



# Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign

*Building effective solidarity with the Palestinian people*

## Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions

**BDS**



FREEDOM  
JUSTICE  
EQUALITY

## **Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign**

was founded in September 2000 in response to Israel's brutality against the Palestinian uprising, *Intifada*, when Israel fired over 1 million bullets at Palestinians during the first week. Palestinians were resisting military occupation, dispossession and state-enforced racism, i.e. apartheid.

We invite you to join a local branch, as a member at large or in a network in various parts of Scotland. SPSC is a wholly volunteer organisation; we have no paid employees and rely entirely on donations from supporters to finance our activities.

### **We stand for:**

- the right of all Palestinian refugees to return to their homes or the areas from which they were driven, in line with UN Resolution 194
- an end to the Zionist project of ethnic cleansing of Palestinians
- self-determination for Palestinians
- equal rights for Palestinians living in Israel
- an end to all British arms sales to Israel

Israel enjoys political, economic, military and diplomatic support but popular opinion across Scotland, the UK, Europe and most of the world is deeply hostile to Israeli crimes.

## **BDS**

BDS allows supporters of Palestinian freedom to effectively challenge support for the Israeli state that is colonising and dispossessing the Palestinian people and imposing a system of state-enforced racism i.e. apartheid throughout the area it controls.

BDS is not a tactic and it's not a principle - it is a strategy to mobilise popular support against the complicity of our own governments, corporations, sporting and cultural institutions that either support the State of Israel or agree to normalise relations. As with the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, BDS enables supporters of human rights worldwide to play an important auxiliary role in the Palestinian struggle for freedom.

For over 100 years Palestinians have resisted dispossession by every possible means, including armed revolt and non-violent resistance, but each time have been defeated by the combination of extreme violence by the Zionist movement, backed and armed by powerful allies in Europe and North America.

Palestinians have struggled on the terrain of international law and won a significant victory in 2004. The International Court of Justice in The

Hague ruled that Israel's apartheid wall was a crime and called on all the states affiliated to the Court to take steps to have the wall taken down. It also called for compensation to be paid to the Palestinians whose lives had been severely damaged by the wall.

Britain and many other states ignored the ICJ ruling and continued to arm and support Israel.

On the 9th of July 2005, exactly one year after the ICJ ruled in their favour, over 178 Palestinian civil society groups and organisations issued the Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel until it concedes Palestinian human rights.

## **Who made the call for BDS?**

The Palestinian Boycott National Committee (BNC) represents virtually every Palestinian political and civil society organisation across political divisions; it includes Palestinian citizens of Israel who survived the Nakba and remained in the area conquered by Israel in 1948. The Call is endorsed and supported by Palestinians living under military occupation in the West Bank and brutal siege in Gaza.

With millions of Palestinians living under harsh military occupation and millions of them scattered

to the four corners of the globe, this broad support establishes the BDS Call as the unchallenged voice of the Palestinian people.

The BNC sees Israel's regime over the Palestinian people as one of colonialism, apartheid and occupation. This view explains the relationship past and ongoing between the settler-colonial State of Israel and the indigenous Palestinian people and it constitutes the ethical and legal foundation of the BDS campaign.



## The BDS Call

*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*

One year after the historic Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) which found Israel's Wall built on occupied Palestinian territory to be illegal; Israel continues its construction of the

colonial Wall with total disregard to the Court's decision. Thirty eight years into Israel's occupation of the Palestinian West Bank (including East Jerusalem), Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan Heights, Israel continues to expand Jewish colonies. It has unilaterally annexed occupied East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights and is now de facto annexing large parts of the West Bank by means of the Wall. Israel is also preparing - in the shadow of its planned redeployment from the Gaza Strip - to build and expand colonies in the West Bank. Fifty seven years after the State of Israel was built mainly on land ethnically cleansed of its Palestinian owners, a majority of Palestinians are refugees, most of whom are stateless. Moreover, Israel's entrenched system of racial discrimination against its own Arab-Palestinian citizens remains intact.

In light of Israel's persistent violations of international law; and

Given that, since 1948, hundreds of UN resolutions have condemned Israel's colonial and discriminatory policies as illegal and called for immediate, adequate and effective remedies; and

Given that all forms of international intervention and peace-making have until now failed to convince or force Israel to comply with

humanitarian law, to respect fundamental human rights and to end its occupation and oppression of the people of Palestine; and

In view of the fact that people of conscience in the international community have historically shouldered the moral responsibility to fight injustice, as exemplified in the struggle to abolish apartheid in South Africa through diverse forms of boycott, divestment and sanctions; and Inspired by the struggle of South Africans against apartheid and in the spirit of international solidarity, moral consistency and resistance to injustice and oppression;

We, representatives of Palestinian civil society, call upon international civil society organisations 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 colonisation 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.

**Endorsed by:**

*Palestinian political parties, unions, associations, coalitions and organisations representing the three integral parts of the people of Palestine:  
Palestinian refugees, Palestinians under occupation and Palestinian citizens of Israel.*

**Is BDS effective?**

Fourteen years after its launch the BDS Call is supported by trade unions, churches, social movements, grassroots organisations, political parties and NGOs around the planet. The Scottish TUC and four local authorities have a policy of general boycott of the State of Israel. Grassroots campaigning in the Edinburgh Festival succeeded in ejecting theatre groups endorsed by the Israeli



state. Popular pressure forced the return of sponsorship money to the Israeli Embassy.

International coordinated campaigning has generated enough pressure on some of the world's largest corporations including G4S and Veolia to withdraw from Israeli projects that clearly violate international law. In the field of culture, major figures have refused to perform in Israel and many parts of the world are no-go areas for Israeli performers endorsed by the apartheid state.

In a struggle for existence such as the Palestinians are condemned to wage, morale is everything. The BDS movement sends a strong message to Palestine that they are not alone, and a strong message to Israel that they will pay an increasing price for the crimes they commit against the Palestinians.

The Reut Institute and the ADL in the US have expressed alarm at rising support for the Palestinians and for BDS across the US.

Bills making their way through federal and state legislatures in the US threaten US\$1m fines and long prison sentences against BDS campaigners. This has not stopped growing support for BDS. The same week the Canadian government called

for BDS to be criminalised, Vancouver dockers turned away an Israeli ship.

A conference of industrial leaders in Israel was called by the head of the major Israeli Zim shipping line, at which alarm was expressed at the potential of dock workers and transport workers to isolate the State of Israel, which is highly dependent on international trade.

Israeli economist Shir Hever calculates that 78% of all humanitarian aid destined for the Palestinians ends up in Israeli hands. Palestinians are not asking for money - they are asking for solidarity, above all in the form of BDS, the only activity by Palestine solidarity activists that Israel fears.

The 'B' in BDS means organising to exert popular pressure on companies and other institutions that normalise cooperation with Israel in a time of mass murder. The 'D' means building pressure on pension funds, for example, to divest from companies that enable Israel to do what it does, either with sniper rifles or computers. 'S' is for sanctions, the culminating stage of BDS when government agencies withdraw cooperation from Israel and force the crisis that opens up the road to an apartheid-free future for all the peoples of the region.

# What next?

SPSC is committed to building support for the Palestinian call for **Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions** against the State of Israel until it ends its crimes against the Palestinian people. In Scotland, as around most of the world, we are strong and Israel is exceedingly weak.

By many accounts the Israeli authorities are well aware of the strength of the BDS movement worldwide which is why they are fighting back by trying to smear supporters of Palestine as antisemitic. We reject these smears with contempt. For SPSC, real antisemitism is a contemptible racism. Opposition to the pernicious ideology of Zionism and all its crimes is a duty for all anti-racists and decent people around the world.

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**Donate:** [www.scottishpsc.org.uk/donate](http://www.scottishpsc.org.uk/donate)

*A fully referenced version of this booklet can be accessed on our website: [www.scottishpsc.org.uk](http://www.scottishpsc.org.uk)*

# **Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign**

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Scottish PSC is an extension to the Palestinian struggle for freedom against Israel's programme of ethnic cleansing and genocide in Palestine. SPSC exists to channel public opposition to the Zionist settler-colonial project into an effective and dynamic Scottish component of the global campaign that sends a powerful message of solidarity with the Palestinian people and a warning to Israel that its crimes must end.



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