

**SUPPORTING THE
PALESTINIAN BDS
CALL FROM WITHIN**

BOYCOTT!

July 11, 2011

We Will Not Be Silent: Statement in Regard to Israeli Anti-Boycott Law

*"We're going to arrest you, but it's difficult with you because all you do is talk."
- Israeli soldier to Palestinian organizer Mohammad Othman, 2009^[1]*

We, Israeli citizens, members of Boycott!^[2], hereby reiterate our support and promotion of the Palestinian Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel, until it complies with international law and universal principles of human rights^[3]. We declare this in spite of the new legislation by the Israeli Knesset, which aims to penalize our and our partners' activities, curbing freedom of speech and political organizing and most importantly – banning Israeli citizens from acting according to their conscience when it conflicts with the deplorable policies of the state.

The anti-BDS law is not the first attempt at silencing the BDS campaign. Throughout the years, Israel has detained Palestinian leaders, activists, speakers and organizers under administrative detention and without charges, or at times under various draconian charges such as 'incitement' and the organizing of 'illegal demonstrations'. On September 22nd 2009, Mohammad Othman, 34, was detained at the Allenby Crossing upon his return to the occupied West Bank following a meeting with Norwegian finance minister Halvorsen. Earlier that month, minister Halvorsen had announced Norway's divestment from the Israeli company Elbit due to "ethical concerns"^[4]. Othman was arrested and held without charges or trial, under an unlawful administrative detention order and had spent much of the 113 days in detention under solitary confinement. Imprisonment of political activists is an almost routine practice against Palestinian human rights defenders.

Like such repressive practices, the newly approved Israeli law, which specifies fines and the payment of 'compensation' by Israeli citizens or residents, who initiate or encourage a boycott of Israel – is also bound to fail. We hereby support and promote the recent Palestinian call for an immediate and comprehensive military embargo on Israel^[5] due to its consistent resort to violence and deadly attacks on Palestinians and Arab civilians; we stand with Jewish Voice for Peace in their campaign to bring TIAA-CREF to divest from the Israeli occupation^[6]; and, we support and encourage all other BDS-related divestment campaigns, such as the campaign to Derail Israel's Unlawful A1 Train Project^[7].

Lastly, we urge artists scheduled to perform in Israel to send a clear message that the Israeli occupation, the institutionalized discrimination of Israel's own Palestinian citizens and Israel's denial of the right of return and compensation of the Palestinian refugees - are neither okay nor normal, as Maxi Jazz from Faithless once put it^[8]. Roxette, Ziggy Marley, Dream Theater, George Benson, Nino Katamadze, Paul Simon and John Cale – we may risk persecution for saying this – heed the Palestinian call for BDS and cancel your shows in Israel!

[1] <http://www.bdsmovement.net/2009/it-will-take-more-than-a-wall-to-silence-us-577>

[2] Our full name is: "Boycott! Supporting the Palestinian BDS Call from Within". Aka: "Boycott from Within".

[3] <http://www.bdsmovement.net/call>

[4] <http://electronicintifada.net/content/israel-targeting-boycott-movement/8524>

[5] <http://www.bdsmovement.net/2011/military-embargo-call-7497>

[6] <http://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/blog/jvp-demand-tiaa-cref-divest-israeli-occupation-0>

[7] <http://www.bdsmovement.net/2010/derail-a1-statement-4494>

[8] <http://www.pacbi.org/etemplate.php?id=1337>

Signed,

Elie Adelman	Connie Hackbarth	Renen Raz
Yonah Adelman	Nir Harel	Maya Rotem
Uri Agnon	Lihi Joffe	Leehee Rothschild
Daniel Atai	Liad Kantorowicz	Aia Safadi
Oshra Bar	Yael Kahn	Lizi Sagie
Yoav Bar	Yonatan Kahn	Emily Schaeffer
Ronnie Barkan	Amani Khalefa	Ayala Shani
Elisha Baskin	Assaf Kintzer	Tal Shapira
Roi Basha	Yana Knopova (Ziferblat)	Yonatan Shapira
Ofra Ben Artzi	Abir Kopty	Yuval Shtrool
Eitan Bronstein	Micha Kurtz	Stavit Sinai
Alona Cohen	Noam Lekach	Kobi Snitz
Alex Cohn	Gal Lugassi	Sonya Soloviov
Silan Dallal	Emelia Marcovich	Jonatan Stanczak
Yossi David	Anat Matar	Iris Stern Levi
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Naama Farjoun	Edo Medicks	Tamara Traubmann
Tamar Freed	Dorothy Naor	Sahar Vardi
Amir Gafner	Irene Nasser	Itamar Weitzman
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Elyakim Genazzani	David Nir	Sergio Yahni
Angela Godfree-Goldstein	Noa Olchovsky	Oren Yermiah
Rebekah Gomez	Jonathan Pollak	Karen Zack
Ohal Grietzer	Leiser Peles	Michal Zak
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On behalf of
Boycott! Supporting the Palestinian BDS Call from Within
<http://boycottisrael.info>