



End South Africa's complicity in genocide – Now is the time for Action: Energy Embargo Now!

19 August 2025

The South African BDS Coalition energy embargo campaign will be protesting at the offices of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) in Pretoria, Durban and Cape Town on Thursday 21st August from 12h00-14h00.

Our demand is clear – the South African government must abide by its international legal obligations to cut trade and implement a coal embargo against genocidal Israel. In the first half of this year South Africa has been the largest exporter of coal which goes directly into the Israeli electricity grid. Since mid-March, Israel cut electricity provision to Gaza along with a total blockade on all humanitarian assistance, food, water and medical supplies. Fueling the Israeli electricity grid is directly fueling the Israeli war machine committing genocide, destroying all means of life for the people in Gaza, powering the military destruction of towns and refugee camps in the West Bank and illegal settlements.

Since October 2023, 16 shipments of coal have left from Richards Bay Coal Terminal to the Israeli port of Hadera. While a small amount of our coal exports, sales to Israel have accelerated from 16.6% of Israel's coal imports between October 2023-December 2024 to 48% between January-May 2025.

Francesca Albanese, in her [July 2025 report](#): from the economy of occupation to the economy of genocide, highlights coal sales from Glencore in South Africa, stating that:

“By supplying Israel with coal, gas, oil and fuel, companies are contributing to civilian infrastructures that Israel uses to entrench permanent annexation and weaponises in the destruction of Palestinian life.”

South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel under the Genocide commits third-party states and corporations within their jurisdictions to take all measures to prevent probable genocide. The ICJ Advisory Opinion ruling confirmed that Israel is an illegal occupier implementing a system of apartheid. In September 2024 a super majority of states voted on a UN General Assembly resolution committing states to sanctioning Israel and holding it accountable. The Hague Group emergency meeting held in Bogota last month, co-Chaired by Colombia and South Africa, reaffirmed their [commitment](#) to: prevent the provision or transfer of arms, munitions, military fuel, related military equipment, and dual-use items to Israel.

“It is beyond urgent” said Roshan Dadoo, energy embargo campaigner. “Now is the time for the South African government to heed the Palestinian people's call for action. We called on the world for boycotts, divestment and sanctions against apartheid South Africa. People-

power pressured governments to take action that helped us bring down the apartheid regime. How can we ignore the same call on us from the Palestinian people as Israel openly declares its intent to commit genocide and ethnically cleanse the entire population?”

Last year Colombia declared an embargo on coal sales to Israel. In July this year Colombian President Gustavo Petro instituted additional measures to ensure that the embargo is not breached by ordering the Colombian navy to intercept any ship carrying coal heading towards Israel.

We call on Parks Tau, Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition to show leadership and commit to upholding South Africa’s international legal obligations – DTIC must lead in implementing a coal embargo and stop our complicity in feeding the Israeli electricity grid that fuels the genocide, illegal occupation and Apartheid Israel’s military industrial complex.

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