

US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION 2016 KEY MOMENTS

In June of this year, when pro-Israel forces failed to push anti-BDS legislation through the NY legislature, NY Governor Andrew Cuomo signed an executive attempting to punish those who use BDS as a way to achieve Palestinian rights. Days later, US Campaign Executive Director Yousef Munayyer published the following op-ed in *The Nation* entitled “Governor Cuomo, Put Me on Your BDS Blacklist.”

This Sunday marked the 49th anniversary of the 1967 war, when the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem began. It was on this day, as the occupation entered its 50th year, that New York Governor Andrew Cuomo decided to cast his lot firmly in support of perpetual occupation.

He did so by issuing an executive order that will blacklist organizations for their political views—specifically, entities that advocate or practice boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel because of its denial of fundamental Palestinian rights. The order requires all state agencies and funds to divest from any organization that supports BDS. It is the sort of thing that invokes McCarthyism and makes you wonder if the governor will move next to establish a House Un-Israeli Activities Committee.

Cuomo would do well to remember that unlike Israel—where there is no Constitution guaranteeing the equal rights of people regardless of race, creed, or opinion—we do have a Constitution in the United States,

and this order flies in the face of its First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech.

The global movement for Palestinian rights has responded to the call of Palestinian civil society to boycott, divest from and sanction the State of Israel until it complies with international law and respects the human rights of Palestinians. These tactics are nonviolent and follow in the tradition of many other social-justice movements. From the Montgomery bus boycott of the civil rights era to the divestment movement against apartheid in South Africa, BDS tactics have a rich history of propelling social change in this country and beyond.

Beyond the constitutional concerns, including the chilling effect on free speech and legitimate political advocacy, this order highlights the governor’s blatant hypocrisy. It was earlier this year when he, along with New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, banned non-essential employee travel to North Carolina because of that state’s anti-LGBT law. It seems Governor Cuomo is a BDS proponent when the rights being defended are not those of Palestinians. Why are the human rights of Palestinians less worthy of defense than the rights of others?

The governor’s actions are also counterproductive. For years, the international community, in particular the United States, has called on Palestinians to abandon violence. Now, as a nonviolent movement sparked by Palestinian civil society gains

steam, leaders like Cuomo are telling Palestinians that nonviolent resistance to abusive and discriminatory Israeli policies is also illegitimate. Distilled, the message to Palestinians is clear: No resistance to the denial of your human rights is legitimate, because you have no legitimate claim to human rights. It is a fundamentally racist message. In his announcement on Sunday, Governor Cuomo suggested that nonviolent BDS activism for Palestinian rights is tantamount to armed resistance, claiming that it is “in many ways more frightening” than Hamas’s use of tunnels. This disturbing attempt to smear nonviolent activists could encourage violence against them, and is unbecoming of leaders in an ostensibly liberal society.

While Cuomo’s attack on the movement for Palestinian rights is wrongheaded and immoral, it is also a sign of just how much the movement has grown and how much its opponents are willing to destroy the values they claim to uphold to attack it.

So if Governor Cuomo wants to create a list of those nonviolently demanding accountability for Israel’s denial of basic Palestinian rights, please sign me up. One day, when the system of imposed inequality ends in Israel-Palestine, this resistance to it will be looked back on as a badge of honor. I, along with an ever-growing number of Americans, want to be counted among those who stood on the right side of history.

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THE US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION is a nationwide coalition of hundreds of organizations working to end all forms of U.S. support for Israel’s military occupation and apartheid policies that deny Palestinians their human rights. We support freedom, justice and equality for all.

2016 TIMELINE

JANUARY

YOUR RIGHT

Challenging Anti-BDS Legislation

The US Campaign worked closely with member group Delaware Neighbors Against the Occupation to defeat an anti-BDS bill in New Castle County.

FEBRUARY

FREE TRIP TO ISRAEL AT THE EXPENSE OF PALESTINIANS.

#SkipTheTrip Coalition

We organized with a diverse coalition of national and international partners to urge Oscars nominees to reject Israel's offer of an all-expenses paid trip valued at \$55,000.

MARCH



Beauty

**BOYCOTT AHAVA BEAUTY PRODUCTS
EXPOSE THE UGLY SECRETS FROM THE DEAD SEA**

Long-time Targets Announce Changes!

Following years of BDS campaigns, prison profiteer G4S plans to end contracts with Israel and settlement product Ahava will move its factory out of the occupied West Bank.

APRIL



Anti BDS bills Defeated!

In partnership with local coalitions across the country, we either blocked or watered down anti-BDS bills from Virginia to California.

MAY

"ISRAEL'S MILITARY DETENTION SYSTEM TARGETING CHILDREN IS AN ANOMALY IN THE WORLD."

- Representative Betty McCollum



Congressional Support

Working with a diverse coalition of groups, we supported a Congressional letter by Rep. McCollum to President Obama calling for the appointment of a special envoy for Palestinian children.

JUNE



Stolen Homes Day of Action

We helped deliver over 150,000 petition signatures to Airbnb investors nationwide and an online campaign reached millions with a message from Palestinians: We Can't #LiveThere, So Don't Go There.

JULY

I SUPPORT PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS

National Conventions

We created a large and visible presence for Palestinian rights at the RNC and DNC by organizing panels and workshops, and by supporting protests in Cleveland and Philadelphia.

AUGUST



#ChurchDivest Season Continues!

We provided strong support for the Presbyterians, Unitarian Universalists, Lutherans and others as 2016 ushered in landmark faith-based breakthroughs.

SEPTEMBER



Ramping Up HP Boycott!

We're organizing trainings and coordinating days of action targeting Hewlett Packard, which provides technology for Israel's racial profiling and apartheid practices. Boycott HP!

OCTOBER

WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

TAKING A STAND FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

15th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 14-17
WESTIN ARLINGTON GATEWAY
ARLINGTON, VA
WWW.ANDTHEOCCUPATION.ORG



15th National Conference

Meet us at what is sure to be a phenomenal US Campaign national conference – a great opportunity to network, build your skills, lobby your Members of Congress, and be inspired by powerful speakers!

NOVEMBER

OLIVE TREES MEAN A FUTURE

Trees for Life Program

As part of the Trees for Life program, the US Campaign, Palestinian Fair Trade Association, and Canaan Fair Trade have planted more than 7,000 olive trees for Palestinian farming families.



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15th ANNUAL
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OCTOBER 14-17

WESTIN ARLINGTON GATEWAY
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MEET THE TEAM

STAFF

Yousef Munayyer
Executive Director

Anna Baltzer
Director of Organizing
& Advocacy

Mike Coogan
Director of Development

Ramah Kudaimi
Director of Grassroots
Organizing

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& Administration

Tamar Ghabin
Government Affairs
Associate

STEERING COMMITTEE

Andrew Kadi (2016)
US Campaign Co-Chair

Sandra Tamari (2018)
US Campaign Co-Chair

Abraham Greenhouse (2016)
The Palestine Freedom Project

Bekah Wolf, Esq. (2018)
Santa Feans for Justice
in Palestine

Nadia Ben-Youssef (2018)
Adalah- The Legal Center for Arab
Minority Rights in Israel

Hatem Abudayyeh (2016)
US Palestinian Community Network

Manal Fakhoury (2017)
Fakhoury Leadership International

Mike Merryman-Lotze (2017)
American Friends Service Committee

Sydney Levy (2017)
Jewish Voice for Peace

Nasser Barghouti (2016)
San Diego BDS

Rahim Kurwa (2017)
UCLA Students for Justice
in Palestine

Shirien Damra (2018)
American Friends Service
Committee

IN THE PAST YEAR, THE US CAMPAIGN'S WORK APPEARED IN 100+ MEDIA OUTLETS, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

