

# "BDS Has A History"

Prof. William A. Jacobson

December 4, 2016

Thesis:

Century-old history of boycotts shows that  
BDS is the latest form of economic war  
against the Jews in Israel

Re-packaged for tactical reasons to appeal  
to concerns for 'social justice' rather  
than Jew-hatred or destruction of Israel

Core boycott re-packaged narrative

BDS is a 2005 call  
from Palestinian Civil Society

# Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement

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The global movement for a campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights was initiated by Palestinian civil society in 2005. BDS is a strategy that allows people of conscience to play an effective role in the Palestinian struggle for justice.

For decades, Israel has denied Palestinians their fundamental rights of freedom, equality, and self-determination through ethnic cleansing, colonization, racial discrimination, and military occupation. Despite abundant condemnation of Israeli policies by the UN, other international bodies, and preeminent human rights organisations, the world community has failed to hold Israel accountable and enforce compliance with basic principles of law. Israel's crimes have continued with impunity.

In view of this continued failure, Palestinian civil society called for a global citizens' response. On July 9 2005, a year after the International Court of Justice's historic advisory opinion on the illegality of Israel's Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), a clear majority of Palestinian civil society called upon their counterparts and people of conscience all over the world to launch broad boycotts, implement divestment initiatives, and to demand sanctions against Israel, until Palestinian rights are recognised in full compliance with international law.



## US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

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### Boycott and Divestment Campaigns

In 2005, 170 Palestinian civil society organizations issued a historic, rights-based call to the international community for boycotts, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) targeting Israel and institutions complicit in its oppressive policies towards Palestinians until it complies with international law and ensures freedom, justice, and equality.

Find out more about the global BDS campaign at [www.bdsmovement.net](http://www.bdsmovement.net).

The US Campaign endorsed the Palestinian call for BDS shortly after it was issued in July 2005. Academic and cultural boycott were endorsed in 2009.

The American Studies Association has never before called for an academic boycott of any nation's universities, said Curtis Marez, the group's president and an associate professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, San Diego. He did not dispute that many nations, including many of Israel's neighbors, are generally judged to have human rights records that are worse than Israel's, or comparable, but he said, "one has to start somewhere."

He argued that the United States has "a particular responsibility to answer the call for boycott because it is the largest supplier of military aid to the state of Israel." While acknowledging that the same could be said of a number of oppressive governments, past and present, he said that in those countries, civil society groups had not asked his association for a boycott, as Palestinian groups have.

(NY Times, December 15, 2013)

# History of boycotts against Jews in British Mandate for Palestine

**Figure 1**  
**Key Events in the History of the Boycott<sup>11</sup>**

1891	Arabs request Ottoman rulers of Palestine to halt Jewish immigration and land sales to Jewish persons.
1922	<b>Arab</b> Congress calls on Arabs to <b>boycott</b> Jewish businesses in Palestine.
1929	<b>Arab</b> Congress vows to compel Arabs to <b>boycott</b> Jewish merchandise. Syria prohibits import of merchandise produced by Jewish businesses in Palestine.
1930	British Passfield White Paper reports that Jewish <b>settlers</b> in Palestine have adopted the principle of employing Jewish labor whenever <b>possible</b> .
1931	World Islamic Congress passes resolution requesting Muslim countries to <b>boycott</b> trade with Jewish businesses in Palestine.
1934	<b>Arab</b> Labor Federation pickets Jewish businesses in Palestine.
1944	Arab League is established.
1945	<b>Arab League</b> Council adopts Resolution 70, recommending that all <b>Arab</b> states establish national <b>boycott</b> offices.
1948	Creation of the State of Israel. The <b>Arab League</b> bans all commercial and financial transactions between Israel and the <b>Arab</b> states. Postal, radio, and telegraphic communications are cut off; land, sea, and air blockades are imposed.
1950	<b>Arab League</b> Council adopts Resolution 853 that sets out the operational



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## ARABS BOYCOTT JEWISH ELEC- TRICITY

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Jerusalem (J. T. A.)—Arab extremists are waging their fight against things Jewish even to the point of refusing the use of electricity derived from a "Jewish station."

The Jaffa municipality has decided to stick to the old hand, foot and horsepower rather than utilize any of the electrical power derived from the Ruttenberg station at the Auja.

Efforts by the government to convince the Arabs that electricity was neutral and knew no politics proved unavailing.

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## **Urge Anti-jewish Labor Boycott in Palestine**

September 17, 1929 4:00am

Anti-Jewish boycott propaganda is continuing in the country. An appeal to Arab employers was distributed in the streets declaring: "The basis of national independence is economic independence. Therefore we ask imperatively in the name of the nation to perform a light duty not costing you any money, namely, to dismiss all Jewish employees immediately and...

## ARAB TRADERS URGE CONTINUANCE OF ANTI-JEWISH BOYCOTT

JERUSALEM (J. T. A.)—Resolutions urging the continuation of the Arab boycott against Jewish products were adopted on November 18 at an all-Palestine conference of Arab traders. The resolutions urged the boycott of the Rutenberg Electric Corporation, the Athlit Salt Works, the Nur match factories. Plans were proposed for the establishment of Arab cement and salt works. Those who attended the conference pledged themselves not to sell land to the Jews.

Other resolutions adopted requested the government to establish an agricultural bank and to abolish the tithe system.

Seven Arabs were arrested in Jaffa, charged with carrying on boycott propaganda.

## **The Arab Boycott**

October 30, 1934 5:00am

The Arab Labor Federation by its decision, reported yesterday, to picket Jewish enterprises in Palestine and to conduct an anti-Jewish boycott there, can contribute little towards the desired Arab-Jewish rapprochement. The Arab Labor Federation seems to forget that today two-thirds of the workers in the Jewish fields of Palestine are Arabs. It seems to forget...

# The Arab League Boycott

Arab League formed 1944

Boycott started 1945

There was no Israel in 1945, it was boycott of Jews

## ARABS TO BOYCOTT PALESTINIAN GOODS

Vote Action Against Jewish  
Industry, Charging Tie With  
Zionism and Political Aims

Israellycool.com

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 3 (UP)—The Arab League announced today that its seven member States would boycott all Jewish-produced goods from Palestine beginning Jan. 1.

The league's secretary-general, Abdul Rahman Azzam Bey, said the boycott was ordered because Jewish industry in Palestine was "based on Zionist funds, collected in foreign countries, to serve a political purpose: the establishment of a Jewish national home and State in Palestine."

"This purpose is not realizable except by the exploitation of markets in Arab countries," he added.

Without indicating their nature, Azzam Bey said the league was prepared to take additional steps, if necessary, to combat Zionist aims.

Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Yemen, Trans-Jordan and Syria are members of the league. Arab groups in Palestine are represented in its councils. Azzam Bey called on non-league Arab States to join the boycott. He specifically exempted the products of Jewish industries in Arab States other than Palestine.

Asked whether the League had acted to protect the welfare of the estimated 70,000 Arabs working for Jewish industry in Palestine, Azzam Bey said he believed the "Zionists will be most pleased when 70,000 Arabs are forced to leave Palestine."

Rabbi Chates at Delay



threats in order to get rid of her obligation toward Palestine—for fear of Hebrew industrial competition and of introducing democracy in the Middle East. It is also being used as a pretext to preserve her imperial domination in the whole area in expectation of war against Russia, in which she hopes that America will be involved.

"The British administration in pursuing the above aims is therefore determined to sacrifice the remnants of the Hebrew people through forbidding them entrance into their national territory. Pursuing this object, it had transformed Palestine into the only country on earth where anti-Semitic laws still prevail."

### Unprovoked Firing Denied

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Dec. 3 — Replying in the House of Commons to a question on the recent shooting incident in Hoggla, Palestine, in which six Jews were killed by the British military while attempting to break through a cordoned village, George Hall, Colonial Secretary, said today in a written statement:

"It is necessary to take this opportunity to state categorically that the allegation, to which some currency has been given, that British troops opened fire without provocation on unarmed persons is



# THE PALESTINE POST

Friday, October 25, 1946.  
Tishri 30, 5707. Zilkadi 29, 1363

JAMAL Hussein has been claiming a famous victory for the Arab boycott campaign. Many Jewish shops

## BOYCOTT

and factories had closed down, he declared with satisfaction. "Half the Jewish workers" had been rendered unemployed, and the Jews were now obliged to dispose of their goods at low prices. Significantly, he made these absurd statements in Alexandria, where few people could check their accuracy. We have not seen any Jewish shops that have closed down, except in cases where they have been evicted from the centre of Jerusalem — and promptly opened up again elsewhere. Not a single Jewish factory has been compelled to suspend work on account of the boycott. The total of Jewish unemployed in Palestine is less than one per cent of the total number of Jewish workers. And we cannot in honesty say that we have noticed much reduction in the price of goods.

The truth of the matter is that only four per cent of the production of Jewish industry in Palestine was exported to the Arab countries before the boycott started. Even if the boycott in these countries were completely successful, it would still leave 96 per cent of Jewish industry untouched.

In Palestine itself the Arab leaders have made frantic efforts to make the boycott effective, and they have failed. Even recourse to threats and violence has not availed to dissuade Arab businessmen and the Arab public from buying "Jewish goods." Incidents such as the recent bomb outrage in Haifa, in which the store of an Arab merchant who dealt in such goods was damaged, are an indication of the failure of this campaign. The boycott has led to widespread racketeering and black market dealings. The drivers of lorries have been held up by gunmen who for the greater glory of the Arab cause "confiscate" the goods they carry.

An Arab spokesman in Jerusalem is reported to have agreed that Arab boycott leaders who were arrested at Haifa "may have had something to do with the bombing" of the offending shopkeeper's store. It is a step forwards that the Palestine authorities have at last taken action to the extent of raiding the "Boycott Committees" premises at Haifa. Just as in the Arab rebellion between 1936 and 1939 Arabs were the chief sufferers through the extortions and outrages of their fellows, today it is again the Arab shopkeeper and the Arab consumer who are being victimized by black market operators and "boycott leaders."

To say, as the Arab spokesman said, that "the boycott is merely one of the steps we are taking to foster Arab economy in Palestine" is humbug. There is nothing constructive about the boycott. It is no more than an attempt to make political mischief in Palestine and the Middle East. The Arabs, as their spokesman proclaimed, may not care what British policy is as regards the boycott. The Jews, however, have an interest in the matter, not so much on account of any relatively small economic dislocation, but for the political disturbance which the boycott is intended to cause.

## BOYCOTT BOMBING REACHES JAFFA

JAFFA, Saturday. — The first "boycott bombs" to be used here blew up the shop of Issat e-Shei Jassin in Bustrus Street yesterday morning, causing an estimated damage of LP. 900. Several minutes earlier two men wearing dark glasses entered the shop and warned him that the shop would be blown up.

Jassin had received threatening letters ordering him to stop selling Jewish products.

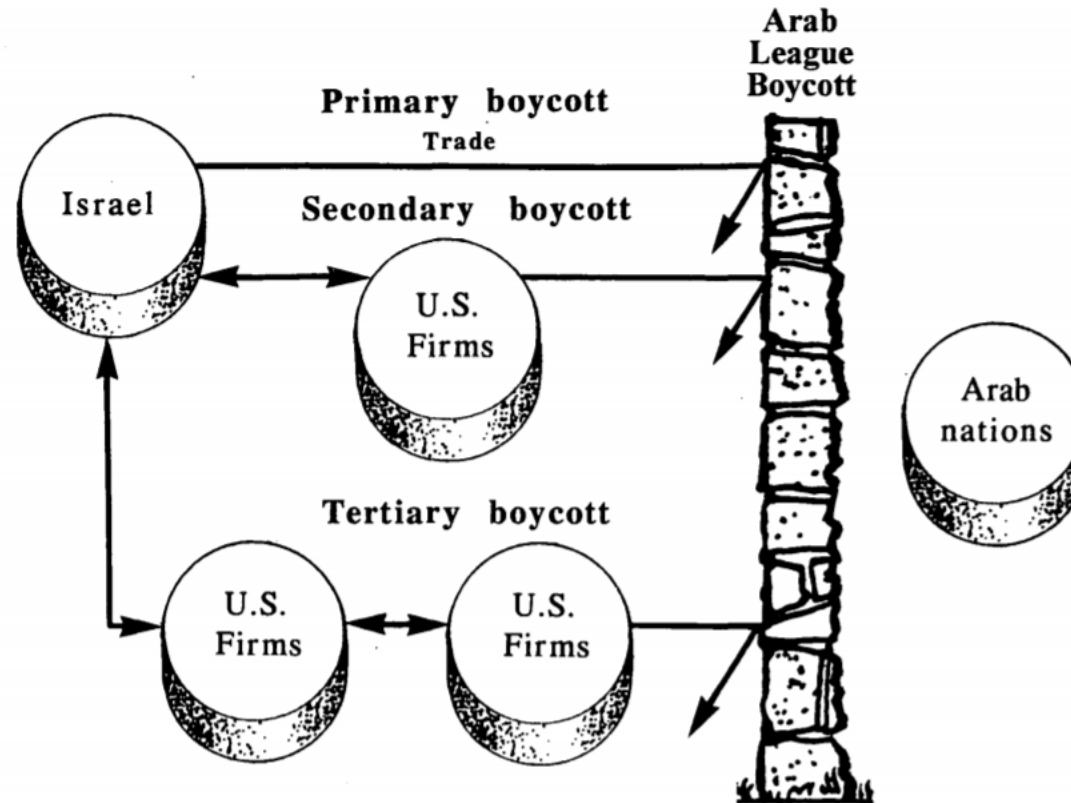
In Jerusalem, seven "boycott bombs" have damaged Arab shops recently.

October 1947



How Arab League Boycott worked

## U.S. International Trade Commission



Primary boycott prohibits the importation of goods and services from Israel into the territory of Arab League members.

Secondary boycott prohibits individuals, companies (both private and public sector), from engaging in business with U.S. firms and those from other countries that do business with Israel, blacklist maintained by the Damascus-based Central Boycott Office (CBO)

Tertiary boycott prohibits business dealings with U.S. and other firms that do business with blacklisted companies.

1949-1967

No boycott of Jordan for occupation of “West Bank” or  
Egypt for occupation of Gaza

Arab League boycott largely ineffective  
until 1973 Arab Oil Embargo

U.S. passes anti-boycott legislation

Federal

State

By mid-1990s, Arab League boycott again largely ineffective

combination of U.S. legislation (late 1970s), Peace Treaties with Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994), and Oslo Accords (1993)

Reality of Israel technological and economic advances

**The New York Times**

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May 11, 1993

## **Though Still in Effect, Arabs' Economic Boycott of Israel Weakens**

By CLYDE HABERMAN,

**JERUSALEM, May 10—** Step by step, Government officials and business leaders here say, the decades-old Arab economic boycott of Israel has weakened to a point that many international companies now believe they can safely ignore it.

But the officials caution that while down, the boycott is far from out, and that it continues to scare away foreign businesses skittish about offending Arab countries, especially the oil-producing nations of the Persian Gulf.



By 2001, Arab League considers reactivating boycott

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## Arabs Reactivate Economic Boycott of Israel

In its first meeting in ten years, the Arab League announced that it decided to reactivate the Arab economic boycott of Israel. In its final communiqué, the Arab League Summit, stated that the Arab leaders "demand the reactivation of the Arab boycott against Israel by holding regular boycott conferences which the Central Office of the Boycott has called for with the aim of preventing dealing with Israel...The leaders decide...to continue to stop all steps towards, and activities of, regional economic cooperation with Israel. The leaders....firmly challenge Israeli attempts to infiltrate the Arab world in any form, and from now on to stop opening relations with Israel." The leaders....firmly challenge Israeli attempts to infiltrate the Arab world in any form, and from now on to stop opening relations with Israel."

In recent months there were indications that after years of relative complacency on the boycott front that the Arab leadership and the Arab League were considering stepping up activity. The boycott was put on the agenda of the March 26, Arab League meeting in Amman, Jordan. According to media reports, in February of 2001, the Arab League's Central Office for the Boycott of Israel (OBI) sent invitations to its liaison officers regarding a meeting in Damascus on April 22, 2001.

### The Arab Boycott Against Israel

- **Primary Boycott**  
Prohibits Arabs States, Companies, Individuals from ANY commercial, financial or trade relations with Israel
- **Secondary Boycott**  
Companies worldwide doing business with Israel blacklisted and boycotted by Arab governments and companies
- **Tertiary Boycott**  
Extends the boycott to companies doing business with boycotted firms.

Arab and Muslim countries also begin to structure “non-governmental” boycott which movement evades existing U.S. anti-boycott legislation

Do so through captive NGOs and UN apparatus

Goal of economic warfare never went away, just shifted

Replaced with captive NGO-driven UN-sanctioned  
'Apartheid' narrative laid out at pre-Durban and Durban  
conferences in 2001

# **2001 Tehran Conference**

February 19 to 21, 2001

Israel, along with Jewish NGOs, were excluded

Mary Robinson, former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote in [The Daily Beast](#) while promoting her new book (emphasis added):

It had been clear to me early on that holding one of the four regional conferences, the Asian prepcom, in Tehran, would be problematic. Iran, chosen by the countries of the region, was a poor choice to host a conference addressing issues of racism, xenophobia, and anti- Semitism because of its known hostility towards Israel. Tactically, it would have been better to move the preparatory meeting elsewhere in the region, but no other governments offered, probably because many had their own minority, caste, or racism issues.

**In its prepcom session, the Tehran meeting, held in February 2001, harshly criticized Israel for its policies in the Palestinian territories and its treatment of Palestinians and made an analogy between those policies and Apartheid.** The “Zionist movement . . . is based on race superiority,” the draft declaration subsequently alleged, along with the charge that Israel had carried out “ethnic cleansing of the Arab population of historic Palestine.” All such sentences were opposed by some delegates present and, as is always the UN procedure, were put in square brackets in the text, indicating they had not been agreed upon.



At the time, I felt certain that this inflammatory language would be removed from further draft texts well before Durban. Unfortunately, as the preparatory processes went on, the states that had inserted the bracketed language in Tehran refused to withdraw it.

Looking back, I realize I put too much store in the fact that any controversial clauses put in square brackets would either be removed during the preparatory process, or inevitably would be thoroughly debated during the tough negotiations on a final text. I underestimated the hurt and anxiety words in a document would cause, regardless of whether they were in brackets or not, and that the political fallout would start before the Durban conference itself.

# Durban NGO Conference September 2001

**Congressman Tom Lantos**

**The Durban Debacle, An Insider's View of the UN World Conference Against  
Racism**

*Fletcher Forum of World Affairs, Winter/Spring 2002*

Another ring in the Durban circus was the NGO forum, taking place just outside the conference center. Although the NGO proceedings were intended to provide a platform for the wide range of civil society groups interested in the conference's conciliatory mission, the forum quickly became stacked with Palestinian and fundamentalist Arab groups. **Each day, these groups organized anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic rallies around the meetings, attracting thousands. One flyer which was widely distributed showed a photograph of Hitler and the question "What if I had won?" The answer: "There would be NO Israel..."**

At a press conference held by Jewish NGO's to discuss their concerns with the direction the conference was taking, an accredited NGO, **the Arab Lawyers Union,** **distributed a booklet filled with anti-Semitic caricatures** frighteningly like those seen in the Nazi hate literature printed in the 1930s. Jewish leaders and I who were in Durban were shocked at this blatant display of anti-Semitism. **For me, having experienced the horrors of the Holocaust first hand, this was the most sickening and unabashed display of hate for Jews I had seen since the Nazi period.**

Sadly, but perhaps not surprisingly, the official NGO document that was later adopted by a majority of the 3,000 NGOs in the forum branded Israel a “racist apartheid state” guilty of “genocide” and called for an end to its “racist crimes” against Palestinians....

I join with Congressman Lantos and other critics who rightly condemn the anti-Semitism that some groups brought to events and activities surrounding the Non-Governmental Forum (NGO Forum). In some places, there was an atmosphere of intimidation and hate against Jewish people. There were cartoons and posters that were hurtful and inappropriate. Additionally, the final NGO document contained language relating to Israel that was inflammatory. In fact, portions of the document proposed by the Jewish caucus were defeated in a process that was intimidating and undemocratic.

(Gay McDougall, Fletcher Forum, Summer/Fall 2002)



## Durban NGO Conference Boycott Call

**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.

424. **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. Call upon the Government of South Africa to take the lead in this policy of isolation, bearing in mind its own historical success in countering the undermining policy of "constructive engagement" with its own past Apartheid regime.

The Durban Strategy is the  
strategy of the BDS movement

The result of an openly  
anti-Semitic agenda conceived  
in Tehran and born in Durban,  
framed in the language of  
anti-racism and human rights

## **BDS in the USA, 2001-2010**

by [Noura Erakat](#), published in [MER255](#) (2010)

The call gave voice to a growing movement that began, appropriately, in Durban, South Africa at the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, where non-governmental organizations and activists equated Israel's racially discriminatory policies throughout Israel proper and the Occupied Territories with apartheid and advocated BDS as the strategy of choice for fighting back. In Durban and subsequently, the activists have drawn upon the general definition of apartheid ... Directly preceding the 2005 call, a group of Palestinian intellectuals and academics issued a call for the academic and cultural boycott of Israel in 2004.

Boycott activity using the Durban Strategy  
started almost immediately

# The Intifada Reaches the Ivory Tower

European scientists are calling for a boycott of Israel.

Tamara Traubman | Apr 25, 2002 12:00 AM

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The first time that the international scientific community imposed a boycott on a state was during the apartheid regime in South Africa. The second time is being considered at present, and now the boycott is directed against Israel and its policy in the territories.

Several manifestos calling for the imposition of a boycott, on various levels, have been published in recent days by professors from abroad; a number of Israeli scientists have signed the manifestos, arousing a great deal of anger on Israeli campuses.

In the United States, students are applying pressure on the universities, demanding that they stop supporting companies and foundations that cooperate with Israel. The initiative began with students from the University of California at Berkeley half a year ago, and recently it has spread to universities such as Princeton.

## Israeli boycott divides academics

Suzanne Goldenberg in  
Jerusalem and Will  
Woodward

Monday 8 July 2002 07.15 EDT



18

Sackings on two obscure journals fuel debate on cooperation with universities

A pair of obscure journals run by a Manchester professor have become the focal point for an angry debate across the international academic community over a boycott of Israeli universities.

A decision by Mona Baker, a professor of translation studies at the University of Manchester institute of science and technology (Umist) to sack two liberal Israeli academics from minor roles on her journals have provoked a stinging response from academics led by Stephen Greenblatt, the Harvard professor, Shakespeare scholar and president of the Modern Language Association of America.

In an open letter, Prof Greenblatt said he deplored Prof Baker's "attack on cultural cooperation", which "violates the essential spirit of scholarly freedom and the pursuit of truth".

Prof Baker is one of the signatories of a British-led petition of more than 700 academics from several countries launched by Steven Rose, an Open University professor. Signatories including Oxford professors Colin Blakemore and Richard Dawkins say they "can no longer in good conscience continue to cooperate with official Israeli institutions, including universities".

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## Higher education

# South African professor attacks 'apartheid' regime in Israel

[EducationGuardian.co.uk](http://EducationGuardian.co.uk)

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Polly Curtis

Thursday 11 July 2002 10.51 EDT



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A leading South African university vice-chancellor has pledged support to the British academic boycott of [Israel](#), comparing the Middle Eastern country's regime to that of apartheid South Africa.

However, Professor Brian Figaji, of Peninsula Technikon University, warned against using a "big brush" approach to all Israelis, and condemned the sacking last week of two Israeli academics from a small British journal.

Mona Baker, a professor of linguistics at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, dismissed Gideon Toury and Miriam Shlesinger, who worked on two journals owned by her company, because they worked for Israeli universities.




Home

# British Academic Publisher Boycotts Bar-Ilan University

The British academic publisher St. Jerome Publishing has informed Bar-Ilan University that it will no longer sell books and periodicals to the school due to Israel's activities in the territories.

Relly Sa'ar | Oct 25, 2002 12:00 AM

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The British academic publisher St. Jerome Publishing has informed Bar-Ilan University that it will no longer sell books and periodicals to the school due to Israel's activities in the territories.

This is the second time that St. Jerome, a highly regarded Manchester-based publisher that specializes in translation studies and cross-cultural communications, has been involved in an academic boycott against Israel. A few months ago, one of the journals it publishes, The Translator, fired two Israeli researchers - Dr. Miriam Shlesinger and Professor Gideon Toury - from its academic board.

## British academic boycott of Israel gathers pace

Andy Beckett and Ewen MacAskill

Thursday 12 December 2002 07.44 EST



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Evidence is growing that a British boycott of Israeli academics is gathering pace. British academics have delivered a series of snubs to their Israeli counterparts since the idea of a boycott first gained ground in the spring.

In interviews with the Guardian, British and Israeli academics listed various incidents in which visits, research projects and publication of articles have been blocked.

Colin Blakemore, an Oxford University professor of physiology, who supports a boycott, said: "I do not know of any British academic who has been to a conference in [Israel](#) in the last six months."

Dr Oren Yiftachel, a left-wing Israeli academic at Ben Gurion University, complained that an article he had co-authored with a Palestinian was initially rejected by the respected British journal Political Geography. He said it was returned to him unopened with a note stating that Political Geography could not accept a submission from Israel.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. PATSY TAKEMOTO MINK EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION ACT.**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**"SEC. 910. SHORT TITLE.**

"This title may be cited as the 'Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act'."

**STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED  
RESOLUTIONS**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 336—URGING  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY  
TO REJECT A BOYCOTT OF  
ISRAELI ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL  
INSTITUTIONS**

Mr. CORZINE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Whereas a campaign is underway by elements of the international academic community to limit cultural and scientific collaboration between foreign universities and academics and their counterparts in Israel;

Whereas a number of European academics have signed petitions calling upon the national governments of Europe, the European Union, and the European Science Foundation to sever contacts with Israeli academics, as well as issue a moratorium on grants to Israeli research centers and cultural institutions;

Whereas the Association of University Teachers and NATFHE, unions that represent professors and researchers employed by research centers and universities in the

United Kingdom, have signed a petition that calls for a continuous dialogue with them which is the best way to bring them back to negotiations";

Whereas an open letter written by Paul Scham and Eva Illouz, academics associated with Hebrew University in Jerusalem, asserts that "the call to boycott Israeli academics shows unpardonable ignorance of the role played by scientists, intellectuals, and artists in challenging the political consensus and in creating the public debate that rages in Israel at all times, including now";

Whereas an editorial in the May 2, 2002, issue of the respected British scientific journal *Nature* states that, "Israel is a research powerhouse that, given an eventual improvement of relations with its neighbors, could rejuvenate science and development in the region through collaboration and training. Rather than signing boycotts, which will achieve nothing, researchers worldwide can help the peace process concretely by actively initiating more . . . collaborations and encouraging their institutions to do the same.";

Whereas foreign-funded research projects intended to foster cooperation between Israelis, Palestinians, and Arab academics in various disciplines including water resource management, desalinization, and cancer treatment, have continued despite current events;

Whereas Article 19, section 2, of the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that, "Everyone shall have the right to . . . receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice";

Whereas any attempts to stifle intellectual freedom through the imposition of an academic boycott is counterproductive since research and academic exchange provide an essential bridge between otherwise disconnected cultures and countries; and

cultural and scientific exchange between the United States and Israel

In recent months I have been troubled by reports that a movement is brewing to limit contact between European Governments, institutions, and academics, with their counterparts in Israel. Petition drives are underway in Europe and elsewhere to encourage decision-makers and scholars to academically isolate Israel as a way of expressing dissatisfaction with Israeli policies regarding the Palestinian population.

Campaigns in support of an academic boycott are as counterproductive as they are unjustified. They breed intolerance, disrupt important scientific inquiries, and undermine efforts towards peace. Yet groups ranging from the Association of University Teachers, a labor union in England, to the University of Lille in France have made the unfortunate decision to allow their misguided political beliefs to disrupt constructive academic collaboration with colleagues in Israel.

As you may be aware, in June of this year, two Israeli scholars were dismissed from the boards of translation journals based in Manchester, England. No one asserts that these two fine academics were dismissed for incompetence or for poor scholarship. No one argues that the remarks or actions of these intellectuals reflected poorly on their institutions or on these publications. No one even claims that they were dismissed for their political views. They clearly were not. Rather, they were dismissed simply because of their nationality. They both are Israeli citizens and carry Israeli passports.

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## UK news

# Lecturers' union to debate boycott of Israel

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Will Woodward, education editor

 @WHWoodward

Monday 5 May 2003 07.02 EDT



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A university lecturers' union will debate a call for an academic boycott of Israel at its annual conference in Scarborough this week.

The executive of the Association of University Teachers (AUT) is opposing a motion to be put before delegates on Friday by Sue Blackwell, a pro- Palestine campaigner from Birmingham University.

The motion says: "In view of Israel's repeated breaches of UN resolutions and of the Geneva conventions, council urges all UK institutions of higher education, all AUT local associations and all AUT members to review immediately, with a view to severing, any academic links they may have with official Israeli institutions, including universities."

The debate will revive the controversy over the decision last year by Mona Baker, a professor at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (Umist), to drop two eminent scholars from the boards of her privately-run translation journals because they worked at Israeli universities.

**2002-2004** – Organizing efforts of “Palestinian Civil Society” around Durban Strategy

But Durban Strategy boycott already active without any Call from “Palestinian Civil Society”

July 2004 organizing initial boycott call



## ACTIVISM NEWS

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### **PALESTINIAN ACADEMICS CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL**

STATEMENT, *PALESTINIAN CAMPAIGN FOR THE ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL  
BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL*, 7 JULY 2004

Dear fellow academics, intellectuals and activists:

Please find below a Palestinian call for boycott issued by the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel. It has the support of nearly sixty of the most prominent academic, cultural, professional, and trade unions and associations in the Occupied West Bank and Gaza, including the Federation of Unions of Palestinian Universities' Professors and Employees and the umbrella organization of Palestinian NGOs in the occupied West Bank, PNGO. It is thus highly representative of the views of major sectors in Palestinian civil society. We urge you to endorse this call and distribute it as widely as possible to academic organizations, educational institutions, and cultural and professional associations.

# BDS Final Boycott Call

## July 2005





WHAT IS BDS?

GET INVOLVED

CAMPAIGNS

OPEN LETTER

## Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS

July 9, 2005 / By Palestinian civil society /

SHARE



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



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



## **BDS JULY 2005 – FINAL DECLARATION OF BOYCOTT**

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.

Palestinian Grassroots Anti-apartheid Wall Campaign  
Sunday November 18, 2007



## **First Palestinian Conference for the Boycott of Israel (BDS)**

*First Palestinian Conference for the Boycott of Israel (BDS)*

*22 November 2007*

*Al-Bireh, Ramallah*

### **Summary Report**

**"The Campaign for the Boycott of Israel will re-vitalize popular resistance and restore dignity to the Palestinian people"**

The conference was opened by Dr. Gabi Baramki (PACBI) who reminded participants of the fact that boycott has been a tool of the Palestinian struggle since the 1920s. He stated that the power of popular boycott derived from international law and universal ethical principles, and emphasized the timeliness of a Palestinian popular boycott movement, especially now, when isolation and fragmentation are imposed more than ever on the Palestinian people, in order to bring about loss of hope, dignity and surrender. Boycott and popular struggle contributed to the liberation of India and South Africa, he stated, adding that, while it is true that the challenge for Palestinians is bigger, because South Africa never enjoyed the level of support Israel has from the United States and Europe, the Palestinian boycott campaign can be effective because of Israel's ultimate dependence, politically, diplomatically and economically, on the West.

Core tactics of BDS similar to Arab League Boycott

Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Boycotts

Primary – boycott Israeli goods, services, academia, culture

Secondary – boycott those who do business with Israel, e.g., retailers who sell Israeli products

Tertiary – boycott those who do business with blacklisted persons/entities – e.g. Sabra Humus, anti-normalization, Spanish music festival that invited Matisyahu

FUNDING ISRAELI  
APARTHEID

BOYCOTT ISRAELI  
COMPANIES AND  
PRODUCTS

INTERNATIONAL  
CORPORATE  
COMPLICITY

DIVESTING FROM  
APARTHEID

International corporations play a key role in enabling Israel's regime of apartheid and settler colonialism. They provide the equipment, services and infrastructure that helps Israel to oppress Palestinians.

For example:

G4S - provides security services and equipment to the Israeli government and military, including to prisons where Palestinian political prisoners are held and subjected to torture.

Hewlett Packard - provides the systems that run the ID card system that Israel uses to restrict Palestinian movement.

Caterpillar - provides armoured bulldozers and other equipment used to demolish Palestinian homes. BDS campaigning against international companies can have a real impact. Major European companies Veolia, Orange and CRH have all exited the Israeli market after high profile campaigns over their participation in Israel's crimes.





# **Economic and corporate support for Israeli apartheid**

The economic boycott of Israel aims to put pressure on Israel to comply with international law and to persuade private companies to end their participation in Israel's crimes.

The Israeli economy is especially dependent on international trade and investment, making it especially susceptible to international economic boycotts. Many international companies such as G4S and HP profit from helping Israel to maintain its system of apartheid and settler colonialism.

Campaigns against and divestment from international companies increases the pressure on them to end their complicity with Israel's oppression of Palestinians.

**Subject: Human Rights Watch  
Recommendations on the Implementation  
of Human Rights Council Resolution 31/36  
Business Activities in Israeli Settlements**

Dear Commissioner Al Hussein,

Human Rights Watch is pleased to submit recommendations to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as it compiles a database of business enterprises involved in the activities listed in paragraph 96 of the [Human Rights Council Resolution 31/36](#), “Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan” (“the Resolution”).

## Academic Boycott Guidelines

Inspired by the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa as well as the long tradition of civil resistance against settler-colonialism in Palestine, the PACBI Call urges academics and cultural workers to **comprehensively and consistently boycott all Israeli academic and cultural institutions** as a contribution to the struggle to end Israel's occupation, colonization and system of apartheid, by applying the following:

1. **Refrain from participation in any form of academic and cultural cooperation, collaboration or joint projects with Israeli institutions;**

2. Advocate a comprehensive boycott of Israeli institutions at the national and international levels, including suspension of all forms of funding and subsidies to these institutions;
3. Promote divestment and disinvestment from Israel by international academic institutions;
4. Work toward the condemnation of Israeli policies by pressing for resolutions to be adopted by academic, professional and cultural associations and organizations;
5. Support Palestinian academic and cultural institutions directly without requiring them to partner with Israeli counterparts as an explicit or implicit condition for such support.”

## Current Status of BDS

## Thesis:

Century-old history of boycotts shows that  
BDS is the latest form of economic war  
against the Jews in Israel

Re-packaged for tactical reasons to appeal  
to concerns for 'social justice' rather  
than Jew-hatred or destruction of Israel