



International Council of Jewish Women

PROMOTING A JUST SOCIETY BASED ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND JEWISH VALUES

Inside BDS



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CONTENTS

Introduction.....3

Part 1: What is BDS?.....5

 ‘Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS’2005 5

 The Three Demands 6

 1. Ending the Occupation 6

 2. Equality for Arabs..... 7

 3. Return of Palestinian Arab Refugees 8

Part 2: History 11

 1. Arab boycott of Palestinian Jews 11

 2. Arab League boycott of Israel..... 11

 3. Arab strategy to destroy Israel – war and terrorism..... 11

 4. Durban Conference 2000 13

Part 3: BDS in Action 15

 1. Boycott..... 16

 2. Divestment 18

 3. Sanctions 18

Part 4: BDS Tactics 19

 1. bullying 19

 2. discrimination 20

 3. slander 21

 4. anti-normalisation 22

 5. not pro-Palestinian 24

Part 5: Antisemitism within BDS 25

Part 6: Countering BDS 28

Conclusion 30



Introduction

The ‘Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions’ (BDS) campaign poses threats to Israel’s legitimacy as a state and a member of the family of nations, and to diaspora Jews.

This publication aims to provide an overall, but basic, understanding of the BDS campaign – its origins, history, aims, strategy and tactics.

The current iteration of the BDS campaign against Israel was formally initiated on 9 July 2005, by 171 Palestinian non-governmental organisations. The three demands of the BDS campaign, as set out in its founding document, appear under the heading ‘What is BDS?’ below.

The BDS campaign had originally been established following the NGO Forum that was held during the ‘World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance’ in Durban in September 2001 (“Durban 1”). Article 425 of the Declaration issued by the NGO Forum announced *“a policy of complete and total isolation of Israel as an apartheid state...the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions and embargoes, the full cessation of all links (diplomatic, economic, social, aid, military cooperation and training) between all states and Israel.”*

But the NGO Forum was thoroughly discredited by overt displays of naked Jew-hatred. During a BBC interview, Mary Robinson, who was then UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said of the whole Durban conference that *"there was horrible antisemitism present — particularly in some of the NGO discussions. A number of people said they've never been so hurt or so harassed or been so blatantly faced with antisemitism."*

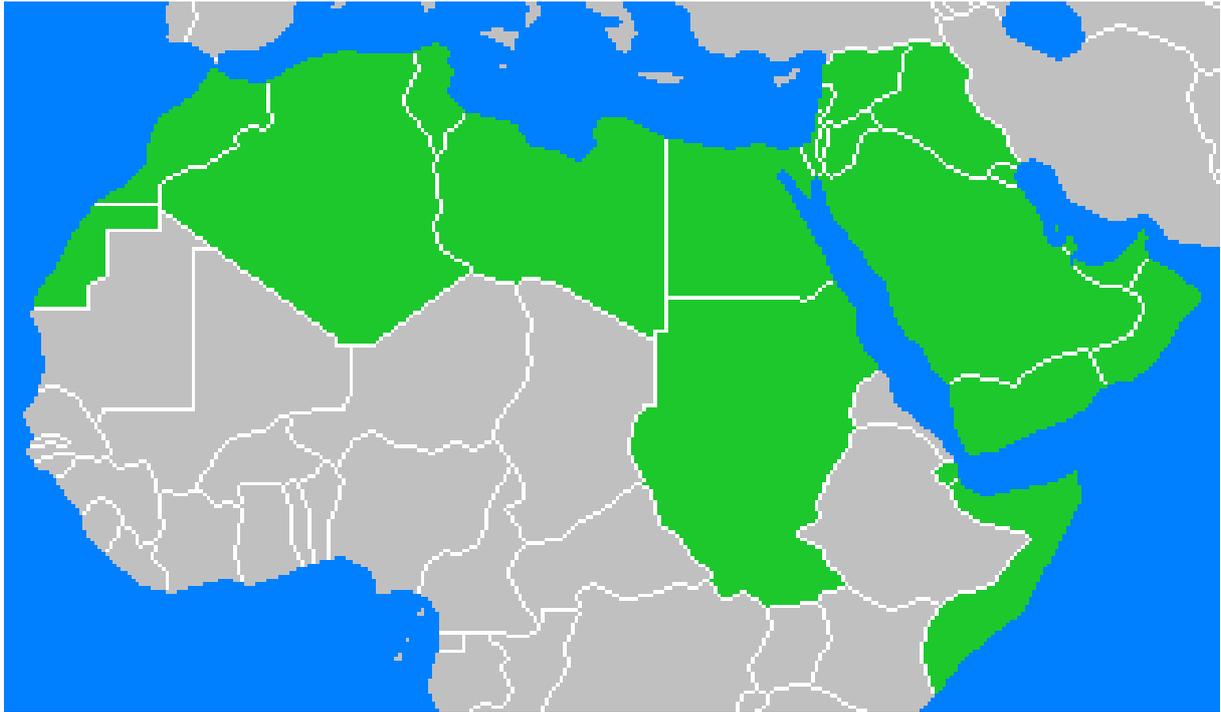
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/talking_point/forum/1673034.stm

The "make-over" of BDS in 2005, occurred precisely because of its toxic association with Durban 1, and the singular failure of the campaign to gain any results. The proponents of BDS thought that by re-packaging BDS as a call from Palestinian civil society, the BDS campaign would gain more credibility.

While the BDS campaign has had relatively little economic impact on Israel, it could do so in the future. And whilst BDS is ostensibly focused on economic measures, its true and unstated aim is to delegitimise Israel - the nation State of the Jewish people – and to make Israel a pariah state, just as Jews were once a pariah people. Terms like ‘racist’, ‘ethnic cleansing’, ‘apartheid’, ‘war crimes’ and ‘genocide’ are regularly deployed by the BDS campaign to falsely attribute those traits to Israel. BDS is part of a long war against Israel – a war of narratives and propaganda, more than a war of economics.

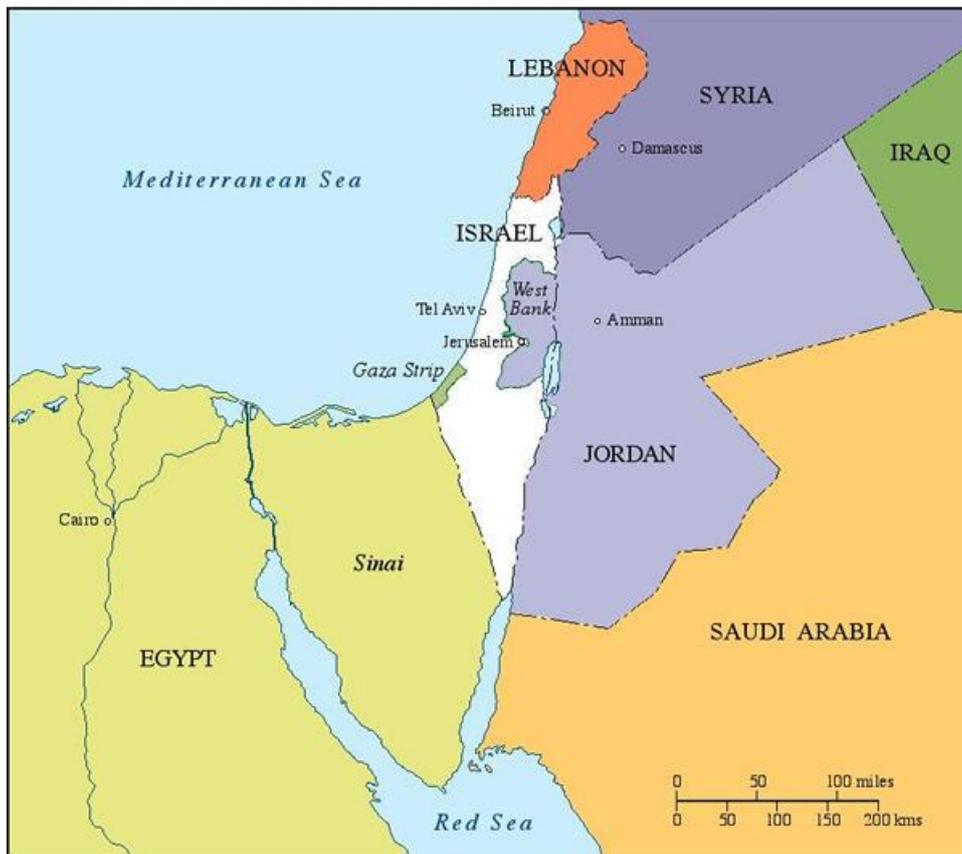
The BDS campaign is not monolithic. It is composed of independent organisations and individuals around the world who adhere to the official demands of the ‘BDS Campaign’ (see the Three Demands below). The BDS campaign is active predominantly in Western countries, especially the United Kingdom, western Europe, USA, Canada, South Africa and to a lesser extent Australia. Each organisation decides its own focus and activities.

Inside BDS



Arab countries are in green

Map 2: Israel Within the 1949 Armistice Lines (pre-1967 Borders)



'Green Line' Israel is in white

Part 1 - What is BDS?

The 2005 iteration of BDS is expressed in the document published as the 'Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS'. It states, in part:

Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS

Palestinian Civil Society Calls for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel Until it Complies with International Law and Universal Principles of Human Rights

9 July 2005

We, representatives of Palestinian civil society, call upon international civil society organizations and people of conscience all over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era. We appeal to you to pressure your respective states to impose embargoes and sanctions against Israel. We also invite conscientious Israelis to support this Call, for the sake of justice and genuine peace.

These non-violent punitive measures should be maintained until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with the precepts of international law by:

- 1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall**
- 2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and**
- 3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.**

Endorsed by: The Palestinian political parties, unions, associations, coalitions and organizations below represent the three integral parts of the people of Palestine: Palestinian refugees, Palestinians under occupation and Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Source: <http://www.bdsmovement.net/call>



BDS campaign – 3 demands

What do the Three Demands of BDS really mean?

What do these three BDS demands mean? What is the ultimate outcome desired and planned by the BDS campaign?

1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall

This **first demand** is disingenuous. There is no explanation of what constitutes “Arab lands”. In many BDS publications the whole of Israel is designated as Arab land. This is reflected in the BDS chant ‘from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free’. Most of the land between the (Jordan) River and the (Mediterranean) Sea lies within Israel’s pre-1967 territory.

If “Arab lands” include the State of Israel, then this demand means that the BDS campaign does not accept the reality of Israel, or its right to exist. While ever Israel exists, the BDS campaign will continue to seek its destruction.

If “Arab lands” excludes the pre-1967 territory of Israel, then the demand is for Israel to return to the ceasefire line of 1949, also known as the Green Line. If Israel withdrew to the Green Line without a genuine peace treaty with the Palestinians and the Arab states, Israel would be returning to what has been called the ‘Auschwitz lines’ – the very lines from which Jordan, in concert with other Arab States, attacked Israel in 1967 with the avowed aim of destroying Israel and killing or expelling its Jewish population. A return to the Green Line would mean that Israel’s territory once again would be only 15 kilometres wide at its centre, and would therefore be highly vulnerable, once again, to an armed attack by those who have repeatedly vowed to destroy it.

Israel’s unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005, failed to put an end to attacks against Israel from that territory and in fact resulted in a dramatic increase in such attacks. Withdrawing from territory without a peace treaty produced more armed conflict, not less. Israeli withdrawal simply gave Palestinian Arabs and their proxies, a base from which to increase the number of rockets and mortars they launched into Israel. Some 8,000 rockets have been fired from Gaza into Israel since 2005, and this has resulted in three wars. The lesson of Gaza is simply that Israel cannot afford to withdraw to the precise pre-1967 lines in the West Bank, and any withdrawal must be as a part of a genuine peace treaty.

The BDS demand “to dismantle the Apartheid Wall”, ignores the fact that Israel’s security barrier (more than 90% of which consists of a wire fence) was constructed to suppress waves of suicide bombings by Palestinian Arabs during the second intifada, in Israeli cafés, teenagers’ discotheques, at wedding parties, on public buses, and elsewhere, as well as sniper fire from Palestinian gunmen which had been directed at Israeli civilians. The suicide bombings and gunfire resulted in a massive death toll and large numbers of casualties among Israeli civilians. The security barrier has succeeded in its purpose (which had nothing to do with ‘apartheid’), by reducing terrorist attacks inside Israel by more than 90%. More than one thousand Israelis were murdered during the second intifada. To dismantle the security barrier without a peace treaty would again make Israel particularly vulnerable and only invite a repeat of the previous terrorist attacks against Israelis. No other country in similar circumstances, would entertain such a notion.

The purpose of the security barrier is to keep terrorists out of Israel, as depicted by Ranan Lurie's 2003 cartoon.



http://www.jewishworldreview.com/1003/mason_2003_10_08.php3

2. *Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality*

The **second demand** – equal rights for Israeli Arabs – implies that Israel denies “fundamental rights” to its Arab citizens. In point of fact, since its establishment in 1948, Israel has given all its citizens, Arabs, Jews and others, equal voting rights and equal civil and religious rights. Israeli Arabs, who comprise 20% of the Israeli population, sit as members of parliament in the Israeli Knesset and as judges on the Israeli Supreme Court. Israeli Arabs serve in the diplomatic corps, are university professors, and participate in all activities and at all levels of Israeli society.

Although some sectors of Israel's multi-ethnic, multi-religious society, suffer disadvantage and a degree of discrimination, this does not amount to a denial of fundamental rights. Discrimination and disadvantage exists in all societies, including democracies. Israel does not conscript some sectors of its citizens into the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), namely Arabs and ultra-Orthodox Jews, although they may serve if they choose to do so. Many Arab, Druze and other non-Jewish citizens, volunteer and serve in the IDF and share equally in the financial benefits reserved for those who have done so.

Some in the BDS campaign demand that Israeli Arabs, whom they refer to as ‘*Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel*’, should have national rights within Israel. In effect, they are demanding a two-tiered system of law – one for Arabs and one for Jews, which would be the antithesis of equal rights. Israel maintains itself as a state for all its citizens through equal voting rights, equality before the law, and adherence to the rule of law.

3. *Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.*

The **third demand** – the so-called “right of return” of Palestinian Arab refugees **and their five million descendants** to Israel – is aimed at turning Israel from a Jewish majority country into an Arab majority country, thus destroying Israel as the nation State and homeland of the Jewish people, and making it the 23rd Arab state.

UN Resolution 194, adopted on 11 December 1948, states, in regard to refugees (section 11):

194 (III). Palestine -- Progress Report of the United Nations Mediator

11. *Resolves* that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the Governments or authorities responsible;

Source: <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/C758572B78D1CD0085256BCF0077E51A>

This resolution is not a ‘right of return’ but instead sets out the conditions under which refugees may return. Notable aspects include:

- the pre-condition to “live at peace with their neighbours”
- the absence of any reference to descendants of refugees
- the language (“should”) is hortatory, not mandatory or legally binding
- no particular group of refugees is specified, which means that the resolution applies equally to both Arab refugees from the 1948 war and the more than 800,000 Jewish refugees expelled from Arab countries.

The BDS campaign’s Third Demand unambiguously reveals the true motives of the BDS campaign. A ‘right of return’ is demanded not only for the limited number of Palestinians displaced during the 1948 War who are still alive (currently estimated at around 30,000), but also for all their current and future descendants, *ad infinitum* (currently estimated at **5 million people**), including those who were born and have lived in other countries for their entire lives, even if they are citizens of those other countries (as most of them in fact are). Thus, persons born and raised for example in Lebanon, Syria, the UK or Australia, who have never left or fled from their homes, are considered to be Palestinian ‘refugees’ if they are descended from 1948 refugees.

The notion of refugee status being inherited and passed down in perpetuity is without parallel in international law. It is not applied to, nor is it claimed by, any other people.

Most significantly, a ‘right of return’ is sought not only to the future Palestinian state, but also to Israel. The clear underlying aim of the demand for a “right of return”, is to transform the demographic balance of the state of Israel by turning the Jewish majority into a highly vulnerable minority, thereby altering its cultural and religious character. The ultimate goal is therefore to destroy Israel by demographic means and thereby strip the Jewish people of its right to national self-determination. BDS leaders have admitted this on many occasions.

For example, writing on the extremist Electronic Intifada [website](#), Omar Barghouti, the founder of the BDS campaign, stated:

“I know that you cannot reconcile the right of return for refugees with a two state solution. That is the big white elephant in the room and people are ignoring it - a return for refugees would end Israel’s existence as a Jewish state.”

In an [interview](#) in 2010, Barghouti, in even more unequivocal terms, admitted:

“If the refugees were to return, you would not have a two-state solution. You would have a Palestine next to a Palestine, rather than a Palestine next to Israel.”

Barghouti’s admissions are hardly a revelation. The “right of return” as a mechanism for Israel’s destruction, has been openly discussed in the Arab world since 1948.

In 1948, Egypt’s Foreign Minister [observed](#):

“...it is well known and understood that the Arabs, in demanding the return of the refugees to Palestine, mean their return as masters of their homeland, and not as slaves. More explicitly: they intend to annihilate the State of Israel.”

By endorsing the so-called ‘right of return’, BDS implicitly rejects the internationally-endorsed principle of “two States for two peoples” and is at odds with the global consensus which has always recognised Israel’s right to exist specifically as the nation State of the Jewish people legitimately created under international law and a member State of the UN under the UN Charter.

Israel has at various times offered to repatriate the surviving original refugees of 1948-49 who wish to return and to offer compensation to those who do not wish to return to Israel. Even if all the Arab refugees of 1948 were accommodated in either way, through return or compensation, the BDS campaign still maintains the demand that 5 million people who are the descendants of refugees, should have the right to move to Israel. This demand is rejected even by the majority of Israel’s critics.

The question then arises as to the **fate of the six million Jews** in what would be a new Arab majority state. Two considerations would militate against any future for Jews in such a state.

The first consideration arises from the ongoing persecution and ethnic cleansing of non-Muslim minorities in other Arab-majority States. Where once there were over a million Jews living in Arab countries, now there is a handful. Where once Christians were substantial minorities in Arab countries, now there is a massive decline in numbers. In 1900, 20% of the population of the Middle East was Christian. The current figure is less than 2%.

The second consideration arises from the decades-long official Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas genocidal incitement against Jews, promoted in the media, mosques, schools, and the public square. Demonisation of Jews and calling for their mass slaughter is commonplace. With such persistent, pervasive and officially-sanctioned genocidal hatred by one segment of the population against another, any form of coexistence between Jews and Arabs within an Arab dominated state would be impossible.

The stated reasons for the BDS campaign are therefore a smokescreen for pursuing the real goals of its founders:

As Omar Barghouti admitted in an interview during 2010:

- ***“If the occupation ends, would that end our call for BDS? No, it wouldn’t.”***
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifZLk6Ei9-U>

In a speech aired on 23 September 2013, he finally came clean:

- ***“Definitely, most definitely we oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine.”***
Source: <https://vimeo.com/75201955> [at 5.54 minutes]

The real aims of the Three Demands of BDS

The real aims of BDS are: the destruction of the State of Israel; its replacement with an Arab-majority state; and the end of national self-determination and the political independence of the Jewish people. The inherent injustice of these goals, and the likely genocidal consequences if they were achieved, are deliberately masked by BDS rhetoric, which focuses on demands that Israel comply with “international law”, while surreptitiously promoting the shredding of international law’s most fundamental principles.

BDS Campaign –10 years on – no negotiation of a two-state solution

The fourth Boycott Divestment Sanctions (BDS) Conference held in Ramallah in June 2013, reiterated the three ostensible demands of the BDS campaign.

However, a major feature of the 2013 conference was its explicit opposition to the negotiation of a two-state solution between Israel and the PA. In fact, peace negotiations were condemned, and the BDS campaign was enshrined as the only “solution” to the Arab/Israel conflict.

In other words, nothing Israel does or can do, will stop the BDS campaign from targeting, attacking and delegitimising Israel and Israelis.

Part 2 - History of Arab boycotts of Jews/Israel

1. Arab boycott of Palestinian Jews

Arab boycotts of Palestinian Jews began in 1922. The 1922 boycott covered any Jewish owned business in Mandated Palestine. During the 1929 riots, when Jews were massacred, Arabs also attacked other Arabs who were accused of breaking the boycott. All Arabs in the region were called on to boycott Jewish owned businesses.

In 1933, the Arab Executive Committee of the Syrian-Palestinian Congress, called for a boycott of Jewish businesses. In 1934, the Arab Labour Federation initiated a boycott and the organised picketing of Palestinian Jewish businesses. In 1936, another boycott was announced by the Palestinian Arab leadership.

2. Arab League boycott of Palestinian Jews and Israel

The Arab League was formed in 1945, and was composed of six newly created Arab states, namely Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan (renamed Jordan in 1949), Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria. The League eventually comprised 22 Arab states. In 1945, the Arab League States announced a boycott of the products and manufactured goods produced by Palestinian Jews:

"Jewish products and manufactured [goods] in Palestine shall be [considered] undesirable in the Arab countries; to permit them to enter the Arab countries would lead to the realization of the Zionist political objectives. ... every State of the League should, before January 1, 1946, take measures which they consider fit and which will be in conformity with the principles of administration and legislation therein, such as making use of import balances in this respect in order to prevent these products and manufactured [goods] from entering [these] countries regardless of whether they have come from Palestine or by any other route."

After the establishment of the State of Israel in May 1948, the Arab League boycott was escalated to include additional prohibitions against:

- direct trade between Israel and the Arab nations (primary boycott)
- business with companies that do business with Israel (secondary boycott)
- business with companies that trade with other companies that do business with Israel (tertiary boycott)

3. Arab strategy to destroy Israel - war and terrorism

The invasion of Israel by the armies of five Arab states (Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon) in 1948 failed to destroy the nascent Jewish state. Further wars against Israel in 1956, 1967, and 1973 also failed to destroy it.

After the 1948-49 war, two major areas of Mandated Palestine came under Arab control – the Gaza Strip under Egyptian control, and Judea-Samaria (re-named the ‘West Bank’ of the Jordan River) under Jordanian control. At no time did the Palestinian or other Arab leaders attempt to create a Palestinian Arab state in those territories, even though they were then under Arab control.

From 1949 until 1967, there were continuing cross-border armed attacks against Israelis, by various armed Palestinian Arab groups, who at that time were referred to as Fedayeen. Many Fedayeen attacks deliberately targeted Israeli civilians. This was a continuation of the armed warfare against Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was created in 1964 – not by the Palestinians, but by the Nasser regime in Egypt – to achieve the "liberation of Palestine" through "armed struggle". The PLO was composed of various Palestinian Arab groups, although it originally excluded the largest group, Fatah, led by Yasser Arafat. The date on which the PLO was founded is significant – some three years before Israel gained control of the 'West Bank' and the Gaza Strip. It follows that the PLO was not originally formed because of "the occupation" by Israel of these territories – there was no "occupation" at that time. The land which the PLO was formed to "liberate", as its Charter still makes clear, is the whole of Israel itself.

After the 1967 Arab-Israel war, the Arab League met in Khartoum and issued the **Khartoum Resolution** of 1 September 1967, which contained what became known as the "Three No's":

“no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it”



Terrorism against Israeli civilians – suicide bombing on an Israeli bus

Neither war nor terrorism, including the unleashing of the 1st intifada in 1987 and the 2nd Intifada in 2000, destroyed or even weakened Israel. It was realised that **another strategy** was required to undermine and destroy the Jewish state. This is exemplified by the statements of two prominent PLO leaders:

“We plan to eliminate the State of Israel and establish a Palestinian state. We will make life unbearable for Jews by psychological warfare and population explosion... We Palestinians will take over everything, including all of Jerusalem.”

- Yasser Arafat, 1996 speech to Arab diplomats in Stockholm

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-father-of-modern-terrorism/>

“If we agree to declare our state over what is now 22 percent of Palestine, meaning the West Bank and Gaza, our ultimate goal is the liberation of all historic Palestine from the River to the Sea... We distinguish the strategic, long-term goals from the political phased goals...”

- Faisal Husseini, PLO strategist (*Al-Arabi*, Egypt, June 24, 2001)

<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/mystery-surrounds-faisal-husseini-s-last-interview-1.64965>

4. Durban Conference 2001

The UN sponsored the 'World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance', held in Durban, South Africa in September 2001.

The conference became known as the Durban Conference. It comprised three types of forums: an official diplomatic forum; a youth summit; and a massive NGO Forum. By invitation of the UN Human Rights Commission, delegates from 1250 organizations attended the Durban Conference.

The Durban Conference NGO Forum was the origin of the BDS campaign against Israel.

The NGO Forum became dominated, not only by those with an anti-Israel agenda, but also by those with an anti-Jewish agenda. Stalls openly sold antisemitic material such as 'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion' and other anti-Jewish hate literature. Fliers were circulated amongst conference attendees depicting Hitler with the question: "What if I had won?" and the answer: "There would be NO Israel and NO Palestinian's blood shed."

A report of the antisemitism at Durban stated:

Some of the comments directed at Jewish participants were "You do not belong to the human race." "Chosen people? You are cursed people." "Why haven't the Jews taken responsibility for killing Jesus." "They've sucked our blood all these years."

At a rally on Friday August 31st, there was a poster reading "Hitler should have finished the job". At another rally during the Forum, a person shouted "kill the Jews". These sorts of comments were incessant, endemic.

http://www.zionism-israel.com/issues/Durban_anti_semitism.html



Durban strategy

The NGO Forum of the Durban Conference produced what became known as the Durban strategy, a Declaration and Programme of Action against Israel:

<p style="text-align: center;">Palestinians and Palestine</p> <p>NGO Forum, World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Durban, South Africa, August 27-Sept 1, 2001</p> <p><u>Declaration</u></p> <p>160. ... we declare and call for an immediate end to the Israeli systematic perpetration of racist crimes including war crimes, acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing</p> <p>162. We declare Israel as a racist, apartheid state in which Israel's (sic) brand of apartheid as a crime against humanity has been characterized by separation and segregation, dispossession, restricted land access, denationalization, "bantustanization" and inhumane acts.</p> <p><u>Programme of Action</u></p> <p>423. Call for the launch of an international anti Israeli Apartheid movement as implemented against South African Apartheid through a global solidarity campaign network of international civil society, UN bodies and agencies, business communities and to end the conspiracy of silence among states, particularly the European Union and the United States.</p> <p>424. <u>Call upon the international community to impose a policy of complete and total isolation of Israel as an apartheid state as in the case of South Africa which means the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions and embargoes, the full cessation of all links (diplomatic, economic, social, aid, military cooperation and training) between all states and Israel.</u> (Emphasis added)</p> <p>Source: http://academic.udayton.edu/race/06hrights/WCAR2001/NGOFORUM/Palestinians.htm</p>
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This Durban strategy was the true origin of the BDS campaign. However, although some acted upon it, mainly some British academics, it was discredited from the outset by the notorious racism of the NGO Forum which had produced it. It was wholly ineffectual.

This led to the call in 2005 to revive the Durban strategy in a new guise, under the auspices of Palestinian civil society organisations.

Part 3 - BDS in action

According to the BDS campaign, boycott, divestment and sanctions refer to:

Boycotts target products and companies (Israeli and international) that profit from the violation of Palestinian rights, as well as Israeli sporting, cultural and academic institutions. Anyone can boycott Israeli goods, simply by making sure that they don't buy produce made in Israel or by Israeli companies. Campaigners and groups call on consumers not to buy Israeli goods and on businesses not to buy or sell them.

Divestment means targeting corporations complicit in the violation of Palestinian rights and ensuring that the likes of university investment portfolios and pension funds are not used to finance such companies. These efforts raise awareness about the reality of Israel's policies and encourage companies to use their economic influence to pressure Israel to end its systematic denial of Palestinian rights.

Sanctions are an essential part of demonstrating disapproval for a country's actions. Israel's membership of various diplomatic and economic forums provides both an unmerited veneer of respectability and material support for its crimes. By calling for sanctions against Israel, campaigners educate society about violations of international law and seek to end the complicity of other nations in these violations.

Source: <http://www.bdsmovement.net/bdsintro>

However, the true nature of boycotts, divestment and sanctions are better understood as:

Boycotts of products, culture, and academics – BDS activists lobby stores not to carry Israeli products and encourage others not to purchase them. They send letters to artists, musicians, authors, and academics, imploring them not to perform and appear in Israel or cooperate with Israeli institutions. Boycotts undermine liberal values, such as academic freedom and freedom of expression, by restricting openness and tolerance.

Divestment from companies that do business with Israel – Distorting the concept of ethical investing, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accuse companies that conduct business in Israel of involvement in war crimes and violations of international law. The NGOs approach investors, primarily large banks and pension funds, and push for the exclusion of these companies.

Sanctions against self-defense measures – Anti-Israel activists demand that the international community enact comprehensive sanctions against Israel – treating Israel as a pariah state. The ultimate goal is legally enforced sanctions by the UN Security Council. Other forms of sanctions include arms embargoes, which are premised on baseless charges of war crimes. Similarly, legal proceedings are initiated against Israeli officials to punish Israel for defensive actions.

Source: <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/articles/bds>

In general, boycotts are by individuals and organisations, divestment is by companies and organisations, and sanctions are by governments.

1. Boycott

Boycott action focuses predominantly on three main activities – academic, cultural, and economic. More specifically, the boycott is intended to apply to Israeli products, Israeli academics, Israeli cultural groups, and any other individuals or organisations with a connection to Israel. It also includes:

- not employing Israelis, especially in academia;
- not accepting research papers, books and the like, by Israelis;
- excluding Israelis or Israeli organisations from international bodies;
- discouraging artists, academics, performers and the like to refuse to participate in conferences, concerts and other events in Israel; and
- protesting outside shops, theatres, and elsewhere to discourage the trade in Israeli products and the performance of Israeli cultural artists.

Examples of academic boycotts include:

- In April 2005, the Council of Association of University Teachers (AUT) in the UK, voted to boycott two Israeli universities. The AUT held the vote during Passover, when many Jewish members could not be present. The boycott was cancelled in May 2005.
- In July 2012, the Wits University Students' Representative Council (Wits SRC) in South Africa adopted a declaration of academic and cultural boycott of Israel.
- In April 2013, the Teachers Union of Ireland (TUI) passed a motion calling for an academic boycott of Israel.
- In April 2013, the Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) in the USA voted to boycott Israeli universities and academic institutions,
- In May 2013, Stephen Hawking, British scientist, withdrew from an invitation to participate in the Israeli Presidential Conference hosted by Israeli president Shimon Peres, in order to boycott Israel.
- In December 2013, both the American Studies Association (ASA), and the council of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association voted unanimously in favour of the academic boycott of Israel.

Examples of cultural boycotts include:

- In 2012, BDS activists called on directors of the Globe Festival in the UK to cancel participation of Habima's production. Habima is Israel's national theatre company.

- In 2014, 36 British actors called for a boycott of Habima performing at the Globe Theatre in London.
- In August 2015, a Norwegian film festival refused to screen an Israeli documentary on children with disabilities - “The Other Dreamers” (2013) - telling its director that it supports the boycott on the Jewish state and will not screen Israeli movies unless they deal with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Examples of attempts at an economic boycott (most of which have been ineffectual) include:

- In December 2010, Marrickville Council, Sydney, Australia, passed a resolution to boycott Israeli products. This boycott included all Israel-related products and services used by Council, including HP computers (with its Israeli chip), Veolia garbage trucks (whose French parent won the bid to build a light rail transport service in Jerusalem), and other products and companies. In 2011, the boycott was dropped due to the financial cost of replacing Israeli products and the backlash from Marrickville residents and the wider Australian public.
- The Uniting Church of Australia promotes the boycotting of Israeli goods and services produced in West Bank settlements, but has only been able to identify a small number of these in Australia and the volume of trade that is potentially affected is negligible.
- University canteens, food cooperatives, food retailers, eg Big W in South Africa, have been urged by BDS activists not to stock Israeli goods.
- Sodastream, an Israeli home soda device, with a factory in Judea-Samaria was subjected to a major BDS boycott campaign which forced the factory to be moved into Israel. As a result, some 500 Palestinian residents of the West Bank who had worked at the factory and enjoyed equal pay to Israeli employees, lost their jobs.
- International companies that have offices in Israel, or are deemed to have plants in Israel, or deemed to give money to Israel, are called on to be boycotted.

Examples of street protests, and calls to boycott, against Israeli products or events, include:

- There have been protests at shops and stalls selling Israeli beauty products in shopping centres - Ahava, in London, and Seacret, in Adelaide and Brisbane in Australia.
- Max Brenner chocolate shops in Australia were subjected to rolling protests by the BDS campaign. The fact that Max Brenner in Australia is owned by an Australian Jewish family was irrelevant to the BDS campaign, a leader of which admitted as much in a video in 2013: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otAKXHWJR80>
- Shops that sell Israeli products, eg shoe shops selling Naot brand shoes, toy shops selling Israeli-made games, are subjected to street protests calling for the shops to not stock Israeli products.
- In 2014, patrons of the Israel Film Festival in Australia were subjected to street protests outside the theatres.

2. Divestment

Divestment is withdrawing financial investment in a company, and investing elsewhere. In the BDS context, churches, universities and other organisations, including pension funds, are called upon to terminate their financial investments in companies for the sole reason that they are identified as Israeli, or as having a financial connection with Israel, for example, having franchises operating in Israel or providing services in Israel. There are calls to divest from non-Israeli companies that do business with Israel, such as Caterpillar, Motorola, and Veolia, until they cut all ties with Israel.

Some examples of divestment against companies that operate in Israel, include:

- In 2006, the Church of England synod in the UK voted for disinvestment.
- In May 2008, IMPACT (the Irish Municipal, Public and Civil Trade Union), Ireland's largest public sector and services trade union, endorsed a boycott of Israeli goods and services, and divestment from corporations engaged in Israel, or with Israeli companies in the West Bank and Gaza.
- In June 2014, the Presbyterian Church of the USA (PCUSA) General Assembly voted to divest from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions.
- In June 2015, the United Church of Christ (UCC), in the USA, voted for divestment.

At universities, often it is student organisations, like "Students for Justice in Palestine" or the Student Representative Council, which propose motions calling on the university administration to divest from companies doing business in Israel. Many of these motions have been rejected by students, but even when they have been passed, they have generally been ignored by the relevant university administration.

3. Sanctions

Sanctions are imposed at government level. Unless authorised by the UN Security Council, government-imposed sanctions may violate international law, including the free trade rules of the World Trade Organisation. Although some Arab League countries and other countries, such as Iran, do not trade, or have diplomatic relations, with Israel, sanctions against Israel are not actively pursued by any country.

Nevertheless, the BDS campaigners lobby governments to ban trade with Israel. In addition, they call on governments not to use the services of, or to purchase products from, non-Israeli companies that operate in Israel. Examples of such campaigns against companies include:

Elbit Systems - an Israeli electronics defence company.

G4S - a British security services company, used in government prisons, and elsewhere, across the world, including in Israel.

Veolia - a French company operating throughout the world, including in Israel, constructing a light rail network. Veolia operate garbage clean-up services for local councils in Australia.

Part 4 - BDS tactics

The BDS campaign is characterised by three forms of behaviour – bullying, discrimination, and slander.

Bullying aims to stop interactions and relationships with Israelis.

Discrimination serves to exclude and marginalise Israelis.

Slander is aimed at demonising Israelis.



1. Bullying

Bullying is a favoured tactic and includes demonstrating in or invading public places and causing disruption wherever Israeli people are performing or lecturing, or demonstrating and invading malls and shops where Israeli goods are being sold.

People planning to visit Israel to perform, lecture, attend conferences, or participate in other events, are subjected to bullying through various means including mass emailing and social media campaigns, often including intimidation and threats to deter them from attending events in Israel. Bullying aims to stop interactions and relationships with Israelis.

Some examples include:

- In 2009, BDS activists entered the Ahava store in Covent Garden, London, locked themselves onto concrete-filled oil drums inside the shop, closing down the shop for two days.
- In 2011, during performances by the Jerusalem String Quartet and Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in London, BDS activists entered the hall and interrupted the performances.
- In 2012, during the performance by the Israeli theatre company Habima of "The Merchant of Venice" at the Globe Theatre in London, BDS activists insulted and vilified the performers while on stage.
- In some British and South African supermarkets, BDS activists have thrown Israeli products on the floor, or collected them in trolleys and dumped them. Some of the products have been rendered unsaleable. For example, in Birmingham in the UK in 2014, 100 protesters entered a Tesco store and started throwing Israeli produce around and shouting, intimidating both staff and shoppers. In response, Sainsbury stores removed all kosher products from their shelves in fear of BDS protesters entering and throwing the products on the floor, as occurred elsewhere.

- In August 2014, BDS activists occupied a Max Brenner store in Sydney, Australia, chanting loudly, intimidating staff and customers, before they were thrown out.
- Tours to Israel by performers like Bon Jovi, the Rolling Stones, and many others were met with a barrage of emails, threats, harassment, and abuse in order to try to force them to not perform in Israel.
- In December 2015, anti-Israel activists picketed several European restaurants (Stazione di Posta in Rome, Tragaluz in Barcelona, Fruehsammers in Berlin and the Cinnamon Kitchen in London) to protest their participation in a culinary event in Tel Aviv.

2. Discrimination

Discrimination takes many forms. It includes refusing engagement with Israelis, especially in academia and at conferences, refusing to accept Israeli academic papers, refusing to sit with Israelis in forums, refusing to translate books into Hebrew, and not accepting bookings by Jewish or Israeli cultural groups. Discrimination serves to exclude and marginalise Israelis by reason only that they are Israeli, although sometimes other excuses are used.

Some examples include:

- In June 2002, two Israeli academics were removed from the editorial boards of the journals *Translator* and *Translation Studies Abstracts*, because they were Israeli, by Mona Baker, professor at the University of Manchester in England.
- In June 2012, Alice Walker, American author of “*The Colour Purple*”, refused to permit her book to be translated into Hebrew, thus depriving Israelis of reading it.
- In 2013, the ‘Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies’ (CPACS) at Sydney University in Australia, refused to sponsor an Israeli academic at the Hebrew University, Dan Avnon, solely because he is a Jewish-Israeli academic working at the Hebrew University. CPACS attributed personal responsibility to Avnon for the alleged policies of the Hebrew University.
- In February 2013, George Galloway, then a British MP, stormed out of a university debate after he realized one of the debaters was an Israeli, refusing to sit and debate Israelis.
- In August 2014, George Galloway, then a MP for Bradford, declared Bradford to be an “Israel-free zone” which banned all Israeli goods, services, academics, and tourists.
- In June 2015, the Dean of Federal University of Santa Maria in Brazil, requested a list of all Israelis on campus, including Israeli lecturers and students studying in the university, in a show of support for Palestine.
- In November 2015, a British academic refused to assist a 12 year old Israeli school girl with an assignment on horses, because she was Israeli.

3. Slander

Slander, defamation and libel is committed by falsely accusing Israelis or Israel of wrongful conduct. For example, BDS advocates falsely accuse Israelis collectively or Israel of: flooding Gaza by opening non-existent dams; targeting Palestinian children; and controlling the media, banking and politicians in the USA. All of these false or fabricated accusations are aimed at demonising Israelis.

Some examples include false accusations that the government of Israel:

- wants to destroy the Al-Aqsa mosque, which is built on the Temple Mount, in order to rebuild the Jewish Temple;
- has committed ethnic cleansing in establishing the state of Israel, and continues to ethnically cleanse Arabs from Judea-Samaria;
- is an apartheid state, having different laws for Jews and Arabs. (Palestinian Arabs under Israeli control in the West Bank must by international law come under Israeli military law and not Israeli civil law, as the latter would imply annexation);
- is committing genocide against Palestinian Arabs – ignoring the fact that the Palestinian Arab population in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza **has increased more than fourfold since 1948**. The conflict between Jews and Arabs as organised national movements dates from 1920 when Arab leaders in the Holy Land first organised riots against the Jewish population. It has been one of the least deadly of the world's international conflicts claiming about 116,000 lives over almost 100 years. In comparison, there have been more than 250,000 deaths in Syria since 2011, and more than 500,000 deaths in Iraq since 2003;
- engages in organ stealing, for example after the Haiti earthquake and from Palestinian prisoners;
- poisons Palestinians by lacing children's sweets with poison and spraying poison on Palestinian crops;
- targets and murders children, reminiscent of the medieval Blood Libel;
- acts like Nazis or are worse than Nazis.



Anti-Israel protesters in Cape Town, South Africa, 9 August 2014

4. Anti-normalisation

Within Israel/Palestine itself, the BDS campaign opposes any cooperative endeavours between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs. This is their anti-normalisation program. It aims to ensure that Jews and Arabs are kept apart and remain enemies. It is not about healing the wounds, but keeping the wounds festering.

The anti-normalisation program within the BDS campaign opposes constructive joint programs between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs which improve the economic situation of Arabs, nurtures or rehabilitates the environment, or acts as therapy dealing with the trauma of violence, or promotes educational and women's programs, and even opposes Jewish and Arab children playing sport together, going on summer camps together, and any other joint activity.

Normalisation was condemned at the BDS Conference in 2013:

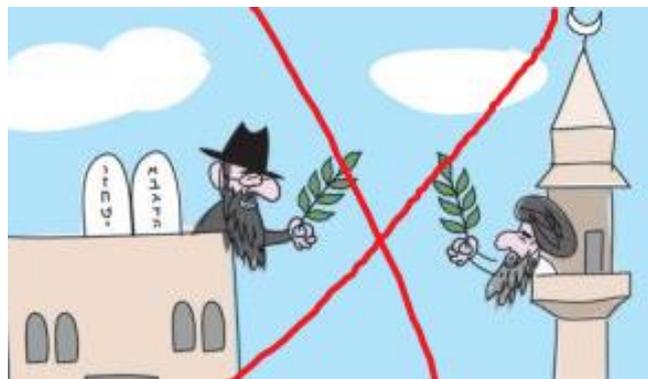
Normalization slammed

Several [speakers from the platform](#) denounced efforts by Israel and its collaborators to normalize the occupation. Many of those who spoke from the floor demanded the PA make laws to punish normalization. Several said the PA was undermining boycott efforts through joint initiatives.

Samia Botmeh of the [Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel](#) talked about efforts in schools to combat normalization initiatives like [OneVoice](#), which target the minds of children, she said. OneVoice is (sic) group founded by Israeli businessman Daniel Lubetzky, which seeds to bring the "two sides" together in dialogue.

Ziad Shuaibi of the [BDS National Committee](#) talked about Seeds of Peace, another normalization initiative, which sends Israeli and Palestinian youth on summer camps abroad together.

Source: <http://www.bdsmovement.net/2013/electronic-intifada-coverage-of-fourth-national-bds-conference-11038>



The anti-normalisation issue is examined in the following article, with salient points reproduced:

A bigger threat than BDS: anti-normalization

By [Joel Braunold](#) and [Huda Abuarquob](#) | July 2, 2015

The anti-normalization movement has called for an end to all interactions between Israelis and Palestinians that do not subscribe to three key tenets: ending the occupation; equal rights for Israelis and Palestinians; and a full right of return for Palestinian refugees. These three tenets are shared with the BDS movement, and, as such, the two movements are joined at the hip. Yet the effects on the ground of the anti-normalization movement are far more serious.

It seeks to police all interactions between Israelis and Palestinians, and, as such, disrupts programs that it perceives as being unaligned with its agenda.

The only joint programs anti-normalization advocates condone are those that support resistance or protest. All others, they believe, undercut the Palestinian national struggle.

How do they expect two conflicting parties to empathize with one another's narratives when neither side has the opportunity to learn of the other's struggle on a personal level? [...] Preventing the conflicting sides from interacting enables anti-normalization activists to define the "other" in their own terms.

Look at the thousands engaged by Parents Circle or Combatants for Peace, the farmers whose crops have not wasted thanks to Olive Oil Without Borders or the communities receiving fresh water owing to the work of EcoPeace. These are just a sample of thousands of people whose lives have been changed through joint programs.

People-to-People work today has evolved to be less about dialogue and far more about building trust. This is painfully slow and offers only incremental progress, yet given how each population [fears](#) the other, offers a real option for progress.

While the anti-normalization movement's intimidation tactics and efforts to shut down dissent [...]

Yet, if we are to see any progress in the areas of peace, coexistence, security, freedom, justice and rights, it will be on a basis that Palestinians and Israelis have a shared future. We need space to run programs that bring Israelis and Palestinians together to explore these values as one, without fear or intimidation. Jews and Arabs are either destined or doomed to share the land together. Let us work for the former to avoid the latter.

Source: <http://www.haaretz.com/jewish-world/the-jewish-thinker/.premium-1.664018>

5. BDS is not Pro-Palestinian

Despite its veneer, the BDS campaign is not actually pro-Palestinian. It speaks out only for Palestinians for the purpose of placing blame on Jews. Palestinians suffering at the hands of fellow Arabs or Muslims or others are of no interest to the BDS campaign. The Palestinians are used merely as a tool with which to bludgeon Israel even if the result is to deprive Palestinians of well-paid jobs with Israeli companies, for example, SodaStream (referred to above).

In 1959, the Arab League Decree 1547, stated that Palestinians are not allowed to become citizens of Arab countries "in order to preserve the Palestinian entity and Palestinian identity." Jordan was the exception, allowing Palestinians to receive Jordanian citizenship.

Children born to Palestinians do not receive citizenship in their host countries, violating Article 7 of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Palestinians face severe travel restrictions throughout the Arab world. They do not receive passports and their travel documents are only accepted by a few countries. Palestinians cannot vote or run for office in national elections, in their host countries.

- In Lebanon, there is official discrimination against Palestinian refugees and their Lebanese-born descendants, especially severely restricted rights in the areas of work, education, housing and health services. For example, Lebanese law prohibited Palestinians from working in over 70 types of jobs, including professional, mercantile and administrative, although in 2005, the law reduced those bans to 20 types of jobs.
- In 1970-1971, in Jordan, the civil war between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Jordanian Armed Forces resulted in between 4000 and 5000 Palestinian deaths, and the expulsion of the PLO leadership and many Palestinians from Jordan.
- When the Palestinians backed Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1991, the Kuwaitis turned against the Palestinians, and 200,000 Palestinians (who were mostly Jordanian citizens) were expelled from Kuwait within one week. Another 200,000 Palestinians left Kuwait during the invasion.
- During the Syrian civil war, of 2011 and continuing, the Palestinian neighbourhood of Yarmouk in Syria was pounded, causing hundreds of casualties and forcing thousands to flee.
- In Gaza under Hamas and in the PA's territory, human rights abuses such as arrests for criticising the government, detentions, torture of prisoners, persecution of homosexuals, harassment of Christians and honour killings of women, are far too common.

In all the above cases, and in respect of many other similar occurrences, there are no calls to support the Palestinians, no protests or calls for BDS against any Arab country for oppressing or discriminating against Palestinians. Only Israel is singled out for protests and BDS.

Part 5 – Antisemitism within the BDS campaign

The BDS campaign is increasingly becoming openly antisemitic, both in its rhetoric and activities. The level of anti-Jewish hatred in the rhetoric emanating from within the BDS campaign, and the number of antisemitic incidents to which it gives rise, continue to escalate.

The BDS campaign is, both in intent and effect, antisemitic. It is therefore not surprising that antisemitism is becoming more openly expressed. The core aim of BDS is to oppose and deny to the Jewish people alone, the right to national self-determination in its historic homeland.

The most insidious aspect of the BDS campaign is that it creates a poisonous atmosphere for Jews in the diaspora. Long-standing anti-Jewish canards, tropes, stereotypes, and imagery are now being used against Israel, and against all Jews who support Israel's right to exist. It has become acceptable within the BDS campaign not only to demonise Israel, but also to openly discriminate against, vilify and threaten Jews simply for supporting Israel's existence.

Some examples of antisemitism by BDS supporters include:

- In February 2012, 'Students for Palestine' planned a protest outside a synagogue in Melbourne, Australia, on the Jewish Sabbath, as part of the "Open Shuhada Street" in Hebron campaign, but only moved the protest to another venue after negative media attention.
- In March 2013, 'Australians For Palestine' published an image of a box of oranges labeled with Nazi-era yellow Star of David and the Dutch word for 'Jew'. They felt this was an acceptable form of expressing support for their call for the Dutch government's labeling of Israeli products. (The original image – Holland loves labeling Jews – by Marc Gottlieb, was created to make the point that identifying and labeling "Jewish" products from Judea Samaria is reminiscent of the Nazis identifying and labeling Jews in Holland during WW11.)



- In April 2013, 'Students for Justice in Palestine' at the University of NSW, in Australia, and other BDS activists after protesting the opening of a Max Brenner chocolate store on campus, made a spate of antisemitic comments on Facebook including references to

"evil greedy money-loving nature of Jews", the claim that "Only news (that) Jews are happy with, goes through via media", "Of course I have a problem with Jews. You are not the cursed people and were not Banished from the holy land for nothing lol." and claiming that Jews are "the dirtiest most evil people on earth using the holocaust to their advantage as leverage to establish the state of israel. it was all planned."

- In August 2013, at a BDS protest against an Israeli saxophonist performing at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, protesters chanted "*dubula e juda*" ("[shoot the Jew](#)") as concert attendees were entering the concert hall.
- In August 2014, due to the ransacking of Israeli goods on supermarket shelves by BDS activists, a Sainsbury supermarket in Britain, [removed](#) kosher goods from its shelves. The supermarket subsequently restored the goods to its shelves.
- In August 2014, the Tricycle Theatre in London refused to host the UK Jewish Film Festival while ever it received funding from the Israeli embassy.
- In October 2014, BDS activists put a [pig's head](#) in the kosher section of a Woolworths supermarket in Cape Town, South Africa, claiming "we will not allow people who will not eat pork to pretend that they are eating clean meat, when it is sold by hands dripping with the blood of Palestinian children."
- In February 2015, the Student Representative Council at Durban University of Technology, in South Africa, called on the university to [expel all Jews](#) unless they denounce Israel.
- In March 2015, BDS protesters at an Israel trade expo in Johannesburg, [threatened to kill Jews](#) , with shouts of "You think this is Israel, we are going to kill you!" and "You Jews do not belong here in South Africa!"
- In March 2015, the Red Rattler Theatre company, in Sydney, Australia, refused a booking by the Jewish group, Hillel, claiming the theatre does "not host groups that support the colonisation and occupation of Palestine" that is, support the existence of Israel.
- In August 2015, the BDS campaign in Spain, pressured the organisers of a music festival to cancel the performance by Matisyahu, an American Jewish reggae singer, unless he publicly stated support for the Palestinians. Matisyahu refused, and his performance was cancelled. Matisyahu was the only Jewish performer scheduled to play and was the only performer targeted by the BDS campaign. No other performer was required to make a political statement. Matisyahu is not Israeli.
- In December 2015, 'Students Against Israeli Apartheid' group holding a 'silent protest' changed course and [disrupted](#) a Jewish pre-Hanukkah celebration by Hillel at York University, Toronto, Canada, chanting anti-Israel slogans near the Chanukah event.
- In February 2016, students interrupted a faculty meeting at Brooklyn College, in the USA, and [demanded](#) "Zionists off campus."

The extract from the following article from 2015, summarises the antisemitism within the British BDS organization, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC):

For Britain's "Palestine Solidarity" obsessives, such behavior is [nothing unusual](#). PSC activists have [at various times](#) republished material from neo-Nazi websites; blamed Jews for the Holocaust; opposed Holocaust education for creating "a culture of gentile guilt and Jewish victimhood in British schools;" charged Jews with controlling the media; attacked observant Jews as "enemies of humanity"; and so on.

The Scottish branch of the PSC [accused](#) murdered yeshiva students of learning to poison wells and steal the internal organs of non-Jews. The allegation of harvesting organs from gentiles was also [mentioned](#) by Corbyn's [colleague](#) at the PSC, Baroness Jenny Tonge. And PSC [patron](#) Caryl Churchill has authored a [short play](#) unmasking Jewish parents as evil sadists who lie to their families in order to justify child murder.

<http://www.algemeiner.com/2015/09/17/jeremy-corbyn-is-placing-himself-at-the-head-of-britains-palestine-solidarity-lynch-mobs/>

Other examples of the antisemitism within the anti-Israel campaign include:

- In July 2014, in Paris, anti-Israel protesters attacked two synagogues and chanted "Death to the Jews!"
- In July 2014, antisemitic chants were made by anti-Israel protesters in Germany. In Dortmund and Frankfurt anti-Israel protesters chanted, "*Hamas Hamas Juden ins gas!*" ("Hamas Hamas Jews to the gas!"). In Essen a 200 strong mob chanted "*Scheiss Juden!*" ("Jewish shit"). In Berlin, protesters draped in Palestinian flags chanted "*Jude, Jude feiges Schwein! Komm heraus und kämpf allein!*" ("Jew, Jew, cowardly swine, come out and fight on your own!").
- In July 2014, in Belgium, a [sign](#) at a cafe in Liege in French and Turkish read "Dogs are allowed in this establishment but Jews are not under any circumstances." (The French text replaced "Jews" with "Zionists.")
- In Belgium, an Orthodox Jewish woman was turned away from an Antwerp store, as the shop's policy was to ban Jews from entering "out of protest" against Israel.
- In July 2014, a [doctor](#) in Antwerp, Belgium, refused to treat an elderly Jewish woman with a broken rib, telling her to "go to Gaza" for treatment instead.
- In September 2014, a security guard at Sports Direct, a sporting goods store in Britain, [barred](#) Jewish teens from entering the shop saying "no Jews, no Jews".
- In September 2015, an anti-Israel protester against Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu's visit to London, was [videoed](#) endorsing the genocide of Jews. "Six million Jews, wiped out," she says in the clip. "I want them out of Israel... They can f*** off [and] go into the sea." When a bystander suggests, "You'd have to kill them all," she replies, "So be it." Another protester, wearing a keffiyeh, taunted Israel supporters by holding out a coin and yelled, "Here's a penny... That's all you understand. You only understand money."

Part 6 - Countering BDS

Peace and justice between Israel and the Palestinians can only be built on the foundation of a negotiated two-state solution, something which both Israel and the PLO have agreed to. This alone would ensure that both Jews and Arabs can have their political independence and dignity and realise their own national aspirations. To work towards these ends, the BDS campaign must be exposed, countered and defeated.

Supporting Israel's right to exist in peace and security as the democratic State of the Jewish people does not preclude supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, achieved through negotiations. Nor does it preclude criticism of Israeli government policies and actions. Yet any kind of support for Israel's right to exist, even if it is accompanied by the most far-reaching criticisms of Israeli government policies and actions, is inimical to the true goals of the BDS campaign and is therefore an anathema to its founders and leaders.

The BDS campaign is based and built on bigotry. It bullies, discriminates and demonises, and slanders. It is basically a war by propaganda and incitement, a war of words and hostile actions, targeting Israel academically, culturally, economically, and in other ways. Proponents of BDS use words in an attempt to legitimise their openly hateful and repellent rhetoric and actions against Israel and Jews. They knowingly level false allegations against Israel, scandalously accusing it of every conceivable evil and crime, including stealing body organs, poisoning crops, targeting children, blood lust, racism, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, genocide, and more. One writer has characterised this aspect of the BDS campaign as an "industry of lies".

We need to respond, be pro-active, and state the case for Israel. This requires only one thing – telling the truth.

We can expose the BDS lies and proclaim the truth in several ways. Firstly, we can speak to friends, neighbours, colleagues, and people we meet in other social settings. Secondly, we can write letters to the editor, emails to politicians, and posts and comments on social media. Thirdly, we can attend anti-Israel events or anti-Israel speakers and, if safe to do so, put Israel's case. Fourthly, we can organise or attend counter protests especially on campus, and publicly show support for Israel. Fifthly, we can organise or attend public exhibitions and the like, putting forward the truth about Israel. Sixthly, we can make good use of the many pro-Israel organisations and websites, and utilise Jewish organisations for information, advice, and feedback.

We need to expose the real aims of BDS – the destruction of Israel as the nation State of the Jewish people, its opposition to a two state solution, its opposition to a negotiated peace agreement, and its opposition to relationships and cooperative endeavours between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs. The real aims of BDS are summed up in the quotes from its founder, Omar Barghouti, referred to earlier.

We need to proclaim the extent of Israel's offers during negotiations to establish a Palestinian Arab state alongside Israel, and of continued Arab rejectionism and violence. Establishing a Palestinian Arab state alongside Israel, rather than instead of Israel, means accepting Israel's existence.

We need to refute the false history that BDS promotes – by affirming the indigeneity of the Jewish people and religion, and the Hebrew language and culture, to the land of Israel,

affirming also the continuous Jewish habitation in the land for more than 3,500 years. We need to affirm the continuous Jewish connection to the land even while most Jews were in exile, and refute the false claim that Jews are European colonial invaders. We need to proclaim the fact that Israel has always been seen as the homeland by Jews, not a colony. Today, the majority of Israel's Jews are native born and many others are from the Middle East and North Africa. We need to proclaim that the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, where the First and Second Temples stood for centuries, is the holiest site in Judaism, marking the direction towards which Jews have turned to pray for the last 3,000 years, and that our holy sites in Hebron, Shechem (Nablus) and elsewhere predate Christianity and Islam.

We need to expose and correct the falsification of the history of the Arab/Israel conflict promoted by the BDS campaigners. We need to proclaim the truth and put the facts and the context back into history. We need to point to the fact that the conflict began before 'the occupation' commenced in 1967 and before Israel even existed. We need to restate that the occupation was not a cause of the conflict but a result of the conflict. We need to proclaim that there were 800,000 Jewish refugees, from Arab countries, including those from areas of Mandate-era Palestine that were taken over and controlled by Jordan and Egypt. These refugees fled from war and/or were expelled from where they had lived for generations, some for millennia, like Iraq and Egypt.

We need to expose and refute what BDS campaigners say and how they say it. This includes Pallywood, with its staged conflict scenarios, where unfiled Palestinians provoke the IDF, and the filmed Israeli response is published, in order to promote a fabricated story of 'violent Israelis attacking innocent Palestinians.' This includes the manipulation of videos and photos, including photos from other conflicts especially in Syria, which are then falsely claimed to relate to Gaza. Another ruse is to present photos of Palestinian children born with birth defects and claim that their "injuries" are from Israeli bombing.

We need to challenge and hold mainstream media organisations to account when their headlines and stories are without context or balance, or skewed to place Israel unfairly in a bad light, or which excuse Palestinian violence, or refer to BDS activists as 'human rights activists'.

Even though the BDS campaign promotes boycott, divestment and sanctions, its real purpose is to wage a propaganda war against Israel and Jews, to isolate Israel and turn Israel and the majority of Jews into pariahs. Nevertheless, to help offset any adverse economic effect to Israel, we can buy Israeli products, or products with Israeli components or technology, invest in Israeli companies or companies that operate in Israel, and attend Israeli cultural events like films and theatre.



Cartoon by Shay Charka

Conclusion

It is important to keep the effect of the BDS campaign in perspective. As insidious as it is, and despite its occasional high levels of publicity, support for the BDS campaign generally remains within the confines of the political hard Left and hard Right, and small factions within some of the Protestant churches. As well, most of the “successes” claimed by the BDS campaign, are often no more than empty rhetoric without any basis in truth.

The possibility that the BDS campaign may make inroads into the mainstream political arena, and parliamentary and corporate discourse and policies, cannot be minimised. However, the fact that France, the UK, and many states in the USA have legislated against public institutions boycotting Israel, and that trade between Israel and the West, including the European Union, is increasing, is a good sign that most people in the political establishment and business world, understand the poison that is BDS.

However, the core threat presented by BDS is not the economic isolation of Israel. The core threat is that Israel, and its Jewish citizens and supporters around the world, will continue to be demonised, incited against, and turned into pariahs, and become targets for physical violence.

The BDS campaign has been identified, analysed, and monitored. We know its real aim – the destruction of Israel. We know its tactics, strategy and propaganda techniques. We also know what needs to be done to defeat BDS and to consign its proponents back to their disreputable fringes of political discourse and action.

The success or failure of the BDS campaign has wide ranging ramifications. If it succeeds in turning Israel into a pariah state and Jews once again into a pariah people, then the world as a whole will be adversely affected. “What begins with the Jews, never ends with the Jews.” If BDS fails, then its world view, which sees hate, lies and incitement to violence as a legitimate form of political action, will suffer a major setback as well.

In our world, composed of many ethnicities, nations and religions, the ideal is social cohesiveness, justice, and peace, not hatred, bigotry and violence. If we want a decent and just world, we must stand up to the liars, haters and bullies.

The purpose of this document is to provide some basic information on the BDS campaign to assist people to better understand BDS, and to inspire fair-minded people everywhere to expose it and act to defeat it.



SOME USEFUL LINKS:

Israel Advocacy [Is the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement just?](#)

BDS Cookbook <http://www.stopbds.com/>

BDS Guide <http://bdsguide.com/>

ECAJ: [The BDS Campaign Against Israel.pdf](#)