bds20eu.bdsmovement.net

BDS@20

Europe Conference

المؤتمر الأوروبي

“Resisting Might-Makes-Right: For Palestine, for Humanity.”

DATES

18–20 November 2026

LOCATION

Barcelona, Spain

VENUE

Casino l'Aliança del Poblenou

ORGANIZED BY THE PALESTINIAN BDS NATIONAL COMMITTEE (BNC)

§01

At a Glance

BDS@20 — Europe Regional Conference marks over twenty years of the Palestinian-led global BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement. This gathering is a moment to strengthen European solidarity with Palestinians and coordinate our movement's next phase of campaigning.

3 days
18–20 NOVEMBER 2026

20th
ANNIVERSARY OF THE GLOBAL BDS MOVEMENT

15+
CO-ORGANIZING EUROPEAN PARTNER GROUPS

800
VENUE CAPACITY

6
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS (MANY MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED)

1
DAY OPEN TO PRESS (NOV 18)

VENUE

Casino l'Aliança del Poblenou — Rambla del Poblenou, 42, Sant Martí, 08005 Barcelona.

Wheelchair-accessible seating, each with an adjacent companion seat, is available on both sides of the stage. A hearing loop is installed in the main hall. Please note: the upper floors are not wheelchair accessible.

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§02

About BDS@20 & Our Coalition

Last year marked twenty years since the launch of the global Palestinian-led BDS movement. This November, the BDS@20 Europe Regional Conference will convene in Barcelona, marking over 20 years of the Palestinian call for nonviolent resistance and serving as a pivotal moment to define the movement's next chapter.

Our three-day conference aims to strengthen European coordination behind our movement's core tools — boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaigns aimed at the state, corporate, and institutional complicity that sustains Israel's occupation and grave violations of Palestinian rights.

We are convening now to escalate that pressure, in response to Israel's ongoing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. The conference is organized by the **Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC)** — the broadest Palestinian civil society coalition leading the global BDS movement — together with the **Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI)**. Our global movement has affiliated partners in more than 130 countries, with active BDS-affiliated groups in nearly every European country for this regional gathering. Fifteen European partners and co-organizing groups join us for this conference, spanning Spain, the UK, Ireland, France, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Portugal, and Romania. See page 7 for the full list.

> *"We launched the BDS movement over twenty years ago not as a slogan, but as a principled and effective strategy of liberation while our people faced and heroically resisted decades of Israel's settler-colonialism, apartheid and military occupation."*
>
> — OMAR BARGHOUTI, CO-FOUNDER, BDS MOVEMENT

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§03

Program & Schedule

DAY	TIME	PROGRAM
Day 1 Wed 18 Nov	15:00	Media desk opens — accreditation can be collected any time during the day
	15:30–17:00	Press interviews & video opportunities
	17:15–18:15	Pre-event press conference
	18:30	Public opening panel — launches the conference with speakers from the BNC, allied former political leaders, boycott/divestment campaigners, and cultural, academic and sporting figures. Open to the public via solidarity-price tickets (on sale from 30 September 2026).
Day 2 Thu 19 Nov	09:00	Arrival & registration
	10:00	Introduction
	11:00	Track sessions (choose one) — • 1.1 Pushing for Accountability: obligations of State & Corporations • 1.2 Militarisation, austerity & tech/AI as weapons • 1.3 The Art of Refusal — culture workers & the cultural boycott • 1.4 Fair Play — sport and the boycott movement
	13:30	Lunch
	15:30	Track sessions (choose one) — • 2.1 Israel as a "#ShutDownNation" — economic case for BDS • 2.2 Academic complicity & campus organizing • 2.3 #BlockTheBoat — maritime supply-chain campaigns • 2.4 International law: potential and limits for Palestine
	18:00	Closing remarks, Day 2
Day 3 Fri 20 Nov	09:00	Arrival & registration
	10:00	Introduction
	11:00	Track sessions (choose one) — • 3.1 The UN and prospects for decolonization • 3.2 Trade union solidarity with Palestine • 3.3 Intersectionality across justice movements • 3.4 Ethical procurement — public bodies & complicity
	13:30	Lunch
	15:30	Free time
	20:00	Closing remarks — conference close
	21:00	Cultural event & networking

§04

Speaker & Program Highlights

Six confirmed speakers headline the conference, joined by two facilitators.



Ghassan Abu Sitta

RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGEON

Palestinian-British surgeon who treated Gaza's wounded through Israel's genocidal assault on the besieged strip, and was elected Rector of the University of Glasgow on a mandate of solidarity with Palestine and divestment from complicity in Israel's crimes.



Omar Barghouti

CO-FOUNDER, BDS MOVEMENT

Palestinian human rights defender, co-founder of the Palestinian-led BDS movement, and recipient of the 2017 Gandhi Peace Award. Author of *BDS: The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights* (Haymarket, 2011); his commentary has appeared in the Financial Times, the Guardian, and elsewhere.



Noura Erakat

LEGAL SCHOLAR & HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEY

Palestinian-American legal scholar and author of *Justice for Some*, whose work exposes how international law has been weaponized to entrench Israeli impunity, and reclaims it as a tool for Palestinian liberation.



Francesca Albanese

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR, PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

The UN's independent expert on the occupied Palestinian territories since 2022, and one of the world's most fearless voices exposing Israel's occupation, apartheid and genocide against the Palestinian people, despite repeated attempts to silence her voice.

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§04

Speaker & Program Highlights (cont'd)



Robert Del Naja

VOCALIST & PRODUCER, MASSIVE ATTACK

Vocalist and producer of Massive Attack, one of the defining acts of trip-hop and electronic music. A long-standing advocate for Palestinian liberation, Del Naja has used his platform to advocate for meaningful solidarity with the Palestinian people since the 1990s, from boycotting performances in Israel to publicly opposing its occupation, apartheid and ongoing genocide.



Hiba Abouk

ACTRESS AND ADVOCATE OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

Hiba Abouk is a Spanish actress of Tunisian descent. She rose to prominence playing Fátima in *El Príncipe* — a role that made her one of the most recognizable faces in Spanish drama. Over the years, Hiba has also used her public profile to stand with the Palestinian people, advocating for their rights, and helping to keep their reality visible in the public sphere.



Inés Hernand

FACILITATOR

Inés Hernand is a Spanish presenter, communicator, and content creator born in Madrid. She studied Law at the Complutense University of Madrid and became widely known through her work on *Gen Playz*, an RTVE programme aimed at young audiences, which won an Ondas Award for Best Entertainment Programme. She currently co-directs and co-hosts the sociopolitical current affairs podcast *Saldremos Mejores* alongside Nerea Pérez de las Heras. The podcast received an Ondas Award for Best Conversational Podcast. She also contributes to Radio Nacional.



Olga Rodríguez

FACILITATOR

Olga Rodríguez is a journalist, writer, and researcher specializing in International Relations, the Middle East, and Human Rights. Over the past 26 years, she has covered some of the most significant events in the region including the Second Palestinian Intifada and the genocide in Gaza since 2023. She is the author of several books, including *Aquí Bagdad* (*This Is Baghdad*) and co-wrote the screenplay for the fiction film *En los márgenes* (*On the Fringe*). Her awards include the 2026 Contexto Award for her "ethical commitment and the quality of her journalistic work" and the 2025 Desalambre Award for Perseverance, recognizing her commitment to human rights.

§05

Organizers & Partner Coalition

Lead organizers plus fifteen co-organizing partner groups. Each logo links out, same as on the event page.

LEAD ORGANIZERS

Palestinian BDS National Committee
Palestine

PACBI
Palestine

CO-ORGANIZING PARTNERS (EUROPE)

Prou Complicitat amb Israel
Spain

SUDS
Spain

Comunitat Palestina de Catalunya
Spain

RESCOP
Spain

BDS Madrid
Spain

BDS Belfast
Northern Ireland, UK

BDS Sverige
Sweden

BDS Berlin
Germany

BDS France
France

Irish PSC
Ireland

Palestinekomiteen Norge
Norway

Palestine Solidarity Cluj-Napoca
Romania

PSC UK
United Kingdom

Sumud
Finland

PEP — Palestine em Português
Portugal

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§06

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BDS movement announces first of its kind conference in Europe

"Resisting Might-Makes-Right: For Palestine, for Humanity."

BARCELONA, Spain — 30 September 2026. More than twenty years after the historic BDS call, activists, policymakers, artists, and scholars including Ghassan Abu Sitta, Noura Erakat, Omar Barghouti, Francesca Albanese, Robert Del Naja and Hiba Abouk announced as among keynote speakers for the BDS@20 conference this November.

This November, the BDS@20 Europe Regional Conference will convene in Barcelona, marking over 20 years of the Palestinian call for nonviolent resistance and serving as a pivotal moment to define the movement's next chapter.

Today, as Israel continues its livestreamed genocide in Gaza and entrenches its regime of settler-colonialism, apartheid and illegal occupation, the need for principled, strategic global solidarity has never been more urgent. The BDS@20 Europe Conference brings together prominent voices in human rights, anti-imperialism, academia, and the arts to confront the deep complicity of European states, institutions, and corporations in Israel's ongoing atrocities.

The conference lineup features some of the most influential figures advocating across Europe and beyond in the struggle for Palestinian liberation today, including British-Palestinian surgeon and scholar **Ghassan Abu Sitta**; **Noura Erakat**, leading scholar on international law and Israeli impunity; **Omar Barghouti**, co-founder of the BDS movement; UN Special Rapporteur, **Francesca Albanese**; and actress and advocate of Palestinian rights, **Hiba Abouk**.

Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territory, stated:

> *"Marking more than twenty years of BDS is an occasion to recognise something Palestine has taught us with painful clarity: solidarity is not simply an expression of concern. It is a form of political agency, a way of translating our shared humanity into action. For decades, Palestinians have endured dispossession, apartheid, occupation, the denial of their right to self-determination, and the persistent failure to hold those responsible to account. Today, they are facing genocide, enabled by networks of state and corporate complicity."*
>
> *"At a time when predatory elites can appear to hold all the levers of power, BDS reminds us that power also resides with people, when people organise, act together and refuse to make complicity the price of belonging."*
>
> — FRANCESCA ALBANESE, UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

§06

Press Release (cont'd)

Led by the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC), the largest coalition in Palestinian civil society and the leadership of the global BDS movement, the conference will engage attendees in high-level discussions, practical workshops, and alliance-building sessions designed to translate decades of campaigning into tangible political and economic impacts.

Omar Barghouti, co-founder of the BDS movement for Palestinian rights, commented:

> *"We launched the BDS movement over twenty years ago not as a slogan, but as a principled and effective strategy of liberation while our people faced and heroically resisted decades of Israel's settler-colonialism, apartheid and military occupation. Today, as Israel continues its ongoing and livestreamed genocide in Gaza, in this deja-vu moment, Europe, with almost all its governments, companies and institutions, stands deeply complicit in genocide and apartheid. We need a critical mass of intersectional people power to end all this shameful complicity — for Palestine and for humanity."*
>
> *"This conference is where we further channel meaningful solidarity into political leverage: divestment from complicit banks, boycotts of brands that enable apartheid, severing academic, cultural and sports ties of complicity, and sanctions pressure on governments that fund, arm and shield from accountability Israel's machinery of apartheid and genocide."*
>
> — OMAR BARGHOUTI, CO-FOUNDER, BDS MOVEMENT

Barcelona, a city whose history is deeply rooted in solidarity, provides an unmistakable backdrop for this gathering. Hosting the conference here sends a clear message: Europe must be further pressured to end its complicity.

§07

Media Accreditation & Guidelines

We're offering accredited journalists exclusive access: a dedicated press conference and reception with high-profile speakers; one-on-one interviews with speakers, Palestinian organizers, and legal experts; and a designated press area throughout the public sessions on Wednesday, 18 November. Press access is confirmed for that day only — the venue holds 800. The public opening panel is ticketed via solidarity-price tickets, on sale from 30 September 2026.

Accreditation

Via the Media Accreditation Form, by **1 November 2026** (later requests considered but not guaranteed). Applications are reviewed for professional status and adherence to the Ethical and Professional Journalistic Principles set out by the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate and the BNC. Accreditation isn't guaranteed.

Interview Requests

Submitted via the accreditation form by 1 November. Once accredited, requests route to the on-site Media Coordinator. Speakers may decline or limit time, and requests are reviewed against the ethical principles above.

Photo & Video Policy

Permitted in plenary sessions and public breakout areas. Speakers may be filmed from the audience, but without blocking sightlines or using flash. Backstage and green rooms are off-limits to unauthorized personnel.

Consent Protocol

Attending implies consent to be filmed in public session areas. Attendees who'd rather not appear on camera can pick up an opt-out badge at registration, signalling press not to film them.

Languages

The BNC press conference runs in English, Spanish and Catalan, with interpretation available.

Assets

Logos, photos and other media assets available here.

Full media guidelines available here.

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Media Contact

Katie Morris

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

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bds20eu.bdsmovement.net

ON-SITE MEDIA ROOM

Coordinator on-site

MEDIA ROOM & PRESS WORKSPACE

A dedicated Media Room, open for the duration of the conference, will offer high-speed password-protected wifi (credentials at check-in), ample seating, plenty of power outlets, and standing desks for quick edits. A Media Coordinator will be stationed there daily to help with credential collection, route interview requests, share schedule updates, and resolve technical or logistical issues.

QUICK FACTS FOR EDITORS

— The organizing coalition is the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC), which includes PACBI (the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel).

— This is the Europe regional edition of the BDS@20 anniversary conference.

— Full agenda, registration, and organizer list: bds20eu.bdsmovement.net.