



The Israeli government, which furiously opposes any criticism or pressure, slanders BDS activists as dupes or anti-Semites. They threaten Palestinians who call for BDS and in 2016 took away Omar Barghouti's travel document. In 2017 they arrested him weeks before he was to receive PEP's Gandhi Peace Award.

## Get Involved

Join in BDS campaigns like those directed at HP, AirBnB, State of Israel Bonds, Sabra Humus, etc. Get your college to sell off its investments in Israeli apartheid. If you're in a trade union ask your national Treasurer if the international owns Israel bonds and if it does agitate until it sells them. Go to [www.BDSmovement.net](http://www.BDSmovement.net) for the latest information and items to boycott.

Promoting Enduring Peace is a member of the CT BDS Coalition and supports the tactic of using peaceful economic pressure to get the Israeli government to respect Palestinian human and national rights. We are divesting our endowment from targeted Israeli companies.

## Promoting Enduring Peace

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[www.PEPeace.org](http://www.PEPeace.org)

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# What is BDS?



Why Should We  
Use it to Pressure  
the Israeli Government?



**Promoting Enduring Peace**  
Peace on Earth. Peace with Earth.



Six weeks after Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, thousands of war veterans marched down the streets of New York City demanding a boycott of German goods. They were organized by a group called the *Jewish War Veterans (JWV)*. On the reviewing stand at City Hall they heard from Mayor John P. O'Brien. A few weeks later 20,000 people filled Madison Square Garden and thousands outside listened to denunciations of Germany and calls for boycott. JWV pickets surrounded stores and within a year Macy's, Gimbels, Woolworth's and many other top companies joined in the boycott against products made in Germany.

This long ago event should be recalled as the Israeli government bans entry to foreigners who support a boycott as a way to get respect for Palestinian human rights, and as Governor Andrew Cuomo calls the boycott a "smear campaign" and as over 30 U.S. Senators support a bill that would give federal support to states that punish people for calling for a boycott.

Boycotts are a normal free speech activity named after a an organized refusal by Irish in County Mayo in the 1880's to have anything to do with a land agent named Charles Boycott.

Trade unions have routinely used boycotts to help during strikes or sometimes in place of strikes. Think of the "grape boycotts" of fifty years ago launched by Latino union leader Cesar Chavez.

The boycott against Hitler in the 1930's, of course, did not succeed, but an earlier Jewish boycott won big. In the 1920's the most well-known anti-Semite in the world was the auto maker Henry Ford. He owned a newspaper, the *Dearborn Independent*, that he used to spread hatred of Jews. Jews and supporters started a boycott of Ford cars in 1920. In 1927 Ford sold off the newspaper and wrote a letter of apology to Jews.

To call on someone to buy or not buy something is an obvious right. A decision to boycott a company or a government is a question of morality, not an act of hatred. The charge by the ultra-right wing Israeli government and its supporters in the U.S. that boycotts of Israeli products are anti-Semitic acts is plainly false. 1,000 members of Jewish Voice for Peace gathered in Chicago in March 2017 and reaffirmed their support for the boycott to end Israeli abuses against Palestinians. They're right. Palestinians suffer endless discrimination, land theft and expulsions.

**BDS, Boycotts,  
Divestment  
and Sanctions**

The BDS movement start in the Occupied Territories of in 2005 as 170 Palestinian non-governmental organizations put out a call. They asked people to especially target institutions and Israelis who take part in the injustices against Palestinians or help with Israel with warmaking.

BDS has three goals: 1) Ending Israeli's occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall 2) Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality and 3) Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194

The calls to boycott are not calls to boycott every Israeli and certainly not a call to boycott Jews. Many Jews support BDS. BDS actions are targeted such as those against G4S, a British company that builds Israeli prisons, or AirBnB that rents out homes in West Bank settlements on stolen Palestinian land. Other examples are HP computers, made by a company that sells its technology to Israel where it's used by the Israeli army and at Israeli checkpoints. Then there are State of Israel Bonds, boycotted because they give Israel low interest loans that help finance anything at all, from the Apartheid Wall to invasions of neighboring countries.

