

DOES THE BDS MOVEMENT SUPPORT PEACE WITH ISRAEL AND A TWO-STATE SOLUTION?

The goal of the BDS movement is not a peaceful, two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Their overall objective is to challenge Israel's right to exist as the sovereign homeland of the Jewish people.

They propagate an extreme, inflammatory and biased political agenda designed to undermine the legitimacy of the state of Israel.

Omar Barghouti, leader and founder of the BDS movement declared:

"Good riddance! The two-state solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is finally dead. But someone has to issue an official death certificate before the rotting corpse is given a proper burial and we can all move on and explore the more just, moral and therefore enduring alternative for peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs in Mandate Palestine: the one-state solution."

Instead of working to improve the situation for Israelis and Palestinians who have suffered from the conflict, advocates of BDS undermine the internationally-backed peace process.

Even Norman Finkelstein, a prominent and harsh critic of Israel, denounced the BDS Movement, because it hides its true aims, to bring about the "end of Israel."

AJC has long worked to enhance the well-being of the Jewish people and Israel.

Through close contact with world leaders and governmental and non-governmental representatives, AJC advances peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors, promotes Israel's standing in the international arena and strengthens its ties with American Jewry.

JCRC envisions a more just society by sustaining a strong and vibrant Jewish community in the United States and in Israel, and by enhancing that strength through collaboration with other communities.

Toward this end, JCRC's mission is to educate and advocate on issues of vital importance to the organized Jewish community based on consensus, civility and an expanded commitment to living Jewish values of social justice.



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In loving memory of Ernest H. Weiner, Regional Director Emeritus of AJC SF.

The contribution of Samuel Rothmann to the compilation of this informational brochure is greatly appreciated.

WHAT IS BDS?



HOW IS IT HARMFUL TO PEACE?

A JOINT INITIATIVE OF JCRC & AJC SAN FRANCISCO

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT & SANCTIONS MOVEMENT (BDS)?

WHAT IS THE BDS MOVEMENT?

The Boycott Divestment and Sanctions Movement is an international campaign that aims to isolate Israel politically, economically, and culturally.

BDS supporters are active in the community, on college campuses and in religious institutions, often building coalitions with other movements.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE MOVEMENT?

The movement urges various forms of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel until Israel:

“ends its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall; recognizes the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and respects, protects and promotes the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.”

If fully implemented, this political agenda will end the globally accepted “two states for two people” formula.

The BDS agenda would replace Israel with an Arab majority state in all the territory of what is now Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. Most of the prominent BDS leaders support this “one-state solution” aimed at eliminating the State of Israel.

IS BDS A NEW MOVEMENT?

Many leaders of the Arab World have maintained a boycott of the State of Israel over many decades. This boycott includes Israeli products, cultural performances by Israeli artists, and academic connections to Israeli institutions. The Arab boycott has been directed against any company doing business with Israel. BDS is an extension of the long-standing Arab boycott of Israel.

DOES THE BDS MOVEMENT RECOGNIZE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE CONFLICT?

No, the BDS Movement offers a distorted, simplistic and one-sided picture of a very complex situation. It portrays the conflict in reductionist terms, with Israel seen as a rogue and pariah state that is solely responsible for the conflict, while the Palestinians are held inculpable.

WHAT IS THE DEMAND FOR A “RIGHT OF RETURN” AND IS IT A PROBLEM?

The 1948 Arab-Israeli war created Palestinian refugees, an issue that persists to this day. Some 600-800 thousand Palestinians were displaced during the war, and have been unable to return to their homes. *

The UN has a different definition for “refugees” when it comes to Palestinians, a definition that includes the descendants of the original 600-800 thousand, bringing today’s number (according to the UN) to approximately 5 million. The BDS call for the “right of return” refers to the latter number, and draws on UN General Assembly Resolution 194 as its basis.

Unlike Security Council resolutions, General Assembly resolutions do not carry the weight of international law. Resolution 194 does not support an unconditional return and full implementation of the demand for “right to return”, which would mean an end to the Jewish State of Israel and would lead to continued conflict, not peace.

* It is important to note that from 1948-1972, over 800,000 Jews also fled or were expelled from Arab Countries, having been persecuted in the aftermath of the creation of the State of Israel. The overwhelming majority immigrated to Israel. In 1945, there were approximately 866,000 Jews living throughout the Arab world. Today, there are fewer than 7,000.

WHAT IMPACT HAS BDS HAD IN THE U.S. AND ON ISRAEL?

Although the BDS Movement has claimed to be successful and has been receiving increased media coverage, in reality its impact on Israel has been minimal.

A limited number of divestment resolutions have been passed on campuses in the U.S, yet no university has actually divested its holdings. These actions have done nothing to help resolve the conflict and instead have caused great divisiveness among students.

The recent vote by the American Studies Association and other academic associations to implement an academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions has been publicly rejected by nearly 250 universities as a breach of academic freedom.

During the time frame that BDS has been an active movement, Israel’s economy has grown exponentially and become one of the key investment and startup hubs in the world.

An OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) country, Israel is home to over 250 MNC (multinational corporations) research and development centers and has the largest number of startup companies per capita in the world, many of which are being bought and merged into international tech companies.

To find out more about BDS and what you can do to assist in combatting the movement, please contact either the JCRC or AJC.