

Who supports BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions)?

Arundhati Roy, *author*

Desmond Tutu, *South African archbishop emeritus*

Naomi Klein, *author*

Alice Walker, *author*

Eduardo Galeano, *author*

Yonatan Shapira, *Israeli Air Force captain, co-founder of Combatants for Peace*

Ofra Ben-Artzi, *sister-in-law of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu*

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, *one of the first female ordained rabbis in the US*

Rabbi Brant Rosen, *one of Newsweek's top 25 US pulpit rabbis*

Stéphane Hessel, *co-author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, survivor of Buchenwald and Dora concentration camps*

American Jews for a Just Peace

International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network

Rachel Corrie Foundation

Boycott From Within, *Israel*

Code Pink

Industrial Workers of the World

Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions

Palestinian Queers for BDS

QuAIA: Queers Against Israeli Apartheid

SWANABAQ: South West Asian and North African Bay Area Queers

COSATU, *South Africa's largest trade union federation*

South African Municipal Workers Union

Canadian Union of Public Employees, *Ontario*

Central Única dos Trabalhadores—*Brazil, and other South American unions*

Scottish Trades Union Congress

Northern Ireland Public Services Alliance

Irish Congress of Trade Unions

Canadian Union of Postal Workers

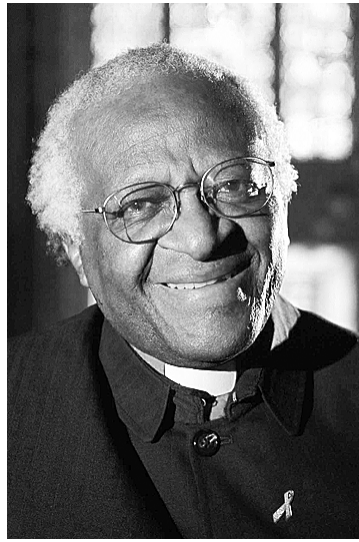
UNISON, *UK*

Unite – the Union, *UK*

Fédération Syndicale Unitaire, *France*

Over 170 Palestinian civil society organizations, within both Palestine and Israel

...and many more!



"The end of [South African] apartheid stands as one of the crowning accomplishments of the last century, but **we would not have succeeded without the help of international pressure.** There is no greater testament to the basic dignity of ordinary people everywhere than the divestment movement of the 1980s. A similar movement has taken shape recently, this time aiming at an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. **We should hope that average citizens again rise to the occasion.**"

—Desmond Tutu

THE OLYMPIA FOOD CO-OP HAS RISEN TO THE OCCASION!

The Olympia Food Co-op has joined trade unions around the world, educational institutions, pension funds, asset managers, European supermarket chains, and churches in observing the international call for **Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)** on Israel!

Please thank the Co-op for its continued commitment to social and ethical responsibility!

1. When shopping, please tell the Co-op staff that you appreciate the boycott.
2. Please send a message of thanks to the Co-op at board@olympiafood.coop and customerservice@olympiafood.coop
3. Write a thank you note on the paper comment sheets.

*Any questions? Would you like to learn more?
Please attend the following informational event:*

Why boycott? Why divest?

Learn about the international grassroots campaign of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions and find out how you can help end the Israel/Palestine conflict.

**Traditions Fair Trade, 300 5th Ave SW
Wednesday, August 4, 7:00–9:00 pm**

This entire document has been prepared by proud Co-op members and is not an official statement by the Co-op itself.



"I don't think it's brave that I supported the BDS call in 2008, when Gaza was being attacked and children were dying. The call was made in 2005. I'm ashamed that it took me this long.

I'm not being humble when I say that I'm sorry, that it was nothing but cowardice. It was nothing but cowardice. **But I ask all of you out there who are on the fence to please join me."**

—Naomi Klein, *author, activist*

"We are all peace makers, and we believe that **no amount of dialogue without economic pressure** can motivate Israel to change its policy of using overwhelming force against Palestinian civilians."

—Rigoberta Menchu, *Guatemala, 1992 Nobel Peace Laureate*
 Shirin Ebadi, *Iran, 2003 Nobel Peace Laureate*
 Mairead Maguire, *Ireland, 1976 Nobel Peace Laureate*
 Jody Williams, *USA, 1997 Nobel Peace Laureate*

"I'm Jewish and Israeli. I have a responsibility for the crimes that are taking place by the Israeli government in my name. My effect as a military refusenik is here, in Israel. The privileges that we receive in Israel, as an Apartheid state, carries with them also the responsibility to resist and expose that system. For example, when a Palestinian goes overseas to talk about the occupation, to support the BDS campaign, upon their return they will be arrested, if not worse. So as a Jew and Israeli, I need to use the privileges that I get, **to call an end to this whole racist system."**

—Yonatan Shapira, *Israeli Air Force captain, co-founder of Combatants for Peace*



"I believe that **BDS is the only viable nonviolent method** that can impact 'facts on the ground.' All of us who love freedom, justice and peace, all of us who love the people of Israel and the people of Palestine have a profound responsibility to act in alignment with the people who are the actual victims in this situation. They are calling for BDS."

—Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, *one of the first female ordained rabbis in the US*

Did the Co-op carry many Israeli products?

No, not many.

Does this affect all Israeli products?

Almost. An exception is made for "Peace Oil," which is olive oil fairly traded from Palestinian farmers in the West Bank and the Galilee.

Why a boycott on Israel?

The call for a boycott on Israel is part of an international grassroots campaign of boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS), requested by over 170 organizations of Palestinian civil society, both in Palestine and in Israel.

Israel continues to act with impunity by illegally occupying Palestinian land, expanding its territory through illegal settlement and land expropriation, expelling Palestinians from their homes through racially-biased implementation of laws, violating several international laws and ignoring dozens of UN Security Council resolutions, and holding 1.5 million people in the Gaza Strip under a brutal siege designed to prevent .

Is this the first time the Co-op has honored a boycott?

No. The Co-op has policy guidelines for observing boycotts and has a long tradition of honoring boycotts. Previous boycotts include boycotting Chinese products (for the occupation of Tibet), boycotting Colorado (for legalizing discrimination against gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in 1992), and boycotting Gardenburger (for its connections to NORPAC's unfair labor practices).

Additionally, the Co-op takes social justice and ethical considerations into its product selection. For instance, it does not stock products that are exploitive or oppressive in their packaging.

On what authority is the Co-op honoring the boycott? Why didn't the Co-op ask members before honoring the boycott?

The Co-op has established policy guidelines for observing boycotts, and the Israel boycott fit those guidelines. *No previous boycott call has ever been presented to Co-op members prior to implementation.*

Moreover, the original request by a Co-op volunteer to honor the Israel boycott was made in 2008 but was not addressed until now.

Does this boycott hurt all Israelis?

The original call for BDS originated from both Palestine and Israel. There are many Israelis in support of the BDS call. Both Palestinians and Israelis have faced arrests, beatings, and death threats simply to ask the world to participate in the BDS campaign.

The goal of the campaign is not to hurt Israelis individually, but to pressure Israel politically through consumer power and economic exchange towards justice and peace.

Discontinuing a few Israeli products does not actually offset the \$3+ billion a year that the US gives to Israel, which is more than US aid to all of sub-Saharan Africa. However, as part of a global campaign, the boycott sends a message to Israel that unconditional US support is not sanctioned by the people of the US, and that it is not guaranteed. The impact of the campaign will hurt Israel as a whole politically more than it could ever hurt individuals economically.

This should be distinguished from Israel's blockade of Gaza, which was deliberately designed, in the words of the Israeli government, to wage "economic warfare," to ensure "no development," and to put 1.5 million Palestinians "on a diet."

Is this campaign one-sided?

No. As already stated, the US gives \$3 billion a year to Israel, which is as one-sided as it gets. Additionally, Israel has imposed "closure"—an extreme form of sanctions—on the Gaza Strip. Israel actually prevents Gaza from developing goods and exporting goods. This means that Israel prevents the world from purchasing products from Gaza. At the same time, Israel has monopoly control over Gaza, forcing Gazans to purchase only Israeli goods.

Can a boycott change anything?

If history is an indicator, then yes. Remember the Montgomery bus boycott, the Indian boycotts of Britain, the grape boycotts of the 1960s, the Coalition of Imokalee Workers campaign against Taco Bell, and the BDS campaign against apartheid South Africa.

South Africans haven't forgotten the effectiveness of BDS, which is why so many South African organizations have enthusiastically promoted BDS to bring peace and justice to the Palestine/Israel conflict.

