

BDS successes and developments in Europe and around the world



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1. Introduction:

The BDS movement has presented the best hope yet to effectively and morally counter Israel's frantic attempts to sideline these basic Palestinian rights. Based on progressive, anti-racist principles, it has tapped into the creative energies of dedicated people of conscience around the world, in their diversity and variance of contexts. Major trade union federations, from South Africa to Brazil, Ireland and the UK, as well as many trade unions in major Western countries have endorsed boycott measures against Israel. Campaigns against free trade and other agreements with Israel span from Argentina, Chile and Brazil to the EU.

Academic boycott campaigns have sprung in several countries, including Britain, the US, France, Canada, Italy, Spain, Australia and Norway. More international cultural figures of the weight of Ken Loach, John Berger, Naomi Klein, Gil Scott-Heron, Elvis Costello and Carlos Santana are heeding the call for a cultural boycott of Israel and its complicit institutions.

Divestment from companies profiting from Israel's occupation and violation of Palestinian rights are spreading across tens of campuses in the US and Canada

At the official level, the European Parliament endorsed the Goldstone report, the European Court of Justice made an historic ruling against settlement products and certain countries have imposed sanctions in the context of especially grave crimes like the Israeli assault on Gaza in 2008/2009 or the Israeli attack on the Gaza flotilla.

The following document consists of short summaries of BDS successes in Europe and other countries around the world. Since I wasn't able to follow up on all of them, some might be out of date as in they might have advanced further or been halted in the mean time. The summary of successes also does not include the full spectrum of BDS successes. I suppose there are many more that I wasn't able to find or that were not reported. In compiling this document (including this introduction) I used information from different BDS websites (mainly www.bdsmovement.net) the three documents at the end of the paper and certain newspaper articles. Most of it are thus not my own words and should be credited to the mentioned sources.

We have already reached a point where outstanding successes have been achieved and action has become so widespread that we all have to respond to the crucial question of coordination and synergy. We need to find ways to refine the tactics and strategies needed to ensure that the movement in all its diversity is rooted in the principles of justice. Claiming successes and sharing them across national borders is one of the key elements for the success of transnational campaigns like the international Campaign for BDS against Israel!

2. Major Campaigns

a.) Veolia and Alstom:



French transport giants Veolia and Alstom are involved in the construction and running of a light rail line which connects West Jerusalem to several illegal settlements in or surrounding occupied Palestinian East Jerusalem. The light rail is intended to strengthen Israel's grip on occupied East Jerusalem.

Due to public pressure from BDS and human rights groups and unions, Veolia and Alstom have lost contracts in many different countries.

Sweden:

- In January 2009, Veolia lost a \$4.5bn contract to operate subways in Stockholm County it had held for ten years.
- The Swedish National Pension fund divested from Alstom.

UK:

- In May 2011, Veolia was dumped from a £1bn South London contract. A local London newspaper, the Wimbledon Guardian, has today (7 May 2011) reported that only two bidders remain in the race for a £1bn (€1.14) contract in South London – neither of which are Veolia. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/2011/veolia-south-london-6311>

Holland:

- Principled Dutch ASN Bank divested completely from Veolia in 2006

Ireland:

- Irish Trade Union forced Veolia to cancel plans to train Israeli drivers and engineers in Ireland.
- Galway, Ireland City Council voted not to renew Veolia's contract to operate the city's underground transport system.

France:

- Veolia lost a contract worth 750 million Euros in Bordeaux.
- A French Court agreed to hear the case that launched against Veolia and Alstom by Association France-Palestine Solidarité and the PLO in 2007. This case could set precedence for taking legal actions against corporations in their home countries for international law violations they commit in Palestine

Italy:

- CGIL Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL) is a national trade union centre. They called on the companies Pizarotti & C SPA to reconsider their involvement in the light rail project because it violates fundamental human rights and UN resolutions.

Australia:

- In response to the Dump Connex campaign, the City of Melbourne has stripped Veolia of their contract to run Melbourne's trams and Hong Kong's MTR

Iran:

- Following pressure from the Boycott National Committee (BNC), the city of Tehran announces that Veolia will be excluded from bidding for key contracts in the city's transportation services.

*All together Veolia and Alstom have lost contracts worth **\$7bn** within the last couple of years. Following all of this pressure, Veolia agreed to sell it's shares in the CityPass consortium that operates the JLR to the Israeli Transportation Cooperative and Alstom was reported to be in "advanced stages of negotiations" to sell its CityPass shares.*

*„Veolia decided to forgo its part of the Jerusalem project following political pressure in Europe.“
(Haaretz)*

For more information on Veolia successes above and ongoing campaigns visit:

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/461>

Model letter to send to city councils etc. not to renew existing Veolia contracts:

<http://cosmos.ucc.ie/cs1064/jabowen/IPSC/ipsc/displayRelease.php?releaseID=289>

b.) Ruling of the European Court of Justice: Soda Club / Soda Stream:



Soda Club or Soda Stream produces home carbonating systems in the illegal Israeli settlement of Mishor Adumim and mislabels their products as “made in Israel”.

In January 2005, the Official Journal of the European Union informed importers that the preferential treatment provided by the EU-Israel Association Agreement will be refused to goods whose origin is in the OPT. A precedent was set in 2004 when German customs authorities excluded products from the Israeli company Soda-Club, Ltd., which manufactures in the Mishor Adumin settlement in the occupied West Bank.

However, Brita, the German importer of Soda-Club supplies, contested the decision. The EU's Court of Justice was asked by the German court dealing with this issue if the goods manufactured in the OPT are covered by the EU-Israel Agreement as the Israeli customs authority claims.

Europe's highest court ruled last year, that Israeli products originating in the West Bank do not fall within the territorial scope of the EC-Israel Agreement and therefore do not qualify for preferential treatment under that agreement. The court also ruled that Israeli companies operating in the OPT are "third parties" and cannot benefit from the terms of a separate EC-PLO trade agreement.

The ruling follows protests of parliamentarians, NGOs and consumers throughout Europe, against Israel's export of products from the illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) to the EU and Switzerland labeled as "Made in Israel."

SodaStream said that “some of the \$109 million raised in a public offering in November is to be used to build a new factory outside the West Bank.” (Haaretz)

For more information on the ruling:

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/666>

c.) Agrexco:



Just as in the South African case, there has been a strategic focus of BDS efforts on Israeli colonies. The most prominent example is the effort to boycott Agrexco, a 50% state owned Israeli company that exports fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs from Israel and its colonies in the West Bank. Agrexco is one of the three largest Israeli companies exporting from Occupied Palestine, accounting for 70% of fresh produce exports. While it claims that 90% of the goods they export are from Israel, it often mislabels their settlement produce as “made in Israel”. Agrexco also operates under the *Carmel*, *Jaffa* and *Coral* brand names.

UK: Campaigns began in 2005 when activists blockaded Agrexco’s depot in Middlesex stopping all deliveries for over eight hours and costing the company over £20,000. The Central warehouse in Middlesex was blocked for the third time in 2006. The ensuing prosecution of the blockaders failed after campaigners argued Agrexco were ancillary to war crimes under the International Criminal Court Act 2001. In 2007 over 120 activists converged at the depot in protest at the import of Valentine’s Day flowers from Israel and Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories, followed by further protests during the year, in which the Palestinian Flag was hoisted at Agrexco. In 2008 several tons of rubble were dumped at Agrexco Middlesex to symbolize Israeli roadblocks in the West Bank.

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/240>

France: Demonstrations with several thousand people were held, supported by national parties, against the construction of a new Agrexco supply center. As a result of the French Coalition Against Agrexco's ongoing legal action, the judge of the commercial court in Montpellier ordered a state official to investigate the use of the port at Sete by Agrexco. A report was filed stating that Agrexco imports settlement produce and certifies them as Israeli produce in such a way that constitutes illegal fraud. The story has been reported by AFP, a major French news agency.

<http://coalitioncontregrexco.net/node/57>

Switzerland: Swiss national television aired a 15 minute long report under the title “Palestinian workers slave away for their occupiers”, talking about the false labeling of Israel’s agricultural exports and how Swiss consumers unknowingly buy into the occupation. The terrible working conditions of many of the Palestinian workers in the fields and factories were mentioned as well.

<http://www.kassensturz.sf.tv/Nachrichten/Archiv/2009/12/22/kassensturzsendungsartikel/Datteln-Palaestiner-schuffen-fuer-ihre-Besatzer>

Sweden: The Swedish COOP supermarket has told a national newspaper that it will review its guidelines for subcontractors in relation to international law, following the publishing of an extensive report on Agrexco in the national media.

<http://dagens.etc.se/blogg/coop-ser-%C3%B6ver-israel-import>

<http://www.palestinagrupperna.se/>

Belgium: Activists in Belgium blockaded Agrexco's Belgian subsidiary, preventing trucks from leaving Liege airport.

<http://www.lalibre.be/actu/belgique/article/642397/manifestation-a-liege-pour-plus-de-transparence-sur-l-importation-de-produits-israeliens.html>

Denmark: The national media in Denmark have published stories on a new DanWatch report about the mislabeling of settlement produce by Agrexco and other producers

<http://politiken.dk/newsinenglish/ECE1188617/produced-in-israel-is-produced-in-west-bank/> (English) <http://forbudtland.danwatch.dk/feature-1>

Italy: Following lobbying efforts COOP and Nordiconad, announced the suspension of sales of products from Agrexco

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/694>

An international Agrexco Action Day was introduced for Valentines Day. Actions are held annually in many major cities around Europe

Campaigns against Agrexco are currently being prepared in Norway and the Netherlands and continue in Italy, UK, Ireland, Switzerland and other countries.

The Boycott Israeli Goods Campaign (www.bigcampaign.org) is issuing an international call to action against Carmel-Agrexco during February 2009.

d.) Elbit Systems and Africa Israel:



Elbit Systems reportedly provides surveillance systems to the separation wall dividing Israel and the West Bank, while Africa Israel Investments has reportedly been involved in construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Norway: The Ministry of Finance has excluded the Israeli company Elbit Systems Ltd. from the Government Pension Fund – Global, on the basis of the Council on Ethics' recommendation. The Council on Ethics has found that investment in Elbit constitutes an unacceptable risk of contribution to serious violations of fundamental ethical norms as a result of the company's integral involvement in Israel's construction of a separation barrier on occupied territory. "We do not wish to fund companies that so directly contribute to violations of international humanitarian law," says Minister of Finance Kristin Halvorsen. Norway's investment in Elbit was \$6 million. Following the decision by the Norwegian State Pension Fund, Kommunal Landspensjonkasse (KLP), one of the largest life insurance companies in Norway, also divested from Elbit.

The Norwegian fund also sold its \$1.2 million in shares in Africa Israel Investments.

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/533>

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/international/settlement-boycotter-we-re-not-divesting-from-israel-but-from-occupation-1.326612>

Sweden: The biggest Swedish pension fund barred Israeli arms maker Elbit Systems from its investment portfolios on ethical grounds. Following the lead of Norway's state oil fund, Foersta AP-Fonden said it had banned investment in Elbit because it had built and was operating a surveillance system for a controversial barrier between Israel and the West Bank.

<http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/674>

Denmark: Africa Israel Investments and Elbit Systems have been added to Danske Bank's list of companies that fail to adhere to its Socially Responsible Investment policy.

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/632>

Holland: In 2009 the second-largest Dutch pension fund PFZW joined an already impressive group of investors that have divested from Africa-Israel.

<http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/608>

UK: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) broke its ties with Leviev (owner of Africa Israel) and refused to accept his donations in June 2008. A year later, the British government joined UNICEF. The decision was influenced by warnings from a British attorney after advocate Daniel Machover argued that renting space from the company was tantamount to the government condoning Israel's settlement-building, supporting clear violations of international law and hindering the possibility of peace in the Middle East.

The British bank BlackRock has divested from Lev Leviev settlement projects in the West Bank. The divestment follows pressure by three Norwegian banks marketing BlackRock funds. BlackRock was the second biggest shareholder in the controversial Israeli firm.

BlackRock was joined by the US Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association College Retirement Equities Fund, Swedish Investeringsforeningen Sydinvest, Swedish AP1 pension fund and Dutch PFZW (formerly known as PGGM). Although these funds divested from Africa-Israel, none of them have revealed publicly why they made the decision to do so.

The divestments coupled with the collapse in the financial and real estate markets were disastrous for Africa-Israel and its celebrity owner. On 31 August Leviev announced at a press conference he was unable to repay debts of nearly 1.4 billion euros (\$2.11 billion) on time.

Shir Hever, a political economy researcher at the Alternative Information Center (AIC), argues that the boycott movement by international solidarity activists played a key role in toppling Africa-Israel.

<http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/608>

US: The U.S. pension fund giant, TIAA-CREF, confirmed in statements to the media on Friday that it divested from Africa Israel Investments, owned by Israeli billionaire Lev Leviev, earlier this year.

The statements came in response to a letter initiated by a pro-Palestinian group, Adalah-NY, and signed by TIAA-CREF clients.

<http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/542>

Oxfam International, and the U.S. charity Carousel of Hope refused donations from, and association with, Leviev after Adalah-NY exposed his human rights violations.

3. Other BDS developments around the World:

Australia:

- The CFMEU (Construction Forestry, Mining and Electricity Union) has adopted a position supporting selective BDS. This means the union has become first Union in Australia to adopt a national position on BDS. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/703>
- The [Australian Services Union](#) (ASU) Executive condemned the attack by the Israel Defence Forces on the Gaza peace flotilla and called for the immediate lifting of the Israeli siege on Gaza. The Executive also resolved to join the International union and civil society campaign of Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions to pressure Israel to abide by international law in their treatment of the Palestinian people. <http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/730>

Belgium:

- The Brussels-based bank Dexia, targeted by Belgian activists for lending to settlements, said its Israeli subsidiary is phasing out the settlement business. <http://www.haaretz.com/news/international/settlement-boycotter-we-re-not-divesting-from-israel-but-from-occupation-1.326612>
- Belgium's government has agreed to ban the export to Israel of weapons that "strengthen it militarily". Israel is the fourth largest importer of Belgian arms in the Middle East. In 2007, Belgium sold Israel weapons (mostly light firearms) to the tune of \$5,409,223, according to the report. <http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/belgium-to-stop-exporting-arms-that-bolster-the-idf-to-israel-1.267030>

Brazil:

- The Brazilian Parliamentary Commission on Foreign Relations and National Defense has recommended that the parliament should not ratify the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Mercosur and the State of Israel until "Israel accepts the creation of the Palestinian state on the 1967 borders". This decision is an enormous blow for Israel's economy and foreign relations. Israeli exports to the Mercosur amounted nearly 600 million dollars in 2006. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/543>

Canada:

- University workers in the Canadian Union of Public Employees have passed a controversial motion calling for an academic boycott of Israel, and union members from at least one Toronto university are planning to pressure their school to cut any financial ties with the country. <https://usacbi.wordpress.com/2009/02/23/cupe-union-votes-for-academic-boycott-of-israel/>
- Over 80 professors and employees at colleges and universities in Quebec have signed a petition calling for a comprehensive campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions, including a boycott of Israeli academic institutions. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/275>
- In 2006 the United Church of Canada's Toronto Branch began a boycott of Israeli products and companies doing business with its military.

France:

- Through the intermediary of its international Secretary, the National Work Confederation (Confédération Nationale du Travail or CNT), a French anti-capitalist internationalist union involved in social class struggles, has joined the transnational BDS campaign.

Germany:

- As a reminder of the case, just over half a year ago a tiny group of Israeli feminists issued a report exposing the cooperation of German National Railways (Deutsche Bahn) in the construction of a high-speed Israeli train from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem that crosses Palestinian villages in the Occupied Territories. The train line's route breaks both international and Israeli law, and local Palestinian activists have called on the international community to help target the international corporations involved in the planning, engineering, tunneling and construction of the train line.

Fast forward many months later and an international campaign, supported by Change.org and your help, has successfully convinced Deutsche Bahn to pledge in writing that they will have no further involvement in the project.

<http://twitemail.com/email/153160314/18/-Palestine--Stop-the-Train--German-National-Railways-Stop-Building-an-Israeli-Train-through-Palestinian-Land->

Greece:

- Greece suspended joint military exercises with Israel and postponed a visit by Israel's air force chief following the attack on the Gaza Flotilla.
<http://usacbi.wordpress.com/2010/06/05/global-boycotts-of-israel-intensify-after-bloody-flotilla-attack/>
- 13 January 2009: Following a call by opposition parties and general outrage over the Israeli offensive war on Gaza, the Greek government announced that a ship meant to restock Israeli munitions was not welcome.

Holland:

- 13 April 2009: the Dutch Labor Party sought sanctions against Israel

India:

- The trade unions in Cochin Port have reached an understanding amongst themselves to boycott Israeli ships and cargo arriving at Cochin Port in protest against the siege of Gaza by Israeli forces. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/751>

Indonesia:

- Indonesia refuses to play its Tennis Federation Cup playoff in Israel, in protest against escalating Israeli violence against Palestinians. Indonesia had asked for the match to be scheduled elsewhere but without success. The team incurred various penalties for refusing to back down from their principled stance.

Ireland:

- A leading food and retail megastore that operates in Ireland has stopped selling two lines of baby potatoes that are sourced from Israel. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/723>

Malta:

- The development NGO platform Skop has called for a boycott of Israeli companies in the wake of the shooting of Bianca Zammit, the Maltese activist injured by a live bullet shot by the Israeli Defence Forces in Gaza. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/696>

Mauritania:

- Mauritania also decided to “suspend” trade relations with Israel following Israel’s Gaza invasion in 2008/2009.

Nicaragua:

- Nicaragua responded to the Flotilla attack with the suspension of diplomatic relations with Israel. <http://usacbi.wordpress.com/2010/06/05/global-boycotts-of-israel-intensify-after-bloody-flotilla-attack/>

Norway:

- A district of Oslo, Norway's capital, voted to boycott Israel. More municipalities, counties and districts in Norway are submitting proposals to boycott Israel. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/724>
- More than 40% of Norwegians are already boycotting Israeli products or are in favor of doing so, according to a poll published two days after Israel's deadly raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/737>
- Norwegian minister of education and leader of the Socialist Left Party, Kristin Halvorsen, called for an international boycott of arms trade with Israel. <http://www.swedishwire.com/nordic/4809-norway-calls-for-boycott-on-arms-to-israel>
- Twenty-one staff members of the University of Tromsø (www2.uit.no/www/inenglish) have signed a call for boycott of all Israeli academic institutions.
- Roar Flathen, chairman of the largest Norwegian trade union federation (LO) responded to Israel’s Flotilla massacre by calling on the Norwegian State Pension Fund, the third largest in the world, to divest from all Israeli companies, and demanded the recall of the Norwegian ambassador to Israel. <http://usacbi.wordpress.com/2010/06/05/global-boycotts-of-israel-intensify-after-bloody-flotilla-attack/>

Palestine:

- On February 1st 2009, Al-Quds University declared it would cease all forms of academic cooperation with Israeli academic institutions.

Qatar:

- 16 January 2009: Qatar ordered the closure of Israel’s trade office in Doha and gave Israeli officials a week to leave the country.

Scotland:

- Scotland joined Ireland and South Africa when the Scottish Trade Union Congress, representing every Scottish trade union, voted overwhelmingly to commit to boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/376>

South Africa:

- At its Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting Friday 4th June, SAMWU (South African Municipal Workers Union) unanimously endorsed a motion to immediately work towards every municipality in South Africa to become an Apartheid Israel free zone. As part of the global Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions Campaign (BDS) SAMWU has agreed to engage every single municipality to ensure that there are no commercial, academic, cultural, sporting or other linkages whatsoever with the Israeli regime. Every SAMWU branch will immediately approach municipal and water authorities to become part of the BDS campaign, and to publicly declare their solidarity with the Palestinian people.
<http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/711>
- The South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) appealed for “an escalation of the boycott of Israeli goods and call[ed] upon our fellow trade unionists not to handle them.” And, citing the lead of Swedish dockworkers, called on its own members “not to allow any Israeli ship to dock or unload in any South African port.”
<http://usacbi.wordpress.com/2010/06/05/global-boycotts-of-israel-intensify-after-bloody-flotilla-attack/>
- UJ ENDS ISRAELI LINKS - Historic moment for boycott of Israel movement: March 2011, setting a worldwide precedent in the academic boycott of Israel, the University of Johannesburg (UJ) has effectively severed ties with Israel’s Ben-Gurion University (BGU). This was after UJ’s Senate rejected a last ditch motion by pro-Israeli lobbyists to have two separate bilateral agreements - one with a Palestinian University and another with an Israeli University. UJ chose instead to uphold its previous Senate Resolution that required taking leadership from Palestinian universities. Palestinian universities unanimously rejected any collaboration with BGU (in any form) and have come out in full support of the the academic boycott of Israel. UJ chose to respect this. UJ is the first institution to officially sever relations with an Israeli university - a landmark moment in the growing Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) of Israel campaign.

Spain:

- Bilbao, September 18, 2009 - The Municipal Council for Cooperation of Bilbao has joined the BDS Campaign against the State of Israel. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/562>

Sweden:

- The Swedish Dockworkers’ Union blockade of goods to and from Israel has ended after a week during which more than 500 tons of import and export goods were blocked.
<http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/746>
- Assa Abloy, a Swedish lock maker, said it would move its Israeli factory from a settlement industrial park to Israel proper within a year.
<http://www.haaretz.com/news/international/settlement-boycotter-we-re-not-divesting-from-israel-but-from-occupation-1.326612>
- Swedish young footballers refused to play in Israel, following a similar decision of the Turkish youth football team who were in Israel at the time of the Flotilla attack but canceled their planned match and returned. <http://usacbi.wordpress.com/2010/06/05/global-boycotts-of-israel-intensify-after-bloody-flotilla-attack/>
- The Swedish Football Association (SFA) formally requested that European soccer’s governing body UEFA cancel Sweden’s under-21 match, because they felt morally compelled to do so.
<http://usacbi.wordpress.com/2010/06/05/global-boycotts-of-israel-intensify-after-bloody-flotilla-attack/>

- Thousands of Swedes protested the Davis Cup tennis match against Israel in Malmo in March 2009. <http://usacbi.wordpress.com/2010/06/05/global-boycotts-of-israel-intensify-after-bloody-flotilla-attack/>

Switzerland:



Swiss activists disrupt Israel's World Cup qualifier, September 2007

- Eden Springs Water cooler supplier with its plant in the Golan Heights lost their contracts worth \$120'000 with one of the largest hospitals in the country due to pressure from Palestinian solidarity groups.
- A nation wide campaign, "Show Israel the Red Card", was launched in the context of the World Cup Qualifier game between Switzerland and Israel. Over a thousand preprinted postcards were sent to Sepp Blatter (President of FIFA) demanding the disqualification of the Israeli soccer team from international competitions until it complies with international law and respects the legitimate Palestinian rights. During the game, activists hung large banners saying "Boycott Israeli Apartheid" from the balcony in the stadium.

Turkey:

- Turkey withdrew its ambassador from Tel Aviv, and its deputy minister, Bulent Arinc, canceled three joint military drills following the attack on the Gaza Flotilla. On 3 June, the energy minister announced that Turkey had suspended all energy and water projects with Israel. <http://usacbi.wordpress.com/2010/06/05/global-boycotts-of-israel-intensify-after-bloody-flotilla-attack/>

UK:

- In a landmark decision, Britain's trade unions have voted overwhelmingly to commit to build a mass boycott movement, disinvestment and sanctions on Israel for a negotiated settlement based on justice for Palestinians. The motion was passed at the 2009 TUC Annual Congress in Liverpool today (17 September), by unions representing 6.5 million workers across the UK. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/555>
- Britain's largest union, Unite, has unanimously passed a motion to boycott Israeli companies at its first policy conference in Manchester on Wednesday. The motion, which passed unanimously, called the union "to vigorously promote a policy of divestment from Israeli companies", while a boycott of Israeli goods and services will be "similar to the boycott of

South African goods during the era of apartheid".

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/735>

- The UK branch of Israeli cosmetics store, Ahava, is moving from its central London shop after years of pro-Palestinian demonstrations. <http://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/47284/protests-drive-ahava-out-covent-garden>
- Eden Springs, a major water supply company will not have its contract renewed by the London School of Economics. This development comes off the back of a lengthy, high profile and controversial campaign launched by the LSE Students' Union Palestine Society, which has drawn attention to Eden Springs' odious business dealings in the Illegally Occupied Golan Heights. The LSE joins a number of UK Universities, including Edinburgh and Strathclyde, whom have successfully cut all ties with Eden Springs.
- Following a landmark referendum, students at Sussex University have voted to boycott Israeli goods. The decision follows the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel, which calls upon the Israeli state to respect international law and end the occupation of Palestine. The referendum result mandates the Students' Union to remove all Israeli produce from its stores, and review its sources for food outlets. This makes Sussex Students' Union the first in the UK to implement a full boycott of Israeli goods through referendum. <http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/575>
- Britain's largest trade union for academics and academic-related staff in higher education voted to support the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel and sever ties with the Histadrut, at its annual conference in Manchester on Sunday. <http://www.jpost.com/International/Article.aspx?id=177210>
- The University and College Union, representing approximately 120,000 teaching and related staff in colleges and universities in the UK, has passed new policies supporting boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel. The debate took place on Sunday 30th May 2010 at the union's Congress in Manchester. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/705>
- The 2009 Edinburgh International Film Festival organisers announced on Friday they were returning money donated by the Israeli Embassy. <http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/405>
- On Wednesday 11th Feb 2009 the University of Manchester Students Union passed a motion in support of the people of Gaza, which includes a resolve to boycott Israel, in an emergency general meeting. <http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/302>
- Bristol Council approves Motion for Sanctions against Israel. Wed 30 June 2010 - after a long debate, a motion condemning Israeli aggression and its blockade of Gaza, was carried at the full Council Meeting in Bristol. <http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/747>
- Israeli tourism ads are being removed from the tube, following massive pressure and complaints. <http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/409>
- Politicians from all four parties on Birmingham City Council have called on the Council leadership to pursue a policy of instituting sanctions against Israel. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/264>
- On July 4th 2007, the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) has passed a motion at its biennial conference in support of a customer boycott against Apartheid Israel. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/22>
- Britain has slapped a partial arms embargo on Israel, refusing to supply replacement parts and other equipment for Sa'ar 4.5 gunships because they participated in Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/466>
- The Church of England removed over £2.2 million in Caterpillar investments. A clear message from the Church of England that they will not have their money tied up in companies that are directly or indirectly engaged in the suppression of the rights of Palestinians. <http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/299>

US:

- For the first time in the University of California history, the UC Berkeley Student Senate has approved a bill to divest from two US companies in response to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and to Israel's siege and bombardment of the Gaza Strip. The Senate bill directs both the UC Regents and the Student Government to divest from General Electric and United Technologies. General Electric manufactures Apache helicopter engines; United Technologies manufactures Sikorsky helicopters and F-16 aircraft engines. In addition, the bill creates a task force to look into furthering a socially responsible investment policy for the UC system. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/669>
- In 2009, Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, became the first American higher educational institution to successfully pressure its Board of Trustees to divest from Israel-tied mutual funds. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/620>
- Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, has become the first of any college or university in the U.S. to divest from companies on the grounds of their involvement in the Israeli occupation of Palestine. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/301>
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), which has almost five million members in the US, took a step toward a partial boycott of Israeli goods at its 2007 Churchwide Assembly in Chicago. The assembly urged "consideration of refusing to buy goods or invest in activities taking place in Israeli settlements, and a review of other economic options," according to Bishop Christopher Epting. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/12>
- The Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire has recently passed a resolution to support the call for divestment from corporations that allow and profit from the Israeli occupation of Palestine. <http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/227>
- In an historic action and unprecedented action, over 800 labor and community activists blocked the gates of the Oakland docks in the early morning hours, prompting longshore workers to refuse to cross the picketlines where they were scheduled to unload an Israeli ship. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/714>
- Following the launch of a joint national campaign by the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, the New York Campaign to Boycott Israel and others, Motorola sold its Government Electronics Department which made several products (such as bomb fuses) that enable Israel to continue its military occupation and human rights abuses against Palestinians

The Secretariat of the [World Federation of Trade Unions](#) has decided to call a strike for three days at all ports of the world against Israeli commercial vessels to or from Israel.

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/718>

4. The economic boycott is already yielding results

“During the week of 26 March 2009, the Israel Manufacturers Association reported that 21% of 90 local exporters who were questioned had felt a drop in demand due to boycotts, mostly from the UK and Scandinavian countries. In February 2009, a report from the Israel Export Institute reported that 10% of 400 polled exporters received order cancellation notices this year because of Israel’s assault on Gaza.

In Europe where the Israeli label was once considered lucrative, supermarkets have been re-labeling Israeli goods to appear as if they were made in Cyprus or Spain in order to make them more attractive to buyers.” (Ma’an Development Center)

The South African BDS movement took over 20 years to gain the momentum and popularity that the 2005 Palestinian call achieved in its first five years.

„An extraordinary series of articles, reports and presentations by Israel's influential Reut Institute has identified the global movement for justice, equality and peace as an "existential threat" to Israel and called on the Israeli government to direct substantial resources to "attack" and possibly engage in criminal "sabotage" of this movement in what Reut believes are its various international "hubs" in London, Madrid, Toronto, the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.,,

(<http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article11080.shtml>)

IDF officers recently announced that a special department has been created to monitor left-wing groups that the army sees as aiming to delegitimize Israel; the department will work closely with government ministries.

(<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/military-intelligence-monitoring-foreign-left-wing-organizations-1.350713>)

Ehud Barak recently acknowledged the impact BDS having in an interview with Haaretz:

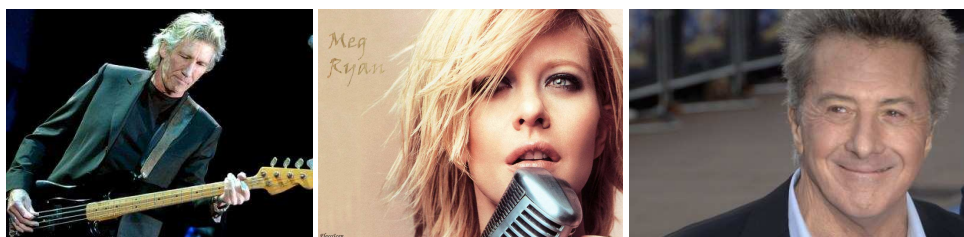
"...Barak believes that a UN declaration of Palestinian statehood without a prior Israeli political initiative will paint Israel into a corner previously occupied by South Africa during the apartheid era. His admonition is pungent and scathing: "There are elements in the world, quite powerful, in various countries, including friendly ones, in trade unions, [among] academics, consumers, green political parties", he warns, "and this impetus has culminated in a broad movement called BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions) which is what was done with South Africa. This will not happen overnight. The day after September, people will say: 'so now October has come, the sky hasn't fallen, nothing has happened'. This is not true ".

Will this happen in December or January?

"It will start coming at us like a glacier, from all corners. There are people in the European Council that deal with export and import, and they are capable, without any government decision, of inflicting significant damage on the Israeli economy. We will see this taking place in academia, we will see this taking place in dockworker unions, consumer groups, and this will seep into governments. This is unwise [apparently referring to Israeli policies which will bring about this outcome]. To me, this uncontrollable process looks more dangerous than what the [Israeli] public perceives at the moment. We have been ruling over another nation for 43 years, this is unprecedented. Perhaps China can allow itself to control some small nations in various corners of its empire, and perhaps Russia can [failing to discern that Tibetans and Chechens have citizenship]. We cannot, there is no chance that the world will accept this. The far right is exposing Israel to dangerous and unwarranted isolation."

<http://www.haaretz.co.il/hasite/spages/1227196.html>

5. Celebrities:



- Outspoken [Pink Floyd](#) star [Roger Waters](#) has called for musicians to boycott Israel while the nation operates on a "two-tiered racist system."
- Hollywood actors Meg Ryan and Dustin Hoffman backed out of attending this year's annual Jerusalem Film Festival. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/750>
- Influential US rock group Pixies have cancelled their first performance in Israel, blaming "events beyond our control". <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/732>
- The Klaxons and the Gorillaz Sound System have both canceled their performances in Israel this week, apparently due to Israel's deadly raid on the Gaza-bound humanitarian aid flotilla and the ensuing worldwide political fallout over the incident. <http://www.haaretz.com/news/national/klaxons-and-gorillaz-sound-system-cancel-israel-shows-apparently-due-to-gaza-flotilla-raid-1.294191>
- Elvis Costello has cancelled two concerts he was scheduled to play in protest of the Israeli treatment of Palestinians. Costello, one of the most gifted British songwriters of his generation, was due to play on 30 June and 1 July 2010 but says his "conscience" dictated that he pull out of the performances. He joins a list of performers who have decided not to play in Israel, including Gil Scott-Heron and Santana. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/music/2010/may/18/elvis-costello-cancels-israel-concerts>
- Amnesty International has announced today that it will abstain from any involvement in the Leonard Cohen concert in Tel Aviv and will not be party to any fund that benefits from the concert's proceeds. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/513>
- ENGLISH filmmaker Ken Loach has withdrawn his film Looking for Eric from the Melbourne International Film Festival because the festival receives funding from the Israeli Government. Loach told the festival if it did not reconsider the sponsorship, he would not allow the festival to screen his film. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/475>
- John Greyson, a prominent Canadian filmmaker, has recently turned down an offer to premiere his film Fig Trees at the Tel Aviv International LGBT Film Festival, in support of BDS. <http://www.bdsmovement.net/?q=node/345>
- The UN Special Rapporteur for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Richard Falk, also expressed his support for BDS against Israel for its "murderous behavior." <http://usacbi.wordpress.com/2010/06/05/global-boycotts-of-israel-intensify-after-bloody-flotilla-attack/>

6. Media:

a.) Interesting readings:

More successes can be found under <http://bdsmovement.net/?q=node/755> or in the following three documents:

1. Grassroots Palestinian Anti Apartheid-Wall Campaign: Towards a Global Movement: A framework for today's anti-apartheid activism:

“We have already reached a point where outstanding successes have been achieved and action has become so widespread that we all have to respond to the crucial question of coordination and synergy. We need to find ways to refine the tactics and strategies needed to ensure that the movement in all its diversity is rooted in the principles of justice.

This is why we initiated comprehensive efforts of research about the current BDS movement for Palestine as well as analyses of past BDS experiences. One outcome of that work is this report, which we hope supports and strengthens existing solidarity work, encourages those who feel disempowered and convinces hesitant individuals and groups of the need for BDS activities.

To ensure dissemination of information as widely as possible and to provide concrete tools of interaction among the different BDS activists, a new website is under creation as an open space for the BDS movements. Like the emerging BDS movement itself, the site is a work in progress to be animated by all individuals and groups. You can participate in this initiative at www.bdsmovement.net.”

Full report:

<http://bdsmovement.net/files/bds%20report%20small.pdf>

2. Ma'an Development Center: Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions: Lessons learned in effective solidarity.

<http://www.maan-ctr.org/pdfs/Boycott.pdf>

3. Omar Barghouti's new book: “BDS: Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, the global struggle for Palestinian rights”.

b.) BDS videos on Youtube:

Canada:

- Global Boycott Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) Day of Action against Israeli Apartheid – Montreal
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGI6k67-lgE>

France:

- **Flashmob BDS beaubourg - Trocadero du 26 mars 2011**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2H3zaA-N35s>
- **Boycott Israël Carrefour Givors**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UQRTcwtTDA&feature=related>
- **Sweden protests repression of BDS activists in France**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5NaD_eJ800
- **BDS FRANCE MONTPELLIER - Carrefour Samedi 29 Janvier 2011**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8KzMNK7fsg>
- **BDS Action au Salon du Tourisme- Paris**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plUA0fVNQAc>

Japan:

- **Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign & STOP MUJI Campaign in Japan**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRPP7nsXGcQ>

Netherlands:

- **Flashmob Boycott Israel (Utrecht, Netherlands)**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzMnzg9XEPE&feature=related>

Switzerland:

- **BDS. Boycott Israel Soda-Club Coop Geneva, July 2010**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03W7V5x3hgY&feature=related>
- **BDS Actions Bern**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUPGE-puSC8>
- **Inauguration BDS Switzerland Bern February 5 2011**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=825OK7hMuRw>

- **Free Gaza in Bern**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nixG7-K6EFw>

Sweden:

- **Inauguration of H&M apartheid store**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fHXA04eG-I&feature=related>

US:

- **BDS Flash Mob in Grand Central Station, NYC**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myt23xhMEMk>
- **Philly BDS Flashdance!**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6dO9eVOY2I>
- **BDS Flash Mob: Boycott Israeli Apartheid in Palestine! (Motorola)**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvqFqXJh3oQ&feature=related>
- **Boycott Israeli Products, BDS Day Of Action 2010 (Ahava)**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RW6tWZ6N0f4&feature=related>
- **2010 International BDS Day against Israel, Washington, DC (Ahava)**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRMEIIMFYiY>
- **Boycott Aroma cafe**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEdJaIW7IAw&feature=related>
- **Boycott Israel!!! Students Protest IDF Soldiers Campus Visit**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cf4j2BEJM7k&feature=related>

UK:

- **London supermarket occupied in Israel boycott**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIQQbHrDO4s&feature=related>