

RESOLUTION: 2019 NLG BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS

In 1948 the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) supported the establishment of the State Israel, not recognizing at the time that Israel's establishment was a colonizing project rooted in racist ideology and launched with the violent displacement and ethnic cleansing of its Palestinian indigenous population that continues until this day.

WHEREAS since 1948 Israel's crimes have been shown to the world as a result of the efforts of Palestinian grassroots activism; and in the 1980s the NLG organized its first delegation to occupied Palestine witnessing for themselves crimes against the Palestinian people.

WHEREAS Israel has been condemned by the international community for persistent violations of human rights including indiscriminate killings of civilians, children, aid workers, and others, arbitrary detention of political prisoners, torture, and imprisonment of children.

WHEREAS Israel has passed a Nation State Law to codify and enshrine itself as an Apartheid state.

WHEREAS: Settlements serving only Jewish citizens have been massively supported by the State to facilitate Jewish immigration and to secure an expanded Jewish State. At the same time, Israel continues to deny Palestinian refugees their "Right-of-Return" to lands inside Israel and in the Occupied Territories, a right guaranteed by international law and UN Resolutions.

WHEREAS Israel has been condemned by the international community for apparent crimes against humanity in Gaza linked to the killing of peaceful protestors, indiscriminate bombing of civilian populations over years, and imposing a deadly economic blockade.

WHEREAS in the last 40 years, the Guild repeatedly has condemned Israel for its violations of international law and crimes against humanity.

WHEREAS 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

WHEREAS all forms of international intervention 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;

WHEREAS: Israel is committing these human rights violations with U.S. aid, in violation of the U.S. Arms Export Control and Foreign Assistance Acts.

WHEREAS, in 2005, Palestinian civil society, including 170 Palestinian unions, political parties, refugee networks, women's organizations, professional associations, popular resistance committees and other Palestinian civil society bodies, issued a call for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction movement (BDS) in response to Israel's ongoing violation of their human rights. <https://bdsmovement.net/call> BDS calls for "international civil society organizations 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.

WHEREAS, BDS represents an inclusive and anti-racist set of tools to pursue human rights for the Palestinian people that is opposed to all forms of discrimination, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

WHEREAS, the right to boycott and other forms of protest have come under severe attack in the United States, through unconstitutional legislation targeting advocates of Palestinian human rights, the Black Lives Matter movement, those facing down corporate environmental destruction such as the DAPL movement, and others.

WHEREAS, upholding the right to boycott and the right to protest is part of the mission of the NLG which states that human rights are more sacred than property rights.

WHEREAS the NLG's mission is committed to fighting all forms of racism and discrimination including but not limited to anti-black racism, islamophobia, anti-semitism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny and other forms of oppression.

WHEREAS, the NLG is a member of an international legal community concerned with human rights and the rule of law.

Let it be Resolved That: The NLG will support the call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions of all institutions whose conduct is complicit in the occupation of Palestine or complicit in any denial of Palestinian human rights. The NLG will support the BDS movement until Israel;

1. Ends its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands
2. Dismantles the Apartheid Wall condemned by the International Court of Justice
2. Recognizes the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and
3. Respects, protects and promotes the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.

The National Lawyers Guild also calls for an end to all U.S. military, economic and other assistance to Israel.

Implementation

This resolution is to be implemented by the committees and individuals listed in support below, and in coordination with the NLG National Office. The individuals listed below will contact and coordinate with committees, chapters, and other NLG entities to assist them in educating their members and the public about this issue. The National Office was consulted and has agreed to assist in implementation. Individuals active in the supporting committees agreed to assist in implementation within their committees and beyond.

Submitted by,

Suzanne Adely, International Committee Co-Chair