

Minnesota Break the Bonds Campaign: Divest for Justice In Palestine
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Why Divestment, Why Now?

In 2005, Palestinian civil society put out a call for boycott, divestment and sanctions, or BDS, as the most politically and morally sound civil resistance strategy for ending the Israeli occupation of Palestine until Israel complies with International Law and Universal Principles of Human Rights. In that initial call, over 170 Palestinian organizations in Palestine and the Diaspora signed. We are organizing this divestment campaign as an expression of solidarity with Palestinians and Israelis who have signed on in support of the Palestinian call. Our expression of solidarity comes in both word and action in this campaign.

Resources:

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/52>

Why Israel?

Working against human rights abuses in Israel is not mutually exclusive of working against human rights abuses anywhere else in the world. As people of the United States, we have a unique responsibility to hold Israel accountable for its human rights abuses because of the billions of dollars in military and financial aid Israel receives from us each year. In fact, Israel is the single largest U.S. foreign aid recipient,⁸ despite having the 15th most competitive economy in the world.⁹

Resources:

ipc.state.gov/documents/organizations/31987.pdf.

<http://www.weforum.org/en/initiatives/gcp/Global%20Competitiveness%20Report/index.htm>.

Many Jews are a part of the BDS movement.

There are many and growing numbers of Jews inside of Israel and around the world that are opposed to and actively voicing opposition to the actions of the Israeli government. In fact, MN BBC was initiated by two Jews rooted in the pursuit of social justice. They believe “Never Again” means “Never Again” for anyone and as Jews it was their obligation to be in solidarity with this non-violent Palestinian call in opposition to Israeli aggression. This movement is not anti-Jewish but pro-human rights and justice.

Resources:

<http://www.ijsn.net>

<http://boycottisrael.info/>

<http://www.btselem.org/English/>

<http://www.phronline.org/articles.php?ArtID=377>

Israel has created a separate and unequal system that we pay for.

Israel has created a different system of laws, schools, health care, roads, IDs and citizenship for Jews and non-Jews in essence creating a “democracy for Jews”, leaving all others as second-class citizens. Our money as Minnesotans goes to support this system of separation. By withholding our money, we are non-violently pressuring Israel to end its human rights abuses.

Resources:

<http://palestineremembered.com/Acre/Famous-Zionist-Quotes/Story696.html>

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/884358.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/racist-marriage-law-upheld-by-israel-478291.html>

http://www.btselem.org/english/special/2005804_racism_law.asp

<http://rete-eco.it/it/documenti/35-riflessioni/2067--israeli-knesset-extends-racist-law-against-palestinian-families-.html>
<http://www.politicalaffairs.net/article/articleview/1386/>
<http://www.gulfnews.com/opinion/columns/region/10326326.html>
http://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2009/04/institutional_r.html
http://directaction.org.au/issue11/why_israel_is_a_racist_state

Israel abuses human rights and we are paying for it.

According to international law, an occupier is required to guarantee the welfare of civilian populations in occupied territories. Israel instead has and continues to oppress the people under its occupation (via arbitrary arrests and indefinite detention without charge, land confiscation, roadblocks, checkpoints, curfew, targeted assassinations and random killings, and closures that allow no food, medicine or supplies into Palestinian areas, to name a few examples).

Resources:

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=8394>
<http://www.international.ucla.edu/article.asp?parentid=103719>
http://www.ifamericansknew.org/cur_sit/dec08.html

Why do these bonds matter if the sum is small?

Size doesn't matter. No matter how small the amount that we pay to fund injustice, we perpetuate that injustice. This is just as much a symbolic move away from support of Israel as a material one. Divesting from this small amount is one piece of a worldwide boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement.

Why target Israel bonds when we could target excessive unconditional foreign aid to Israel?

Israel bonds are an investment that the state of MN has made, and are therefore a local and direct target for residents of MN. Foreign aid to Israel is a federal issue, and would therefore be a national target beyond the scope of MN BBC.

What do bonds fund? (See Israel Bonds Fact Sheet)

Why not invest in Palestine rather than divest from Israel?

Investing in Palestine is not mutually exclusive of divesting from Israel. Simply investing in Palestine, while continuing to invest in Israel, will not hold Israel morally responsible for their actions. Divestment is in solidarity with Palestinian civil society's call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions.

For information in general;

Israel Bonds: A bad Investment

Top Reasons to Oppose US Aid to Israel

<http://www.globalexchange.org/countries/mideast/palestine/resources.html>

Frequently Asked Questions within Israel (offers us helpful information/insight):

<http://boycottisrael.info/content/frequently-asked-question>