

Berlin, June 3, 2016

Press-Release

Jews Worldwide in Solidarity with Omar Barghouti and the BDS Movement

15 Jewish Organizations and important individuals speak out against the repression of BDS and free speech

On the evening of June 5th, 2016, 49 years into the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, Jewish Organizations and individuals worldwide speak out in support of the right of Palestinians to non-violently resist Israel's illegal and inhumane occupation. In a petition sent to numerous national parliaments and European Union institutions, the undersigned groups call for all international bodies "to use all their available means of diplomacy and power to compel the Israeli government to immediately halt its intimidation campaign against Omar Barghouti and the Palestinian-led BDS Movement".

Appalled by the state-led bullying against non-violent resistance, the undersigned "wish to underscore a basic truth which seems to escape the current Israeli administration and its apologists: international citizens' boycotts against ongoing abuse of international law are a legally-protected and fundamental civil right. Civil boycotts are a key means of non-violent protest. They cannot, precisely, be interdicted, made illegal or punishable."

So far, signatories of the petition include: Jewish peace organizations from the USA, Canada, UK, Ireland, Germany, France, Italy; as well as a hundred distinguished Jewish activists, such as **Noam Chomsky**, co-founder of Code Pink **Medea Benjamin**, former South African government minister **Ronnie Kasrils**, former Israeli human-rights lawyer **Felicia Langer**, the Israeli filmmaker **Eyal Sivan** and laureate of the Sakharov Prize for Human Rights **Nurit Peled-Elhanan**.

Sincerely

Yossi Bartal, on behalf of Jewish Voice for Just Peace, Germany mail@juedische-stimme.de

**Jews Worldwide
in Solidarity with Omar Barghouti and BDS activists**

To:

House of Representatives and Congress of the United States of America
European Commission, European Parliament
Governments and Parliaments of Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Ireland, Spain, South Africa, Sweden,
and UK

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We, the undersigned Jewish organizations and individuals from various countries all over the world, call upon all governments as well as upon international bodies to use all their available means of diplomacy and power to compel the Israeli government to immediately halt its intimidation campaign against Omar Barghouti and the Palestinian-led BDS Movement.

Israel has officially declared its determination to use everything in its power to intimidate and suppress the leaders and supporters of the international BDS movement—including the usage of targeted actions by intelligence agencies¹. Israel's Minister of Justice Ayelet Shaked instructed the international department of her ministry "to prepare a plan of legal steps" in order to "move from defence to offence" against the BDS movement² already a year ago, with the full backing of the Israeli government, to run a massive campaign aimed at criminalizing the internationally-growing BDS movement, and at silencing any protest against the ongoing Israeli occupation.

Meanwhile Aryeh Deri, Israel's Interior Minister personally took efforts to revoke the permanent residency status³ of Mr. Omar Barghouti, co-founder of the BDS movement. He has been barred from leaving the country ever since. His life and well-being have been threatened by Israeli officials repeatedly.

As Jewish organizations and individuals committed to human rights, to democracy and to the rule of law, we speak out against the widespread attacks by the current Israeli government against the BDS movement. Appalled by this state-led bullying against non-violent resistance to the illegal Israeli occupation, we wish to underscore a basic truth which seems to escape the current Israeli administration and its apologists:

International citizens' boycotts against ongoing abuse of international law are a legally-protected and fundamental civil right. Civil boycotts are a key means of non-violent protest. They cannot, precisely, be interdicted, made illegal or punishable.

In steadfast defence of accepted universal human rights and established standards of international law and decency, we therefore demand:

- **The end to Mr. Barghouti's residency restriction and the reinstatement of his right to free movement⁴**
- **The guaranteeing of Mr. Barghouti's and all other Palestinians' freedom of movement⁵, of political expression⁶ and of assembly⁷**
- **The immediate cessation of all political and legal attempts to criminalize support for BDS and the recognition and restitution of the inalienable right to non-violently resist unjust state actions like occupation and apartheid**

Signing Organizations:

Alliance of Concerned Jewish Canadians (ACJC)
Code Pink

European Jews for a Just Peace (EJJP)

Independent Jewish Voices (IJV)

Independent Jewish Voices(IJV)

International Jewish Antizionist Network USA (IJAN USA)

It's Kosher to Boycott Israeli Goods (Jews4Big)

Jewish Socialists' Group (JSG)

Jewish Voice for a Just Peace (Juedische Stimme)

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)

Jewish-Palestinian Dialogue Group

Jews for a Just Peace North Carolina (jfajpNC)

Jews for Justice for Palestine (jffjp)

Rete' Ebrei contro l'Occupazione (Network of Jews against Occupation)

union juive française pour la paix (ujfp)

Canada

USA

Europe

Canada

UK

USA

UK

UK

Germany

Ireland

Germany

USA

UK

Italy

¹ <http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-4784262,00.html>

² <http://www.herziyaconference.org/eng/?CategoryID=544&ArticleID=2676&SearchParam=bds>

³ <http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-4784262,00.html>

⁴ Art. 15 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

⁵ Art. 12 International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Art. 13. UHRD

⁶ Art. 19 ICCPR

⁷ Art. 21 ICCPR

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Surname	Name	Country	Organization	Comment
Abrams-Hourani	Paula	Austria		
Algazi	Gadi	Israel		
Barkin	David	Mexico		
Bar-Tal	Yossi	Germany	Jewish Voice for Peace	
Bauman	Jan	USA		
Belz	Gaby	Switzerland		
Ben-Artzi	Ofra	Israel		
Benjamin	Medea	USA	Co-Founder , CODEPINK	2014, laureate of the Gandhi Peace Award
Bernstein	Judith	Germany	Jewish-Palestinian Dialogue Group	
Blumberg	Jonathan	Canada		
Briemberg	Mordechai	Canada		
Brun	Jonathan	Canada		
Canarutto	Paola	Italy	„Rete' Ebrei contro l'Occupazione" (<i>Network of Jews against Occupation</i>)	
Chaikin	Ellen	Israel		
Chomsky	Noam	USA		
Corbett	Sid	Germany	Jewish Voice for Peace	
Doctorow	Gord	Canada		
Epstein	Ursula	Germany		
Feiler	Dror	Sweden	European Jews f. a Just Peace	
Ferster	Judith	USA	Jews for a Just Peace North Carolina	Jews for a Just Peace North Carolina, located in the Triangle area of the NC Piedmont, would like to sign onto the international call for solidarity with Omar Bhargouti and non-violent resistance
Fine	Adrian	Canada		
Finzi	Sylvia	UK	Jews for Justice for Palestinians	
Fisher	Dan	USA		
Forti	Georgio	Italy	„Rete' Ebrei contro l'Occupazione" (<i>Network of Jews against Occupation</i>)	
Fruchtman	Ruth	Germany	Jewish Voice for Peace	
Gaster	Cheryl	Canada		Thank you for putting together this letter. We fully endorse its content and would like to sign on.
Gaster	Zwi	Canada		
Giora	Rachel	Israel		
Golan	Neta	Ramallah Palestine		
Goldschmidt	Judy	Canada		
Gowenlock	Bob	Canada		I would like to add my endorsement of the call f. internati. solidarity in support of Barghouti express support f. the BDS movement
Grand	Larry	USA		

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Hefets	Iris	Germany	Jewish Voice for Peace	
Heller	Stanley	USA		host "The Struggle" TV News
Hever	Shir	Germany	Jewish Voice for Peace	
Iten-Gilden	Dorrie			
Javanshir	Jake	Canada		I stand in solidarity and justice with Omar Barghouti. I'm Jewish and lived in Israel for 20 years.
Kaiser-Livne	Michal	Germany	Jewish Voice for Peace	
Kasrils Minister retd.	Ronnie	South Africa	former South African Government Minister	I support your appeal. Please add my name
Kershnar	Sara	USA	Co-founder, Coordinator International Jewish Antizionist Network USA	
Khazzam	Mira	Canada/Israel	Jewish Voices for Peace	
Kochen	Michael	Germany		
Kuper	Richard	UK	Jews for Justice for Palestinians	
Langer	Felicia	Germany	Jewish Voice for Peace	1990 laureate of the Right Livelihood Award
Larson	Peter	Canada		
Lemberg	Lynda	Canada	Independent Jewish Voices	
Levy	Lesly	Canada		
Lippman	Abbi	Canada		
Lowi	Henry Naftali	Canada		
Maccoby	Deborah	UK	Jews for Justice for Palestinians	
Machover	Moshe	UK		I am happy to sign the call for solidarity with Omar Barghouti, and am copying this email to the persons you mention, to encourage them to do likewise.
Maimouni	Miriam	Germany		
Mankovitz	Helga	Canada		
Matar	Anat	Israel		
Melzer	Abi	Germany		
Merav	Amir	Ireland	Jewish Voice for a Just Peace	
Mivasair, Rabbi retd.	David	Canada	Ahavat Olam Synagoge	
Naaman	Dorit	Canada		
Naor	Dorothy	Israel		
Neiman	Ofer	Israel	Boycott – supporting the BDS call from within Israel	
Nelsen	Diana	UK	Jews for Justice for Palestinians	
Nestel	Sheryl	Canada	Independent Jewish Voices	
Peled	Nurit	Israel		2001 laureate of the Sakharov Prize for human rights and the Freedom of Thought
Peles	Laser	Spain		
Ralph	Diana	Canada	Independent Jewish Voices	
Rebick	Judy	Canada		
Reisin	Fanny-M.	Germany	Jewish Voice f. Peace	
Reitman	Jerry	Canada		I am writing as an ethnic Jewish person who supports the values and actions of Omar Barghouti

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				and I equally support the humanitarian principles of BDS.
Reuben	Roth	Canada		
Rose	Jacqueline	UK	Independent Jewish Voices	
Rose	Steven	UK		
Rosenberg	Carl	Canada		
Rosenberg	David	UK	Jewish Socialist Group	
Rosengarten	Lillian	USA		Palestinian Rights Activist Author- "Survival and Conscience: From The Shadows Of Nazi Germany To The Jewish Boat To Gaza "(Just World Books 2015)
Saifer	Ben	Canada		
Sebestyen	Amanda	UK		Please add my name to the letter to protect Barghouti and BDS activists
Shapira	Yonatan	Israel	Boycott-supporting the BDS call from within Israel	
Shniad	Sid	Canada	Independent Jewish Voices	
Silvan	Eyal	Israel, France		Renowned filmmaker, f. e. "Route 181" (2003)
Sommerfeld	Nirit	Germany		
Stambul	Pierre	France	Chairman union juive française pour la paix	
Sullivan	Sheila	Canada		
Sullivan	Dwyer	Canada		
Swartz	Donald	Canada		
Thompson	Miriam	USA	Jewish Voice for Peace	
Tyler	Levitan	Canada	Independent Jewish Voices	
Ury	Tanja	Germany	Jewish Voice for Peace	
Verleger	Rolf	Germany	Jewish Voice for Peace	Member of Central Council of Jews in Germany 2005-2009
Victory Spiegel	Miriam	USA		
Waterman	Peter	Canada		I support this appeal for the same reason that I supported the campaign against South African apartheid, against the discrimination of Soviet Jews, against the repression in Colonial Kenya, against the legal execution of the Rosenbergs in the USA (I could continue). It is a sign of weakness of the regime in Israel that they lash out in ever-more vicious and stupid ways, like every repressive regime in crisis. That does not make this particular piece of repressive action anything to celebrate. It is a provocation to protest and I am so protesting.
Weiss	Suzanne	Canada		Holocaust Survivor
Weizfeld	Abraham	Canada	Alliance of Concerned Jewish Canadians	
Welber	Samuel	Austria	Jewish Voice for Peace	
Wiener-Barraud	Samuel	Switzerland	Jüdische Stimme für Demokratie und Gerechtigkeit in Israel/Palästina	
Wesley	Elena	Israel		
Winizki	Eva	Switzerland		
Wolterstaedt	Barbara	Germany		Hiermit schließe ich mich dem Aufruf von jüdischen Organisationen und Individuen in Solidarität mit Omar Barghouti und den von massiven Übergriffen bedrohten und belangten Aktivisten des gewaltfreien

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				Widerstands gegen die Besatzung an.
zAnonymous		UK		Thank you for writing and for giving me the opportunity to sign the letter you attached. I fully support the content. But these days I very rarely sign any public petition. I shall, however, pass the letter on to people I know who might want to add their signatures.
zAnonymous		USA / Israel		I do not support BDS and my position is not compatible with signing public documents. I do however endorse your engagement to uphold international law as well as the political freedom and human rights guaranteed. I am Jewish and from New Mexico.