

# B.D.S. -THE NEW FACE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

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## B.D.S. - A Triple Strategy

The **B.D.S.** movement is a global campaign to undermine support for the State of Israel. It characterizes Israel as an oppressive colonial power that represses the Palestinian Arabs and in this way *seeks to stir up worldwide opposition to the state of Israel and revive anti-Semitism.*

## B.D.S. stands for **BOYCOTT, DISINVEST, AND SANCTION.**

The **B.D.S.** movement has a three-part strategy:

(1) To promote an international **BOYCOTT** of Israeli goods in order to weaken their economy and isolate it from the international community. This has some effect on the economy of Israel but, more seriously, it promotes a consciousness that there is something evil about the Jews and the Israelis. The tactic is to present Israel as an oppressive colonial power and therefore an illegitimate occupier. The aim is to characterize it as a rogue nation that should not even exist. This ignores 4000 years of continuous Jewish presence in the land and the completely legal settlement of Jews, fleeing oppression in Europe and Russia in the 20th century under the rules of the British Mandate, and the creation of Israel as a State by United Nations Vote in 1947..

(2). The second Stage is to **DISINVEST ISRAEL.** This call for companies and major institutions such as municipalities, states, universities and religious institutions to withdraw any investments in Israel follows on the attempt to boycott. Companies or institutions who do not disinvest are blackmailed into being labeled as supporters of an oppressive regime so that they fear to support or continue to invest in Israel. This is an effort to further hamstring Israel's economy and its ability to do business

(3) The third step is to economically collapse Israel by **SANCTIONS** and international pressure. By characterizing all financial dealings with Israel as participating in oppression against the Palestinian people B.D.S. movement hopes to use leverage on a majority of U.N. nations to

sanction Israel so that it cannot continue to function as an independent nation

## A VERY SERIOUS THREAT

**B.D.S.** is one of the most serious threat to Israel since its beginning. It echoes the boycotts of Jewish shops and businesses espoused by the Nazis in the 1930s. Like the Nazi boycotts it resonates among those who do not know the facts about Israel and do not understand the scriptures about Israel, and the eternal promises concerning the Land.

Apart from any Biblical considerations Israel is the only true democracy in the Middle East. It grants full voting, speaking and religious rights to all its citizens, and full equality for women in sharp contrast to the conditions in neighboring Arab states. There are seventeen Arab Israelis and twenty-eight women in the present Israeli parliament. In spite of the fact that Israel has the highest human rights standards of any nation in the region the B.D.S movement has gained wide support. Protests and conferences in support of the campaign have been held in a numerous countries and university campuses around the world - including the United States. Supporters of B.D.S. include academics, trade unions, and political parties and (sad to say) even some large Christian denominations. B.D.S. is the new face of anti-Semitism.

In a March 2016 address to 50 law students from Harvard University's honors program Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely said, *"The time has come to return to the legal truth according to international law - the 'occupation' is a lie from the Palestinian libel factory, together with the claims of apartheid. This is slander disconnected from the legal reality," she said. Hotovely explained, "the state of Israel did not occupy Judea & Samaria in 1967 from the state of Palestine, because there never was such a state. Jordan was illegally in possession of the territory, and we liberated Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria in a defensive war. After they were unable to defeat us in war throughout the years, the stage of de-*

*legitimization began; the B.D.S. movement negates the state of Israel's right to exist, and the way to fight it is by revealing the lies and letting the truth be heard throughout the world." Regarding the legal status of Israel's presence in Judea & Samaria, the 2012 Levy Report determined that Israel's presence is fully legal according to international law."* (INN)

The B.D.S. has extended its reach beyond the debates of college campus presenting itself as the anti-apartheid movement and civil rights movement of the 21st century. Those who fall for their propaganda ignore Israel's exemplary human rights and humanitarian record. They also ignore the atrocious human rights record of the proponents of B.D.S.. Far from being the heirs of the civil rights heroes of the 20th century, B.D.S. is the direct continuation of the Jew-scapegoating anti-Semitism of Nazi Germany. Like the Nazis, it advocates the expulsion of Jews from entire regions, and specifically advocates the expulsion of Jews from lands, which were legally purchased and legally granted to them by international law.

In March 2016 UK Secretary of State for Justice, Michael Gove, speaking at the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism (ICCA) conference in Berlin, said *"Israel is dealing with a prejudiced, systematic attack against its existence,"* said Gove. *"It is up to us to show solidarity with the Jews and with their right to national sovereignty."* What's more, while B.D.S. often accuses Israel of "apartheid" policies, the irony, according to Gove, is that B.D.S. is itself *"using methods of apartheid in that it calls for the shunning of Jewish academics, the boycott of Jewish goods, the de-legitimization of Jewish commerce."*

## **B.D.S. & THE CHURCH**

The B.D.S. has spread its web into the hallowed halls of the World Council of Churches and the theological colleges and seminaries. It seeks to put a wedge between the church and Israel and restore the shameful anti-Semitism cancer, which is one of the great tragedies of historic Christianity. Unfortunately the movement has received support from many NGO's. Some Christian denominations with investments in Israel have allied themselves with the anti Semites by withdrawing their investments in Israel. (In

July 2004, the 2.4-million-member, Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) which manages a set of investment funds totaling approximately \$7 billion voted 431 to 62 to "initiate a process of phased selective divestment in multinational corporations operating in Israel."

In 2016 the pension fund for the United Methodist Church blocked five Israeli banks from its investment portfolio. The fund sold off the Israeli bank stock, which was worth a several million dollars in a portfolio, which has about \$20 billion in assets. Other churches including the Episcopal Church are debating participating in the same boycott /disinvesting policy.

Today B.D.S. threatens not only to destroy Israel but also to destroy the spiritual fiber of Christianity. By promoting an apostasy towards the promises on which Christianity is built it seeks to undercut the blessing on which the whole Judeo-Christian system stands.,

It is astonishing that people who take the scriptures as their source of authority and can plainly read the words spoken to Abraham and to His descendants *"I will bless those who bless thee and curse those who curse thee."* can support this. It is even more shocking that this can happen today after decades of Christian repentance towards Israel following the holocaust and a plethora of Christian teaching on our responsibility to the Jewish people. It is repugnant in the light of Israel's extraordinary achievements in every area of humanitarian endeavor that these who claim to be engrafted into the promises commonwealth of Israel would pick Israel for sanction. The selective outrage of these denominational leaders, who support B.D.S. and pick Israel for sanction while ignoring China, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Russia, Iran, Syria and dozens of other nations amounts to nothing less than pure anti-Semitism.

Today it is *not* politically correct to show anti-Semitism. The new (politically acceptable) form of anti-Semitism is anti-Zionism. The anti-Semite opposes the Jews just because they are different. The anti-Zionist opposes their destiny and their right to live in the Middle East or in Muslim majority regions. The anti-Semite wants them out of their neighborhood. The anti-Zionist wants them out of the Middle East. There is no difference: Anti-Zionism Is anti-Semitism.