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ecology movement and an informed citizenry as the foundation for change

American Studies Association Boycott
American Studies Association endorses academic boycott of Israel
Organization says Israeli academic institutions 'complicit in oppression that denies Palestinians rights.'
(from David D 12-7-13)
The boycott makes the American Studies Association the largest academic group in the
Scholars' Group Endorses an Academic Boycott of Israel. by Richard Pérez-Peña, The New York Times, 16 December 13

An association of American professors with almost 5,000 members has voted to endorse an academic boycott of Israeli colleges and universities, the group announced Monday, making it the largest academic group in the United States to back a growing movement to isolate Israel over its treatment of Palestinians.

The group, the American Studies Association, said that its members approved the boycott resolution by a 2-to-1 margin in online balloting that concluded Sunday night, with about a quarter of the members voting.

"The resolution is in solidarity with scholars and students deprived of their academic freedom, and it aspires to enlarge that freedom for all, including Palestinians,” the American Studies Association said in a statement released Monday. (from David D)

TWO FROM HAW, COLE AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, HISTORIANS AGAINST WAR

"Obama to Netanyahu: Israel Faces Int'l Sanctions over 'Permanent Occupation' of West Bank"

By Juan Cole, Informed Comment blog, posted March 5

The author teaches history at the University of Michigan.

Israel must withdraw all settlers or face ICC, says UN report

UN Human Rights Council says Israel is in violation of Geneva convention and should face international criminal court

Harriet Sherwood in Jerusalem

theguardian.com, Thursday 31 January 2013 07.58 EST
Israel must withdraw all settlers from the West Bank or potentially face a case at the international criminal court (ICC) for serious violations of international law, says a report by a United Nations agency that was immediately dismissed in Jerusalem as "counterproductive and unfortunate".

All settlement activity in occupied territory must cease "without preconditions" and Israel "must immediately initiate a process of withdrawal of all settlers", said the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Israel, it said, was in violation of article 49 of the fourth Geneva convention, which forbids the transfer of civilian populations to occupied territory. The settlements were "leading to a creeping annexation that prevents the establishment of a contiguous and viable Palestinian state and undermines the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination," it said.

The UNHRC report broadly restated international consensus on the illegality of Israeli settlements. But its conclusions are likely to bolster the Palestinians following their admission last November to the UN as a non-member state, which potentially gives them recourse to the ICC.

"The Rome statute establishes the international criminal court's jurisdiction over the deportation or transfer, directly or indirectly, by the occupying power of parts of its own population into the territory it occupies, or the deportation or transfer of all or parts of the population of the occupied territory within or outside this territory," said the UNHRC report.

It added: "Ratification of the statute by Palestine may lead to accountability for gross violations of human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law and justice for victims."

In a statement, the Israeli foreign ministry said: "Counterproductive measures – such as the report before us – will only hamper efforts to find a sustainable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The human rights council has sadly distinguished itself by its systematically one-sided and biased approach towards Israel. This latest report is yet another unfortunate reminder of that."

Israel refused to co-operate with UNHRC investigators over the report, barring them from
access to the West Bank. Investigators conducted more than 50 interviews in Jordan with Palestinians about the impact of settlements, the confiscation of and damage to land, and violent attacks by settlers.

Hanan Ashrawi, a prominent Palestinian politician, said the report's findings were a "clear and unequivocal indictment of the illegal Israeli settlement policies and practices." Israel, she added, was "liable to prosecution".

"The report concludes that the goal behind the terror and violence of the Israeli settlers is to expel the Palestinians from their lands in order to expand illegal settlements; this is a clearly a form of forced transfer, and a proof of Israel's policy of ethnic cleansing," she said.

Earlier this week, Israel became the first country to refuse to participate in a "universal periodic review" of the human rights records of the UN's 193 member states, conducted by the UNHRC.

Palestinian and Israeli human rights group said Israel's boycott of the review set a "dangerous precedent … that could be followed by other states refusing to engage with the UN in order to avoid critical appraisals".

The UNHRC rescheduled the review for later in the year in order to give Israel time to reconsider its stance.

Israel also refused to co-operate with a UN investigation, headed by Richard Goldstone, into the three-week war in 2008-09, and it has refused entry to Israel to Richard Falk, the UN's special rapporteur on human rights in the Palestinian territories, since his appointment in 2008.

According to the UNHRC's report on settlements, Israel has established around 250 settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem since 1967, home to more than half a million Israeli citizens.

The settlements impede Palestinian access to water resources and agricultural lands, it said.

Following the Palestinians' upgrade to non-member state status, the Israeli government announced a fresh wave of settlement-building, including the development of a highly sensitive swath of land east of Jerusalem known as E1. Palestinians and most international diplomats say construction on E1 will effectively close off East Jerusalem from the West Bank and impede a territorially contiguous Palestinian state.
The Jews Have Disappointed Michele Bachmann

by David Harris Gershon  Originally published in Tikkun Daily

Michele Bachmann is disappointed in American Jews. Why? It seems we've collectively "sold out Israel" by voting for and supporting President Obama, whose policies will obviously "reduce Israel to rubble" (before her apocalyptic fantasies are realized).

There are few things which provoke me more than fundamentalist Christian concern trolls who tisk-tisk liberal Jews on politics because their theology needs my people to die, en masse, at the appointed historical time.

Few things, that is, than when such tisk-tisking is not only irrational and offensive, but idiotic as well. President Obama, much to my dismay, has continued America's tradition of allowing Israel to expand illegal settlements in Palestinian lands while simultaneously being engaged in U.S.-brokered peace talks. In fact, Israeli settlement expansion has increased by a stunning 123 percent in 2013.

Of course, this is the sort of 'pro-Israel' behavior Bachmann celebrates, the type of behavior which will lead not to Israel's self-destruction, but to its glorious rise as a shining kingdom from sea to sea.

So why, then, is Bachmann disappointed in Jews for supporting Obama? Which policies are going to result in Israel being reduced to rubble? The Obama administration's desire to negotiate with, rather than bomb, Iran.

The irony is, of course, that Bachmann and a slew of U.S. representatives threaten Israel by giving full-throated support to those with Greater Israel desires, like Housing Minister Naftali Bennett. They threaten Israel's future by blindly championing right-wing ideologies, branding them as 'pro-Israel.'

The truth is this: they are anything but. (from David D)
• It's *World* Water *Day*! Say No to Water Apartheid - US Campaign to ... 
[endtheoccupation.org/article.php?id=3966](endtheoccupation.org/article.php?id=3966)

Support *Palestinian* Water Rights. ... *March 22nd, 2014* ... Starting today, *World Water Day*, through *March 30*, when *Palestinians* mark *Land Day*, ... *Earth Palestine*, the *Palestinian BDS* National Committee, and the *Land Defense* Coalition are ...

• **What BDS and the Israeli government have in common | +972 ...** 
[972mag.com/what-bds-and-the-israeli...have.../88840/](972mag.com/what-bds-and-the-israeli...have.../88840/)

+972 Magazine

6 days ago - *Sunday, March 30, 2014* ... The first type is the BDS movement as embodied in the *Palestinian* Campaign for the ... It would build on the broad *global* consensus in opposition to the ... How could any one still *say* that Israel ever seeks peace with the *Palestinians* after all these ..... Why *Land Day* still matters.

• **Photo of the Day: Land Day** 
[www.israellycool.com/2014/03/30/photo-of-the-day-land-day/](www.israellycool.com/2014/03/30/photo-of-the-day-land-day/)

Posted by: Real Jstreets in RealJStreets *March 30, 2014* 0 1 Views. *Land Day* or *Earth Day*, whatever you want to call it., the *day* invented to support the poor, ...

• **International Solidarity Movement | Nonviolence. Justice. Freedom.** 
[palsolidarity.org/](palsolidarity.org/)

International Solidarity Movement

16th March 2014 | International Solidarity Movement | Occupied Palestine  On this date 11 ... Screen shot 2014-03-30 at 18.26.07 ... *Land Day* in Beit Hanoun, Gaza .... on Israel [http://t.co/FUMZetplvF](http://t.co/FUMZetplvF) via @MiddleEastMnt #BDS 18 hours ago ...

• **BBC's Knell amplifies PA narrative, mainstreams BDS on late-night ...** 

2 days ago - On March 27th BBC Radio 5 live's late night show 'Up All Night' ... Ahm…and the *Palestinians saying* that if the prisoner release ... of a morally equivalent view of terrorism – in some parts of the *world*. ... on after this two-*day* annual summit that's just taken place in Kuwait. .... *March 30, 2014* @ 7:06 am. BDS ...

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President Obama has declared his commitment to creating the most open and accessible administration in American history. That begins with taking comments and questions from you, the public, through our website.

**Call the President**

**PHONE NUMBERS**

Comments: 202-456-1111
Write a letter to the President

Here are a few simple things you can do to make sure your message gets to the White House as quickly as possible.

1. If possible, email us! This is the fastest way to get your message to President Obama.

2. If you write a letter, please consider typing it on an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper. If you hand-write your letter, please consider using pen and writing as neatly as possible.

3. Please include your return address on your letter as well as your envelope. If you have an email address, please consider including that as well.

4. And finally, be sure to include the full address of the White House to make sure your message gets to us as quickly and directly as possible:

   The White House
   1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
   Washington, DC 20500

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END BDS DAY MARCH 30, 2014

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Dick Bennett

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