

20.05.2019

Re:

We, the undersigned Palestinian civil society coalitions, human rights organizations labor unions, and official representatives of the Palestinian people, condemn in the strongest terms the German parliament's resolution which, based on outright lies, equates the nonviolent BDS movement for Palestinian rights with anti-semitism.[1]

We note that the resolution was issued on the 71st anniversary of the *Nakba*, catastrophe in Arabic, the deliberate and systematic ethnic cleansing of Palestine and the displacement of over 750,000 indigenous Palestinians by Zionist militias and, later, the state of Israel.

BDS calls for peaceful pressure on Israel's regime of occupation, settler-colonialism and apartheid -- as well as against corporations and institutions that are complicit in its oppression of the Palestinian people -- until it fully complies with its obligations under international law. Specifically, BDS calls for ending Israel's 1967 occupation, its system of racial discrimination against its Palestinian citizens, and its recognition and respect for the UN-stipulated right of return for Palestinian refugees.

The global BDS movement, led by the largest coalition in Palestinian civil society, is anchored in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It rejects all forms of racism and discrimination, including Islamophobia, anti-semitism, sexism, and homophobia, and is inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement and the US Civil Rights movement. BDS targets complicity, not identity.

More than forty progressive Jewish organizations from around the world have condemned the fraudulent conflation between hostility to or prejudice against Jews on the one hand and legitimate critiques of Israeli policies and system of injustice on the other "This conflation," they explained, "undermines both the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality and the global struggle against antisemitism. It also serves to shield Israel from being held accountable to universal standards of human rights and international law." [2]

Palestinian civil society, mass organizations, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, are united in expressing outrage at and condemnation of this Bundestag resolution. We affirm our full support for the BDS movement for Palestinian rights and demand that Israel be held accountable to international law, like all other states committing similar crimes.

We reject the baseless allegations and fabrications of the Bundestag against the BDS movement, and the undermining of Palestinian non-violent resistance of Israel's occupation and apartheid. Denying Palestinians the right to non-violently advocate for freedom, justice and equality is anti-Palestinian and puts the Bundestag at odds with international law, with universal democratic principles and even with the formal position of the European Union, which in 2016 recognized the right to pursue BDS to achieve Palestinian rights as protected by European human rights conventions.

With this shameful resolution, the Bundestag is undermining the right to freedom of expression, a characteristic of undemocratic and authoritarian regimes, including Israel's far-right government.[3]

We remind German political parties and the Bundestag that, aside from the European Union, the governments of the Netherlands, Ireland and Sweden and the parliament of Spain and the Upper House of the Swiss parliament have all affirmed that participation and support of peaceful BDS campaigns is a right of citizens that is protected under the right to freedom of expression.[4]

We call on the Bundestag to immediately repeal this anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab resolution and to respect the right to BDS. We also call on Germany to end all forms of complicity in Israel's illegal occupation and apartheid by banning Israel's illegal settlement products and services, ending all military trade and military research with Israel and supporting the suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement until Israel respects the agreement's human rights clauses. Only thus can Germany truly advance the cause of justice, peace, equality and dignity for all.

END

Rep. of PLO

Rep. of PA

Rep. of Political parties

Unions: Labor Unions, Bar Association

Coalitions of civil associations: PNGO, PHROC, Adalah

Universities

[1] DW report:

<https://www.dw.com/cda/en/german-parliament-condemns-anti-semitic-bds-movement/a-48779516>

[2]

<https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/first-ever-40-jewish-groups-worldwide-oppose-equating-antisemitism-with-criticism-of-israel/>

[3] International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), Article 19.

[4] EU:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2016-005122-ASW_EN.html?redirect

Ireland:

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/debateswebpack.nsf/takes/dail2016052600033?opendocument>

Netherlands:

<https://www.article1collective.org/2016/12/nederlandse-regering-wijst-oproep-af-financiering-palestijnse-groepen-te-beeindigen/>

Sweden:

<https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/sweden-denies-israeli-claim-it-opposes-bds>