - The increase is due to higher wages and superior working conditions under Israeli employers.

**BDS (Boycott Divestment Sanctions) hypocritically opposes Palestinian Arab workers receiving better treatment working for Israeli companies.**

- The BDS movement claims to fight for Palestinian Arab rights, but if their goals of boycotting Israeli businesses are met, **120,000 Palestinian Arabs will lose their jobs.**
  - These Palestinian Arabs will see their salaries cut in half and their worker rights stripped as a result of unhinged business practices in the PA
    - This happened in 2015, when pressure from the BDS movement led to the closing of a SodaStream factory in Ma'ale Adumim.<sup>viii</sup> 500 Palestinian Arabs lost their jobs along with the benefits they received from working for Israelis.

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<sup>i</sup> “Why Palestinians prefer to work for Israeli employers” *Palestinian Media Watch*, July 25, 2016

<sup>ii</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>iii</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>iv</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>v</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>vi</sup> “Military Wants 30,000 More Palestinians Working in Israel” *Haaretz*, February 8, 2016

<sup>vii</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>viii</sup> “Palestinian workers back Scarlett Johansson’s opposition to SodaStream boycott” *The Christian Science Monitor*, January 30, 2014