



The Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC) is a wide coalition of the largest Palestinian mass organizations, trade unions, networks and organizations.

BNC member organizations:

- Council of National and Islamic Forces in Palestine
- Gen. Union of Palestinian Workers
- Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions
- Palestinian Trade Union Coalition for BDS (PTUC-BDS)
- Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)
- Palestinian Nat'l Institute for NGOs
- Federation of Indep. Trade Unions
- Global Palestine Right of Return Coalition
- Occupied Palestine and Syrian Golan Heights Initiative
- Gen. Union of Palestinian Teachers
- Palestinian Federation of Unions of University Professors and Employees (PFUUEPE)
- Gen. Union of Palestinian Women
- Gen. Union of Palestinian Writers
- Union of Palestinian Farmers
- Grassroots Palestinian Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign (STW)
- Pal. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI)
- Popular Struggle Coordination Committee (PSCC)
- Civic Coalition for the Defense of Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem
- Coalition for Jerusalem
- Nat'l Committee to Commemorate the Nakba
- Union of Public Employees in Palestine-Civil Sector
- Gen. Union of Palestinian Peasants
- Union of Pal. Charitable Organizations
- Union of Professional Associations
- Women Campaign to Boycott Israeli Products
- Palestinian Economic Monitor
- Union of Youth Activity Centers- Palestine Refugee Camps
- Agricultural Cooperatives Union
- Nat'l Committee for Grassroots Resistance

www.bdsmovement.net
fo@bdsmovement.net

EU labelling of Israeli colonies' products is hardly enough to bring about European compliance with international law

Occupied Palestine, 7 September 2015—The Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC), the broadest coalition in Palestinian society that leads the global BDS movement, considered the European Union's move towards labelling Israeli settlement products, announced at a recent EU press conference, as insufficient for fulfilling European states' legal obligations under international law.

The press briefing by EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini followed the meeting of the foreign ministers of the EU's 28 member states in Luxembourg. The growing European consensus around labelling Israel's settlement products reflected mounting public pressure in Europe on policymakers to end the profound European complicity in Israel's violations international law and Palestinian human rights.

Dr. Rafeef Ziadah, member of the BNC Secretariat commented, "If the EU is serious in implementing its own policy of non-recognition of Israeli sovereignty in the occupied Arab territories of 1967, why doesn't it implement a *ban* on the import of products of Israeli companies that illegally operate in the occupied territories? Merely labelling, rather than banning, illegal settlement goods indicates political hypocrisy par excellence."

Ziadah added, "The BDS movement's pressure must continue at the grassroots level across Europe to compel decision-makers to comprehensively fulfil European states' obligations under international law."

"At a minimum, they must impose a two-way military embargo on Israel, as was done against apartheid South Africa, and implement the European Council on Foreign Relations' recommendation to halt all financial transactions with Israeli banks that finance Israel's occupation, including the wall and settlements."

Mahmoud Nawajaa, BNC General Coordinator, explained, "One year after Israel's 2014 massacre in Gaza, the least the EU should do is not to reward and sustain relations with entities that profit from serious Israeli violations of international law. Failing to do so would make a mockery of the EU's stated commitment to human rights. It would also enhance Israel's impunity, effectively encouraging it to commit new massacres against the Palestinian people."

The BNC's European Campaigns Officer, Riya Hassan, concluded, "The EU is legally obliged, in accordance with its charters and principles, to cease

to cease its collusion in Israel's grave violations of international law. Aside from banning goods produced by Israeli companies operating in the occupied territories, this requires suspending the EU-Israel Association Agreement, based on Israel's persistent breach of the agreement's second clause which pertains to respecting human rights."

More than 300 trade unions, NGOs and other civil society organizations from across Europe [have called on the EU](#) to end its support for Israel's crimes, including by suspending the EU-Israel Association Agreement. The call was [supported](#) by more than 60 MEPs.

Following public pressure and lobbying by Palestinian and European organizations, the EU introduced a policy stating it must not provide funding for or allow Israeli participation in EU projects if such participation amounts to recognition of Israeli sovereignty over occupied Palestinian and Syrian territory.

However, the EU [continues to provide funding to Israeli military companies](#) such as Elbit Systems and Israeli Aerospace Industries, and [also to Hebrew University](#), which is partially based in occupied East Jerusalem.

The global BDS movement, which saw unprecedented traction lately, seeks to isolate Israel's regime of occupation, settler-colonialism and apartheid academically, culturally, economically and militarily until the Palestinian people can exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. At a minimum, this entails an end to the 1967 occupation and to Israel's apartheid system, and the return of Palestinian refugees to the homes and lands from which they have been displaced during and since the 1948 Nakba.

BNC