

Letter to Palestine Solidarity Campaign re Closure of Oldham Elbit

Dear Ben & Ben,

Three days ago PSC issued a [statement](#) about the announcement that the Elbit Ferranti factory in Oldham was to be sold and that the factory itself was to close. This is the first real victory that we have had in the campaign to close down Elbit's factories in this country. The statement said that:

We pay tribute to all those who have campaigned since Elbit Systems purchased the site in 2007, including many members of the Manchester PSC branch

I have to pay tribute to whoever drafted the statement. It must have taken some effort to draft a statement welcoming the closure of the factory without at the same time mentioning the group which was responsible for launching the campaign that was responsible for this success.

I am of course referring to Palestine Action. I am sure that Manchester PSC branch, whom you did mention, would be the first to acknowledge the pivotal role played by Pal Action.

I think we all understand the reasons for the omission which are the attacks and criticisms that PSC has made on Palestine Action since its inception. Although I am sure that this will be the subject of debate at the forthcoming PSC Conference I do want to put on record that this omission is both childish and churlish.

People would have respected PSC's position if you had owned up to your mistakes in having previously criticised PA because then we could put that chapter besides us and move on. Instead you chose the time honoured course of simply erasing from history anything that is inconvenient.

This victory has not been without cost. Many supporters and activists with PA, myself included, are facing court action and the possibility of, in some cases, substantial prison sentences if found guilty.

Palestine Solidarity will never be effective without people being prepared to take direct action. PSC should not be afraid not only to own up to their mistakes but to change course.

From now on I would expect PSC to give support to Palestine Action and to offer it support in its campaign to rid this country of the vile presence of Elbit's factories of death.

As a start I suggest that you invite Huda Ammori as a guest speaker at the forthcoming AGM.

In solidarity

Tony Greenstein