

In July 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that:

"the construction by Israel of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and its associated régime are contrary to international law"



As of 2014, ten years after the ICJ ruling, Israel continues to construct the illegal wall

2004 Advisory Opinion by ICJ
Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Many universities across Canada have leapt forward and have adopted BDS against Israel:

- University of Regina Students Union (February 2012)
- Graduate Students Association at Carleton University (March 2012)
- York University Graduate Students Association (November 2012)
- University of Toronto Graduate Students Association (December 2012)
- **Concordia University Graduate Students Association** (January 2013)
- University of Toronto Mississauga Students Union (February 2013)
- Trent University Central Students Association (February 2013)
- York Federation of Students (March 2013)
- Scarborough Campus Students' Union (April 2013)

Now it's Concordia's turn!
Help us take the right step for social justice



What is BDS?

BDS stands for **B**oycott, **D**ivestment and **S**anctions. BDS was initiated by Palestinian civil society in 2005, in an effort to pressure the Israeli government to comply with international law.

BDS against Israel apartheid was inspired by the successful movement to abolish apartheid in South Africa through diverse forms of boycott, divestment and sanctions. These are non-violent and peaceful means used in order to achieve freedom, justice and equality.

Why BDS?

For decades, Israel has denied Palestinians their fundamental rights of freedom, equality, and self-determination, through ethnic cleansing, colonization, discrimination, and military occupation. Israel's crimes continue with impunity. Through BDS, the world community seeks to hold Israel accountable and enforce compliance with basic principles of law.

Moreover, Israel says it stands for peace and claims to aid Palestinians, but as far as Israel is concerned, peace only means defending the status quo. Furthermore, Palestinians are not asking Israel for aid, they are asking for freedom and justice. So far, the status quo is a synonym of oppression, discrimination, apartheid, and human rights violations against the Palestinian people. This needs to change!

Is BDS anti-Semitic?

BDS is not anti-Semitic. BDS is not about religion. To use this term against people that have legitimate concerns over human right abuses only serves to silence a public conversation on the subject of Israel, while leaving great discomfort in people's minds unexpressed.

BDS tactics are directed against the Israeli government, not against the Jewish people. The BDS movement emanates over disagreement with Israeli domestic and foreign policies, which this country enjoys as a sovereign nation. Members of the international community and civil society have not only the right, but also the duty to disagree with and condemn the domestic and foreign policies of any sovereign nation that acts in clear violation of international law and human rights. Israel should not be exempted from this norm.

"It is clear that **Israeli measures**, in the form of policies, laws and practices, **have the effect of preventing Palestinians from full participation in the political, social, economic and cultural life of Palestine** and arguably also prevent their full development in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip" (Section 69)



2014 report by Richard Falk (Human Rights Council) for the United Nations General Assembly (p. 18).

The Israeli army prevents hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from collecting rainwater and "frequently destroys small rainwater harvesting cisterns built by communities who have no access to running water"



2009 report by Amnesty International: *Troubled Waters - Palestinians Denied Fair Access to Water* (p. 34).

"Israeli authorities demolished 561 Palestinian homes and other buildings in the West Bank, displacing 933 people. Israeli authorities demolished every structure in the Palestinian communities of Tel al-`Adassa and Khillet Mak-hul"

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

2014 *World Report* by Human Rights Watch (p. 557).

If you stand by the universal claim that every individual is entitled to live each day with dignity, regardless of race, class, culture, belief, or gender, then you stand against oppression.

Help us win justice for the Palestinian people!



"Flying Balloon Girl," by graffiti artist Banksy, on a wall in the West Bank