

## **We protest against your shameful statement on the occasion of the GUE / NGL event "Boycott, divestment, and sanctions: achievements and challenges" in the European Parliament on 4 December 2018.**

<https://www.dielinke-europa.eu/de/article/12095.gemeinsame-erkl%C3%A4rung-der-delegation-die-linke-im-ep-zur-gue-ngl-veranstaltung-boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-achievements-and-challenges.html?fbclid=IwAR0uBn86M9De1h3YsjeikNUo37kIMAb-zKbO7e7CH-eAtyVY0rolzCxNRtg>

### **Regarding your defamation of the BDS campaign, we declare:**

1. The BDS campaign, which is currently experiencing growing support from below in the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as increasing criminalization from above, is a non-violent human rights campaign whose arguments are based solely on international law, civil and human rights and Israel-recognized UN resolutions. The claim that these arguments are anti-Semitic is absurd.
2. Equally absurd is your claim that the methods or organizations affiliated with the BDS campaign's activities are anti-Semitic. If that were a serious problem, then certainly no Jewish people and organizations would participate in the BDS campaign. The fact is that more than 40 Jewish organizations around the world advocate for BDS and oppose equating criticism of Israeli policies with anti-Semitism. The Auschwitz survivor [Esther Bejerano](#), who was a member of the Auschwitz Orchestra, also supports BDS:

The more than 170 Palestinian organizations from the Occupied Territories, Israel and abroad, who support the call for BDS, including major trade unions, churches, prisoner organizations, arts and cultural centres, unite around 3 clear demands of the anti-colonial struggle of Palestinians and Jews in Israel: firstly freedom for the inhabitants of the occupied territories, secondly equality for the Palestinian citizens of Israel and thirdly justice for the Palestinian refugees outside the country - including the right to return to their homeland ([campaign](#)).

The BDS campaign refuses to commit itself to a two-state or one-state solution, because it is backed by supporters of both options, and because in its view the basic problem is not to decide today what kind of settlement should in the future replace the current one-state reality, but to put pressure on Israel to set in motion a process a change in the sense of the three demands.

3. Your claim that the BDS campaign questions Israel's "right to exist" is false and defamatory. Resistance and criticism of the occupation contrary to international law are aimed not at the delegitimization or elimination of the state of Israel, but at its right-wing extremist government and its policies, as Norman Paech writes in "Palestine Journal 1/2019.

### **Our attitude as leftist internationalists is therefore:**

For us, international law is valid, not only as a "general commitment" and "non-binding talk" (Norman Paech, 5.8.2018, Statement of the Federal Working Group '*Just Peace in the Middle East*' to the actions of the faction of DIE LINKE on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel), but also in the explicit and only intended form of its enforcement: namely as legitimate internationally-binding sanctions. Another means of pressure does not exist under international law. In this respect, we do not demand active support of BDS, but we emphasize the right to BDS. We note that in 2016 more than 30 members of the EU Parliament called on Federica Mogherini, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, in a [letter](#) to [ensure freedom](#) of expression with regard to the Palestinian-led BDS movement. Frederica Mogherini, the High Representative of the EU, [affirms](#) the right to BDS.

Palestinians have a moral, political and legal right to BDS. They have the right to demand from the world, from the West, from the EU and the Federal Government clear steps of distancing themselves, and an end to generous subsidies and investments in apartheid and occupation. The fight against the BDS campaign and the increasing criminalization of its supporters and advocates, in this concrete case of BDS co-founder Omar Barghouti by you, is incompatible with anti-fascism and the fight against racism in all its forms, including the absolutely necessary fight against neo-fascism and anti-Semitism in Germany. This fight against BDS does not promote democracy and human rights; it rather serves directly the stabilization and maintenance of the barbaric status quo under continuous occupation, blockade, annexation and ethnic cleansing. Needless to point out that defamation and criminalization of such criticism of occupation constitutes a restriction of a basic democratic right in Germany which we LINKEN, as a lesson-learned from fascism should really uphold, instead of tolerating its demolition exactly with reference to the Holocaust, or even actively promoting its demise, as in the case of your statement.

You can [watch the event](#) on the net. Nothing, absolutely nothing about the whole event in general, and in the speech of Barghouti in particular, confirms even slightly your statement.

### **From the faction of the party DIE LINKE in the European Parliament**

- **We expect** your decisions to be based on facts and reason, not fake news and slander
- **We expect** you to be in solidarity with the marginalized, the oppressed and the disenfranchised, whether in Germany or in Palestine
- **We expect** that on Israel/Palestine, DIE LINKE stands in solidarity with the Palestinians and left-wing Jews who - whether in Palestine, Israel or here in Germany - fight together against the expulsion and disenfranchisement of Palestinians by the Israeli state that has continued for more than half a century, as well as against a military occupation that systematically violates human rights and is guilty of flagrant violations of international law, as stated by UN Security Council [Resolution 2334](#) of 23 December 2016.

The reports of UN Special Rapporteurs and the weekly reports from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) present a wealth of depressing testimonies of the daily crime of apartheid in the occupied territories, whether in East Jerusalem, the West Bank or in Gaza. The annexation is in full swing. **All of this is known to you!**

### **We expect from you:**

- that you in the EU, along with the other left-wing parties, stand up for the recognition and realization of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people, as well as for all the civil and human rights that Palestinians are entitled to under international law,
- that you stay away from any campaign aimed at preventing the realization of these fundamental rights,
- that you recognize that the accusation of anti-Semitism is used as a "tool of domination" to delegitimize and discredit any debate about Israel's violations of human rights and international law,
- that you do not participate in campaigns which are aimed at stigmatizing and criminalizing members and voters of DIE LINKE who stand up for the rights of the Palestinians,

- that you explain to us what form of sanctions you will promote in the framework of your parliamentary activity in the EU in order to realize your preferred two-state solution in Palestine which, as is commonly known, is being undermined and prevented by Israel with all means at its disposal.

Only clear and practical steps can provide effective support for the many opponents of the occupation in Israel and the occupied territories and for the enforcement of international law. As by far the largest trading partner of Israel, the EU has a special responsibility. The **suspension of the Association Agreement between Israel and the EU** would be a clear signal to the Israeli government that the EU will no longer tolerate further human rights violations and violations of international law.

We promote the above with determination because we are convinced: only as a militant and solidary party can DIE LINKE live up to its internationalist responsibility.

## Post Scriptum

Please remember the 5th Congress of the European Left in December 2016. There, the European Left, with the active involvement of the German DIE LINKE, set a clear signal when it called for "the suspension of the EU Association Agreement with Israel, including the preferential trade agreement." DIE LINKE has approved and confirmed this demand in 2017 at state-party conferences in NRW and Lower Saxony.

<https://www.antikapitalistische-linke.de/?p=2597>

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