

For the first time in decades, many Palestinian organizations and activists see a reason for hope as their call to boycott Israel is gathering momentum.

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign is modelled on the movement against South Africa's apartheid system in the 1980s. It is a grassroots campaign called for by Palestinians themselves and doing what governments are failing to do – stand up to the apartheid state of Israel.

The BDS campaign aims to address the demands of not just the 4 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza, but also the more than 1 million Palestinian citizens of Israel and roughly 4 million Palestinians living in refugee camps throughout the Middle East.

In the weeks since the assault on the Gaza flotilla, the BDS movement has seen huge steps forward: 1,500 dockworkers at ports across Sweden refused to handle cargo to and from Israel, and a few days later, 1,000 activists set up a picket line at the Port of Oakland that was honoured by dockworkers, preventing an Israeli ship from being unloaded for 24 hours.

Last year Ireland's Council of Trade Unions (ICTU), following a motion from anti-war activists in Derry, and after an ICTU visit to Palestine, called for full trade union support for the boycott campaign.

Furthermore, Dublin City Council, in May 2010, passed a resolution calling on the City Manager not to sign or renew any contracts with French multinational Veolia – the operators of the LUAS who have also tendered for the Metro North project.

Veolia operate Israeli rail, bus and waste services in the illegally occupied West Bank.

Also in recent weeks, a growing list of musicians has refused to play concerts in Israel. Gil Scott-Heron cancelled the Israeli stop of his world tour, as did the Pixies, Massive Attack and Elvis Costello.

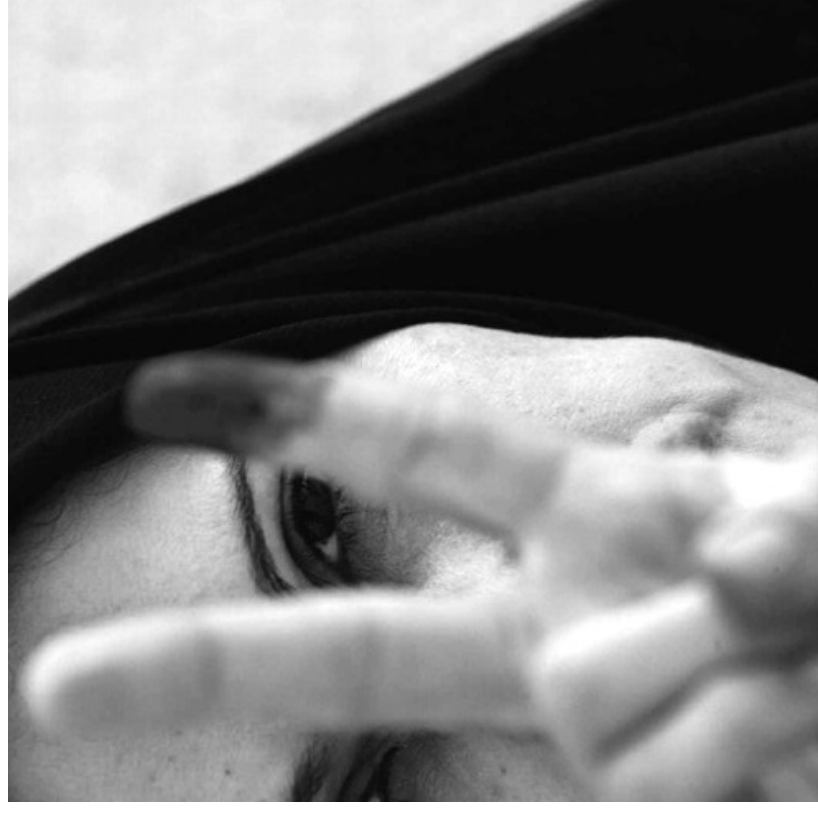
If you are interested in joining our boycott activities and our blockade of the Israeli embassy contact us on our website irishantiwar.org or **facebook**.

Irish Anti War Movement
irishantiwar.org



Day School

Israel, Palestine and the Politics of the Middle East



Saturday August 7th, 12.30 – 6 pm
Central Hotel, Exchequer St, Dublin
Tickets: €5 unwaged €10 waged

Day School

Israel, Palestine and the Politics of the Middle East

Saturday August 7th, 12.30 – 6 pm

Central Hotel, Exchequer St, Dublin

Tickets: €5 unwaged €10 waged

12.30-1.30	Israel and the Arab States	Anne Alexander (author of 'Nasser - Life and Times')
2.30-3.30	Expression workshop Zionism and apartheid	Sarah Wood (Facilitator) Claudia Saba (Palestinian activist)
4.00-5.30	Islam and resistance (Panel of speakers)	Ahmed El Habash (Palestinian Rights Institute) Michael Youlton (IAWM) Anne Alexander Francesco Cavorta (Author: <i>Democratization in the Muslim World</i>)
5.30-6.30	The Politics of Anti-Imperialism	Richard Boyd Barrett (Chair IAWM) Fintan Lane (Participant on Gaza Flotilla)

Israel's attack on the civilians on the Freedom Flotilla with the death of nine civilians and the wounding of over 40 was unprovoked, unwarranted, and brutal. It brought home yet again the true nature of the Israeli state.

The flotilla was attempting to break the Israeli blockade on Gaza – a blockade that forces 75% of the people of Gaza to rely on food aid and prevents 60% of the population from any access to water. The Flotilla activists from many countries, including Ireland, were trying to break this siege and get much needed food and aid through - something that governments have not shown themselves willing to do.

Support for the flotilla has reverberated around the world. The Irish Anti War Movement, along with others, has mobilised large numbers on demonstrations in Dublin. It has been calling for the expulsion of the Israeli Ambassador here. It has held several blockades of the Israel Embassy the first of which succeeded in closing the Embassy down for one day.

People see how much Israel relies on its Western backers. Obama, even after the flotilla murders, yet again praised Netanyahu for being serious about peace! Every time a further move to ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians is made, US military might and billions of dollars in aid is there to support Israel.

The conflict is opening people's eyes to the politics of the Middle East and how Western interests back the status quo. The actions of the Israeli state, including its building of a concrete prison wall and its stubborn continuation of the building of settlements criss-crossing the West Bank, have made many see Israel as an apartheid state which needs to be changed.

Historian Ilan Pappé refers to Israel's treatment of the Palestinians as ethnic cleansing and says that it has deep political causes. Some of the questions that this day-school seeks to address are:

- **What is the solution to the ending of the apartheid state of Israel?**
- **Why does the Irish government refuse to stand up clearly to Israel?**
- **Why does the EU treat Israel as a special ally?**
- **What do the governments of the Arab states not stand up to Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestinians?**
- **Why does political Islam seem to be leading the resistance to Israel?**
- **Is the call for boycotting Israel anti-Semitic?**

Come along and discuss these with us. There will be sessions aimed at full participation and others where you can ask questions and raise points, or just listen, if you like!