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ANSWERS

BDS: EXPOSING THE LIES



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Chairman

World Likud



Dear Friends,

Years before the establishment of the State of Israel, the struggle to eradicate Antisemitism began both in the Land of Israel and abroad. It was fought by youth, soldiers, intellectuals, politicians etc. The generations following Ze'ev Jabotinsky and inspired by him continue his legacy to this day.

Today, 68 years after Israel's independence, Antisemitism and Anti-Israel approaches are still very much present in the world.

A new take on the oldest prejudice has reared its ugly head. These illogical lies have been spreading like wildfire on college campuses, in parliaments and media outlets around the world.

Together we are building a solid foundation for the future of Zionism and through our worldwide cooperation we are combating the rise of Antisemitism.

I call upon all members of World Likud in Israel and in the Diaspora to continue to expand our Zionist activities. We must expose the bigotry and fight against these opinions as one united body in order to eradicate this evil called Antisemitism.

"The pretexts of hatred may change, the context in which the Jews will be blamed varies, but hatred and contempt are eternal." - Ze'ev Jabotinsky

Tel Chai,

Yaakov Hagoel

World Likud, Chairman



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CEO
World Likud



Dear Friends,

One of the biggest issues in the Jewish world in the Diaspora is dealing with groups associated with the BDS movement. The BDS movement disguises itself as a human rights movement, but that is far from the truth. The BDS movement is the 21st Century incarnation of Antisemitism, though unlike acts of Antisemitism in previous generations, the BDS movement targets the Jewish state and not just the Jewish people.

Due to the multiple aggressive lies spread by BDS representatives, the World Likud is providing its members with concise and accurate facts in order to be able to respond to the lies of those who wish to denounce and destroy Israel.

We know what Antisemitism can lead to, and we will not stand by and allow history to repeat itself. As members of the World Likud organization, you can greatly benefit the State of Israel by challenging Anti-Israel speakers and thereby influencing the opinions of uninformed audiences.

Sincerely,

Ifat Ovadia- Luski

World Likud, CEO



1



Israel is an Apartheid state

The BDS Movement commonly compares Israel to South Africa, seeking to equate the Jewish state with the apartheid regime. This is a fabricated allegation. Israel is a pluralistic, democratic society in which all of its citizens are equal before the law – in stark contrast to South Africa's policies under apartheid. The BDS Movement uses lies and exaggeration to defame Israel, along with misinterpretation of international law.



2



Only an academic and consumer boycott of Israel will improve the situation of the Palestinians and bring peace

The BDS campaign does not seek "ending occupation" nor "two states for two peoples." Rather, with "the right of return" demand central to the BDS agenda, the goal is the demise of the State of Israel. This is what makes BDS the antithesis of a peace settlement as BDS nurtures an illusion of return, which actually perpetuates the conflict



3



The Gaza blockade violates international law and is only meant to make Palestinians suffer

Israel withdrew from Gaza over a decade ago to enable Gazans to flourish and prosper under self-rule. Today, the great majority of the areas evacuated by Israel are used as terrorist training grounds by the Jihadist terror group, Hamas. The current situation is meant to prevent war by keeping rockets out. It is not illegal; it is legal to blockade a hostile entity. Any claim about its illegality is based on claim of occupation. Israel has no troops in Gaza, nor does it control all of its borders. The day Hamas acknowledges previous agreements and ceases the violence will be the day the blockade will be lifted.



4



Israel murdered thousands of children in Gaza

While Israel regrets any innocent lives lost to conflict, it is a country defending its citizens against Hamas, an internationally recognized terrorist organization. Hamas brutally forces Gaza's children to build cross-border attack tunnels, uses them as human shields, and launches rockets from densely populated areas. In contrast to Hamas, which shoots with the malicious intent to harm civilians, Israel takes extreme measures, more than any other army in the world, to avoid harm to innocent non-combatants. The blame falls on those who support terrorism, not on those who fight it.



5

Israel is committing genocide on the Palestinian people

"Genocide" literally means the deliberate, systematic and literal killing of a national, racial, political, or cultural group which results in a drastic reduction of a given population's numbers.

In contrast to terrorist organizations, which intentionally target civilians, Israel makes every effort not to harm innocent civilians in combat situations.



Photo: Mark Neyman

6

The Palestinians want peace with Israel, but Israel does not want peace with them

It takes two to tango, and Israel's attempts at peace have been rejected repeatedly over the years. The Arab representatives said "NO" to the 1937 Peel Commission Partition Proposal and "NO" to the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan. During the Oslo Peace Process in the 1990's Yasser Arafat said "NO" to the Israeli proposal at the 2000 Camp David summit. President Bill Clinton then presented new ideas for an agreement: which Israel accepted, but Arafat again refused, instead choosing to launch the Second Intifada. In 2005, Israel withdrew from the entire Gaza Strip. Since that time, terrorists have launched almost 20,000 rockets into Israeli cities and towns. Subsequent peace proposals were not only shot down by the Palestinians, they were also met with an escalation of violence.



Photo: Mark Neyman

7

Israel's settlement policy is the source of the Arab-Israeli conflict

Israel's actions make it clear that the Jewish Communities in Judea and Samaria are not the obstacle to peace. Israel evacuated thousands of Jewish citizens from the Gaza Strip hoping for peace, yet this only led to an increase in terror attacks from Gaza. The source of this conflict lies in the refusal of the Palestinian Authority to condemn terror and negotiate for peace.



8

Israel does not let the Palestinian Authority manage the population in the Territories

In most aspects of day-to-day existence, Palestinians run their lives with no Israeli involvement. Israel does retain control of the overall security situation throughout Judea and Samaria to ensure that terrorists do not gain control as they did in Gaza. If that were to happen, those harmed first and foremost would be the Palestinians themselves.



9



Israel should respect the Palestinians' 'Right of Return' in accordance with International Law

There is no basis in international law for the so-called "Right of Return," which would turn the Jewish democracy into a Palestinian democracy. Return is not a requirement under international law, according to the UN High Committee on Refugees, the UN body that deals with the vast majority of the world's refugee issues.



10



Arab citizens of Israel are second-class citizens

The conditions of Israeli Arabs is far better than that of most Muslims in Europe. Israeli Arabs not only enjoy equal rights under the law, they also serve as Members of Knesset and judges (including the Supreme Court). Israeli Arabs also serve abroad as diplomats and in the IDF. There are numerous other examples of Israeli Arabs taking leadership roles in Israeli culture, art, economy and academia.



11

Israel's Apartheid wall is a violation of international law and must be torn down in order to ensure human rights

All countries have a right under international law to build fences to protect their citizens. No one can deny that the security barrier saves lives. It was raised to stem the daily flow of Palestinian suicide bombers who were penetrating the porous borders and perpetrating heinous attacks that killed upwards of 1,000 Israeli men, women and children. The UN has ruled that the barrier is 100% legal.



12

Companies that do business in the West Bank violate universally-accepted human rights

Companies do not violate human rights by doing business in Judea and Samaria. In fact, by investing in these areas numerous companies have raised the standard of living for Palestinians, provided decent wages, and made sure to respect Israeli labor laws for all employees. Jews and Palestinians both work for companies in Judea and Samaria, often giving them a rare chance to interact. Many Palestinians do not support BDS and may lose their livelihoods because of the Movement.





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