

2020-2022



SA BDS Coalition

Activity Report



Coalition activists and Clover strikers protest at DTI offices Pretoria

Members of the SA BDS Coalition: Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) Gauteng and Cape Town; Palestine Solidarity Alliance (PSA); PSA Youth League; South African Jews for a Free Palestine (SAJFP); PSC Wits University; University of Cape Town PSC; Stellenbosch Palestine Solidarity Forum; University of Pretoria PSC; University of Western Cape PSA; South African Academic Network Against Apartheid Israel (SAANAAI); Nelson Mandela University Palestine Solidarity Organisation; UKZN Palestine Solidarity Organisation; Potch For Palestine.

How the Coalition started

The South African BDS Coalition is a network of Palestine solidarity organisations and is the South African affiliate to the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC) that issued the call for international boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel in 2015.

The BNC represents the broadest coalition of Palestinian civil society, including all political parties, trade unions, human rights and grass roots organisations.

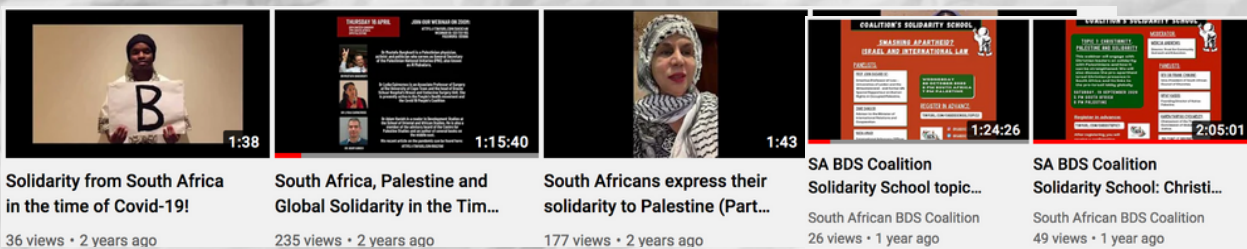


After discussions with the Palestinian BNC towards creating a Palestine solidarity network representatives of Palestine solidarity organisations (PSOs), came together convened by Nkosi Mandla Mandela, Ronnie Kasrils and Mercia Andrews. We worked towards a workshop that was held in February 2020 bringing together around 40 individuals and activists. Breakaway groups discussed how they envisaged the Coalition - the structure, values and strategic focus - in order to create an active and inclusive network to intensify and coordinate solidarity for the Palestinian struggle across South Africa. An Interim Committee was appointed to organise a public launch event.

The Covid pandemic and lockdowns put plans for Israeli Apartheid Week and a public launch event on hold and forced the Coalition to establish itself on-line. The Interim Committee met regularly and organised a number of webinars and solidarity schools on different themes with Palestinian participants; created solidarity videos; issued statements to highlight repression against Palestinians and Palestinian resistance during Covid; held a strategic planning session; started a presence on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and built up our media reach.

In response to the BNC Global South campaign against the Israeli announcement of renewed annexation of Palestinian land, the Coalition issued a statement with over 200 signatories of prominent South Africans in the fields of politics, culture, sport, human rights, trade unions, academia, professionals military, judicial, faith based and government personalities including former Presidents Mbeki and Motlanthe.

a examples of a few on-lineactivities during the Covid lockdown



In November 2021 to coincide with the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People the Coalition held it's launch meeting and first Annual General Meeting on-line. A Constitution was adopted and a Committee was elected to take forward the strategic plan for the year ahead.

The coalition exists to bring various solidarity organisations together, under common campaigns, structures, and principles. It therefore creates a platform for the different PSO's to work together and support one another.



PRINCIPLES

Acting Against

**All forms of sexual harassment and gender discrimination;
All forms of racism including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, xenophobia, homophobia all forms of oppression and exploitation.**

Actively Supporting:

**Intersectional struggles for human rights and justice;
Non-violent international solidarity.
(Principles derived from <https://bdsmovement.net>)**

On the politics of Israel and Palestine

The SA BDS Coalition and its affiliates broadly understand the situation in the terms outlined below. In turn, this informs our strategy and approach to solidarity.

- Israel is a settler colonial apartheid state;**
- The struggle for Palestinian liberation is not about religious differences and Zionism does not equate with Judaism;**
- We support BDS as a key strategy of international solidarity in support of the Palestinian struggle;**
- We support the ending of the occupation and colonization, the dismantling of the apartheid wall, the Right of Return for all Palestinians, and equal rights for all.**

On engaging with organisations in South Africa

The SA BDS Coalition is based and embedded in the realities of South African life and its affiliates thus engage with South African politics according to the following broad principles:

- While we lobby and engage with political parties we remain independent of them.**

- The Palestinian struggle is an intersectional and international one and we thus also support those struggling for the advancement of human rights and freedoms, democracy, social justice, equity, dignity, respect and against inequalities in South Africa and beyond.



Over 40 in person and online events took place during IAW 2022. From discussions, balloon releases, poetry evenings, hikes and fun runs, community and school activities, mural painting and pickets, Coalition PSOs flew the Palestinian flag across South Africa.

IAW 2022

Only Liberated Minds Can Dismantle Apartheid
"We are reminded that just as we fought together to defeat apartheid in South Africa, we need to forcefully challenge Israeli apartheid as it is deployed against the Palestinian people today."

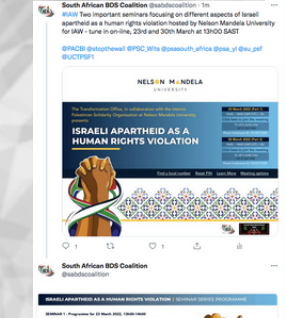
Angela Davis



busy weekend of activities for #IAW! hike for Palestine; run/walk with Runners For Palestine; outdoor movie screening and picnic; forced removals then and now; anti xenophobia demonstration and more....



9:13 AM · Mar 28, 2022 · Twitter Web App



South African BDS Coalition @sabdcoalition · 44s
 #IAW Vvia PSC University of Pretoria
 Making a powerful stand against the anti-IAW hasbara of the South African Union of Jewish Students!

#EndIsraeliApartheid
 #KICKISRAELOUTOFAFRICA
 @PACBI @stopthefwall @PSC_Wits @passouth_africa @psa_yf @psu_paf @psu_up @PalestinePaper



South African BDS Coalition @sabdcoalition · 35s
 @stopthefwall @PACBI @PSC_Wits @passouth_africa @psa_yf @PalestinePaper @psu_paf @UCTPSP1



Viva Unity Intifada!



In May 2021 the threat of forced removals from the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah catalyzed Palestinian protests in the West Bank, the Naqab, the open-air prison of Gaza and within '48 territories defying Israel's apartheid bantustanisation, fragmentation and segregation and inspiring the world. The Coalition brought PSOs together in Nakba Day protest and solidarity. Actions included a picket at the Israeli trade office in Sandton; a protest at the Israeli Embassy in Pretoria; a motorcade and protest at the Zionist Federation office in Johannesburg; a motorcade to the Gauteng Legislature and rally in Johannesburg; a candlelight vigil at Wits University and a picket outside Parliament in Cape Town.



14 May 2015

[2 pages total]

SA BDS Coalition protests around the country against apartheid Israeli war crimes

Tomorrow marks the 73rd anniversary of the Nakba, or catastrophe, that saw 750,000 Palestinians expelled from their homeland leading up to the establishment of the State of Israel. 73 years later the Nakba is ongoing. Yet again the world is witnessing horrific events perpetrated by the apartheid Israeli state. In the last two weeks illegal Israeli settlers, protected by Israeli state security forces, forcibly removed people in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah from homes they have lived in for generations; Israeli occupation forces, unprovoked, stormed Al Aqsa mosque, detonating tear-gas, sound bombs, and firing rubber coated steel bullets leaving over 200 Palestinians wounded on the last Friday of Ramadan; now there is intensified bombing of civilians in Gaza where currently more than 121 Palestinians have been killed including 31 children and over 900 injured; while Zionist lynch mobs are rampaging within the 1948 border.

The world cannot continue its silence and inaction. The time is now for our government to call for sanctions and isolate apartheid Israel. South Africa must cut all bilateral relations including trade, diplomatic, sport and academic ties. Apartheid Israel must be isolated as apartheid South Africa was in support of the just resistance of the Palestinian people for peace, justice and equal rights.

The SA BDS Coalition and its affiliates throughout the country have organised the following events to mark Nakba Day and in protest at the on-going Nakba (see below).

For more information please contact:

#Nakba73 Actions this week

#SaveSheikJarrah #DefendJerusalem

Saturday 15 May



09:00-12:00 #Nakba73 Protest at Israeli Embassy

428 Kings Highway, Lynwood, Pretoria
witspsc@gmail.com

Motorcade to Gauteng Legislature

Lenasia (Rose Park 1pm)
Emmarentia (Marks Park 2pm)
3pm Rally at Mary Fitzgerald Square
info@palesinesa.co.za

14:00 Screening of 'Roadmap to Apartheid' at Labia theatre

Followed by a talk by Rev. Alan Boesak
On Zoom and at the Labia Theatre, Cape Town
Register for zoom tinyurl.com/PSCLABIA2021

18:00 #Nakba73: Global Online Rally For Palestine

Register here
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/1ZU5demtrj0iHdOrmdVEo5y3U54SvIA6KxVv>

Sunday 16 May

11:00 Gqeberha protest

Kings Beach parking lot to Shark Rock Pier
RSVP: palestineyounghearts@gmail.com



SABDS COALITION@GMAIL.COM
TWITTER: @SABDS COALITION
INSTAGRAM: @SA_BDS COALITION
FACEBOOK: SABDS COALITION



Trade Union and Social Movements in Solidarity

Linking Palestinian struggles with South African workers and community organisations is vital to building popular Palestine solidarity. The Coalition has formed strong links with COSATU and SAFTU unions as well as community housing, anti-eviction, anti-xenophobia campaigns and water activists where there are direct links of solidarity with Palestinian workers and communities facing forced removals and ethnic cleansing, racism and apartheid. Here are some of the highlights of joint activism over the last two years.

#Boycott Clover Strike

The Palestinian New Unions, in a statement of support to the striking Clover workers said: It pains us to see our fellow workers in South Africa suffering from the rapacious and exploitative practices of Milco SA, a subsidiary of the Israeli Central Bottling Company (CBC).



19 January 2022

SA BDS Coalition supports striking Clover workers, calls to expel apartheid Israel from South Africa

The South African BDS Coalition has opposed the Israeli Central Bottling Company (CBC) takeover of South African dairy company Clover, through its subsidiary Milco SA from the outset. Milco's acquisition of Clover has made it abundantly clear that Israel has brought apartheid back to South African shores.

CBC operates the Israeli Coca Cola bottling plants, the main factory in the illegal 'industrial development' settlement of Atarot, outside Jerusalem, on land stolen from Palestinians in 1967. The system of Israeli apartheid ensures that Israeli companies in Atarot are showered with incentives while Palestinian areas are de-developed so that Palestinian workers from Jerusalem are forced to work in Atarot under difficult and unsafe labour conditions, deprived of basic job entitlements. The illegal apartheid wall constructed in 2002 encircles Atarot, colonising even more Palestinian land, and Palestinian workers are humiliated daily at military checkpoints simply trying to get from homes to workplaces.

The Palestinian New Unions, in a statement of support to the striking Clover workers said:

It pains us to see our fellow workers in South Africa suffering from the rapacious and exploitative practices of Milco SA, a subsidiary of the Israeli Central Bottling Company (CBC).

From Palestinians suffering under Israeli apartheid we stand with you. No-one, not in Palestine and not in South Africa, should be forced by Milco and the like into unacceptable labour conditions!

You fear that Milco is systematically undermining the South African dairy sector to use Clover as a distributor for its own products. A large amount of revenue of the Israeli dairy sector in fact comes from exports while it has a long history of systematically destroying the Palestinian dairy sector. Dairy farms in Gaza have been bombed and cows have been shot by ground forces. In the West Bank, dairy farms are being demolished and Palestinian dairy factories are regularly barred from selling their products to Palestinians in East Jerusalem, a market that makes up to 40% of the Palestinian dairy sector.

We applaud your bravery to challenge the shameful job losses, wage cuts and restructuring imposed by Milco SA. We fully support your call to safeguard the South African dairy sector through nationalisation of Milco's predatory policies.

In November last year, 5,000 workers across the country from the General Industrial Workers Union of South Africa (GIWUSA) and the Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) downed tools in opposition to anti-worker "austerity" measures introduced by the Israeli-owned company: the closure of six Clover factories (Parrow and Milnerton, Western Cape closed in 2020; Frankfurt and Heilbron in Free State, Lichtenburg in North West and City Deep in Gauteng are also planned to close). This has already had a negative impact on dairy farms in these areas which are forced to scale down or even close. Some 1,800 workers were retrenched in 2021 alone, and a further 812 are scheduled to be retrenched by end February. Milco also plans a 20% wage cut and an increase in working hours. This confirms Milco's hypocrisy in its bid to acquire Clover when it claimed that it would create 500 jobs and grow the South African economy.

Across Africa, Israel is spreading the myth that it can provide 'development' and investment. The Palestinian BDS National Committee, representing the largest coalition of trade unions, political parties, civil society and grass roots movements, among Palestinians, said in its statement of support to the strikers:

Milco's takeover of Clover is a microcosm of the disastrous impact apartheid Israel has had in Africa, exposing Israeli claims about 'helping development in Africa' as little more than propaganda stunts intended to whitewash Israel's real agenda.

Israel's intervention in Africa has mainly manifested itself in arms and security deals with authoritarian regimes and dictatorships, fuelling civil wars and enabling crimes against humanity, from apartheid in South Africa to Rwanda, South Sudan and more. It provides over a dozen African states with cyber weapons to spy on and repress their population. On top of that, the profits Israeli companies make by exploiting workers and farmers across Africa, including in South Africa, go to fuel Israel's apartheid economy.

The South African BDS Coalition stands shoulder to shoulder with Palestinian and South African workers in calling on our government to reverse the buy-out of Clover by Milco; to reject Israeli investment in South African companies; cut economic, diplomatic, sporting and cultural ties with Israel; and push for international sanctions and an arms embargo to isolate apartheid Israel.

Just as internationalist solidarity helped to attain freedom in South Africa, so too can it help in Palestine. From displaced workers in Lichtenburg, South Africa to those in Sheikh Jarrah, occupied Jerusalem, the Naqab (Negev) and beyond – our struggles against exploitation and apartheid are inseparable.

For more information please contact:



#CloverStrike2021

**STAND WITH WORKERS!
STAND WITH PALESTINIANS!
BOYCOTT CLOVER**

#BoycottClover #WorkersNeedBetter #StopMilcoWorkers #BohannanAntiApartheidClover #NationalCloverUnderWorkersControl

#CloverStrike2021

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Block The Boat

The Coalition mobilised in Durban to block the Israeli shipping company Zim Lines from docking in Durban harbour bringing together community activists in the Coalition of the Poor including Abahlali baseMjondolo, Informal Traders Association, Durban South Environmental Alliance alongside dockside trade unions SATAWU (COSATU), NUMSA (SAFTU) and RETUSA. The protest was part of the global Block The Boat campaign



What is Zim? And why block it?

The Israeli Zim shipping company is apartheid Israel's largest shipping company, and one of the top twenty global shipping companies in the world.

Zim's history includes transporting European settlers to support the development of the settler-colonial project of Israel in Palestine in 1948, transporting weapons to be used against the Global South, and most recently in the US.



Lessons from Trade Union and Community Activists

SPEAKERS



DR. RAFAEF ZIADAH
(PANEL CHAIR)
LECTURER IN POLITICS AT SOAS, SPOKEN WORD ARTIST, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, FORMER BDS NATIONAL COORDINATING COMPANY MEMBER



LARA KISWANI (USA)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AROC IN SAN FRANCISCO, WHICH HAS PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN COORDINATING BLOCK THE BOAT ACTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA



ERIK HELGESON (SWEDEN)
DOCKWORKER AT THE PORT OF GOTHENBURG WHO SERVES ON BOTH THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL BOARD OF THE SWEDISH DOCKWORKERS UNION (SDU).



ZUHAYR MAHOMED (SOUTH AFRICA)
STUDENT ACTIVIST AND COORDINATOR OF THE DURBAN BLOCK THE BOAT CAMPAIGN WITH THE SA BDS COALITION THAT IS LEADING THE ACTION



JOSÉ NIVOI (ITALY)
DOCKWORKER AT THE PORT OF GENOVA & MEMBERS OF THE UNIONE SINDACALE DI BASE WHICH HAS HELPED TO COORDINATE RECENT BLOCKADES OF ARMS TO ISRAEL FROM THE PORT OF LIVORNO



GIACOMO MARCHETTI (ITALY)
DOCKWORKER AT THE PORT OF GENOVA & MEMBERS OF THE UNIONE SINDACALE DI BASE WHICH HAS HELPED TO COORDINATE RECENT BLOCKADES OF ARMS TO ISRAEL FROM THE PORT OF LIVORNO

Kopanang Africa Against Xenophobia (KAAX)



Kopanang Africa
against xenophobia

As Africans we share a past of colonised lands, dispossession, murder, incarceration, dehumanisation and slavery. We continue in our struggle to fight this indignity. Africa united in our liberation struggle with us independence.

Now we also share a present. We may have removed the shackles of exploitation by international companies and governments. They still suck us dry of our resources while our own elites, in collusion with global multinational companies, are getting rich.

Blaming and attacking Africans from the African continent will not create work for the tens of millions of South Africans who live below the poverty line. It is only through the unified organisation, mobilisation and struggles of the majority of people - the workers and the poor - that we can build caring, equal and just societies for all.

This is why we say:

DON'T FIGHT! UNITE!

Let us unite in our struggle for:

- Equality before the law for all
- Dignified work for all
- Adequate shelter for all
- Clean air and water for all
- Food security for all
- Good quality, decolonised, accessible education for all
- Free good quality healthcare for all
- An end to the exploitation and theft of our land and resources
- An end to discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, race, nationality and poverty

Solidarity with the Palestinian struggle against Israeli apartheid is inseparable from the fight against racism and xenophobia in South Africa. The Coalition actively supports KAAX, joining the march against xenophobia as part of our IAW programme

Pan African Palestine Solidarity Network (PAPSN)



The Coalition has played an active part in establishing the Pan-African Palestine Solidarity Network, an African continental network of civil society organisations and individual activists in solidarity with and supporting the liberation of the Palestinian people.

The network was formed in June 2021 after discussions among numerous Palestine solidarity organisations on the African continent. It includes members from some 20 countries across the continent, and continues to grow.

PAPSN vision:
an African continent, with both its governments and its peoples, united in solidarity with the Palestinian people, working together for the isolation of apartheid Israel, and against colonialism, occupation, apartheid and Zionism, and supporting the Palestinian struggle in whatever way might be necessary, in order to realise a liberated Palestinian people.

Anti-Apartheid Conference, Senegal



In March 2022 PAPSN convened an historic gathering of Palestine solidarity activists from all corners of our vast continent – from Botswana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, The Gambia, GhanaGuinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. After a two-day PAPSN strategy meeting, PAPSN held a public press conference. Nkosi Mandla Mandela and Emma Nyerere joined speakers from Palestine and all regions of the African continent.

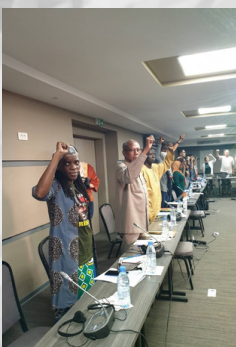
The delegates who gathered in Dakar declared that we stand united in revolutionary solidarity with the Palestinian people. We are convinced that Africans will never enjoy the fruits of our liberation until the Palestinian people are also free from Israel's racism, apartheid and colonial occupation.



Our objectives

The objectives of the Pan-African Palestine Solidarity Network are to:

- Identify and strengthen the capacities of African Palestinian solidarity groups to make them effective platforms for advocacy and action against Israeli apartheid, settler-colonialism and occupation.
- Develop PAPSN into an effective civil society African body to:
 - * strengthen the ties between the Palestinian and African peoples;
 - * as a coalition and through its members, create awareness about the Palestinian struggle, challenging the myths and misconceptions about Israeli apartheid that permeate the continent;
 - * develop research and advocacy tools to expose and challenge the infiltration in Africa by Apartheid Israel through military ties and so-called development cooperation;
 - * be part of the global BDS movement and build context-sensitive and effective BDS campaigns on the continent;
 - * lobby African governments, the African Union, regional bodies and civil society formations;
 - * to uphold the mandates of the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights and provide concrete support to the Palestinian struggle.



Media and Communications

Shifting consciousness and changing the narrative is a priority to counter Israeli hasbara and amplify Palestinian voices. The Coalition has developed good relationships with editors and journalists in print and broadcast media and become a credible pro-Palestinian reference. Coalition members have given numerous interviews on TV and radio in South Africa and our continent.

Media Workshop
Putting Palestine in the Media

The Forge
87 De Korte Street,
Braamfontein
Johannesburg

Saturday 23 July
9am-2pm

All PSO members welcome!
RSVP to Roshan

Learn and share with experts and media professionals:

- what's the agenda of SA mainstream media?
- making friends with the media
- hasbara and how to fight it
- press release v op ed - writing secrets
- tips and tricks for TV, radio and print
- writing together, mock interviews
- ...and much more!

NEXT UP WE WILL DISCUSS THE TOPIC WITH SOMEONE WHOSE JOB IS TO BE A WILL RESEARCHED AND RESPECTED EXPERT IN THE AREA

AND IN THE INTEREST OF BALANCE WE WILL ALSO TALK TO AN IDIOT



We have published opinion pieces and issued the following 13 media statements amongst others:

- **There is no place for an apartheid state in the African Union!**
- **From Africa to Palestine: don't believe apartheid Israel's greenwashing lies!**
- **Stand in solidarity with the women of Palestine: we won't be bullied by apartheid Israel!**
- **SA BDS Coalition condemns absurd "terrorist" designation of six Palestinian Human Rights Organisations**
- **Palestine Solidarity Groups Welcome South African Government Support for the Cultural Boycott of Apartheid Israel!**
- **The South African BDS Coalition says South Africa will not build bridges with apartheid - we will tear down apartheid walls!**
- **Palestine solidarity movement mourns loss of Archbishop Tutu**
- **SA BDS Coalition supports striking Clover workers, calls to expel apartheid Israel from South Africa**
- **Amnesty International finds Israel guilty of the crime of apartheid**
- **Isolate apARtheid! Call for cultural boycott against Israeli sponsored art festival and creative conference in Cape Town 23 - 27 February**
- **No Tennis in Apartheid Israel!**
- **SA BDS Coalition welcomes Minister Pandor recognising Israeli crimes as apartheid**
- **Apartheid Israeli water tech is not the solution to South Africa's water crisis!**

links to selection of interviews:

***Coalition Coordinator on ENCA - Miss SA boycott Israel 11/05/21 <https://youtu.be/FI5LQVar2L4>**

***Coalition Coordinator on SABC news - Clover strike demonstration 27/01/22**

<https://youtu.be/mfKMMqfyNp8>

***Coalition Patron Ronnie Kasrils on Radio 702 - Israeli apartheid 13/05/21**

***Coalition Patron Na'eem Jeenah and Coordinator on Nigerian News Central TV - on AU accreditation of Israel 13/02/22**

The Coalition set up social media sites that continue to grow in reach:

Facebook: SA BDS Coalition

Twitter: @sabdscoalition

IG: @sa_bdscoalition



This tweet provoked an article in the right wing Israeli newspaper Jerusalem Post!

BDS Global Campaigns

G4S

With its operation and partial ownership of Israel's National Police Academy and the training it provides to Israeli police, G4S is deeply complicit in Israel's illegal and violent repression of Palestinians. The Coalition was successful in lobbying NUMSA not to renew their security contract with G4S.

Arising from the Coalition strategic planning, the Committee presented a proposal to a PSO members meeting that we focus on companies that play a clear and direct role in Israel's crimes and where we think we can have an impact in South Africa. The following global campaigns were adopted:

#BoycottPUMA

Global sportswear manufacturer Puma is involved in violations of international law and human rights. Puma is the main sponsor of the Israeli Football Association (IFA), which includes teams in Israel's illegal settlements on occupied Palestinian land. In addition, Puma's current and past exclusive licensees in Israel have operations in illegal Israeli settlements.



PUMA is a popular clothing brand across all sections of South African society. Coalition activists hold pickets at PUMA stores in Johannesburg and Cape Town on the #BoycottPUMA days of action and join social media storms. We have written to the Minister of Defence asking them to drop their contract for uniforms with PUMA and raised the issue of sponsorship with youth soccer teams.

South Africa! The @sabdscoalition protested @PUMA's support for Israeli apartheid in Johannesburg today.

#BoycottPuma continues to grow worldwide. 123k are urging PUMA to end support for illegal Israeli settlements on stolen Palestinian land.

Join them! loom.ly/TvLPWmQ

SOUTH AFRICAN BDS COALITION PROTESTS PUMA'S SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI APARTHEID OPPRESSING PALESTINIANS



Usuf Chikte Retweeted



South African BDS Coalition @sabdscoalition · Feb 12
Joburg and Cape Town join the Global Day of Action to #BoycottPUMA - South Africa against apartheid #PUMA - no complicity with apartheid!

@PACBI @stopthewall @BDSmovement @PSC_Wits @SAJFP
@psasouth_africa @psa_yi @PalestinePapsn @Kenyans4Pal
@ZimPalCouncil



BDS Local Campaigns

The Coalition takes up campaigns to counter Israeli cooperation with South Africa under the guise of sports, culture, development and technological assistance. We promote BDS to isolate apartheid and expose attempts to hide Israeli apartheid - a crime against humanity. Here are some of our recent campaigns:

No Beauty in Apartheid!

Palestinians called for a boycott of Miss World hosted by Israel in December 2021. The Coalition campaigned against the pro-Israeli Miss South Africa private company and encouraged Lalela Mswani, Miss South Africa, not to be complicit in Israeli apartheid. We held pickets and issued statements, generating media interviews and public debate about the nature of apartheid Israel and the importance of BDS as a tactic of solidarity with the Palestinian struggle.



Mandla Mandela "There is nothing beautiful about occupation, brutality and institutionalized discrimination against the Palestinian people."



Palestine Solidarity Groups Welcome South African Government Support for the Cultural Boycott of Apartheid Israel!

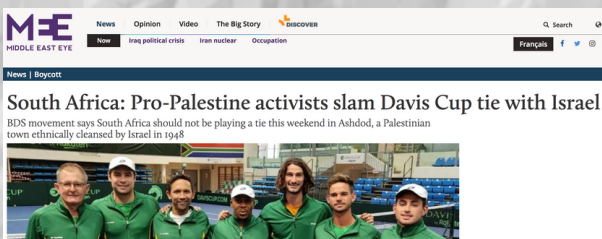
BDS supporters harass Miss South Africa on competing in Israel-hosted pageant

The Miss South Africa Organization responded to the online hatred, saying it is "not getting involved in a political war of words and looks forward to welcoming Miss SA into the next tournament."

On Friday, the Johannesburg-based Palestine Solidarity Alliance (PSA), which has launched a campaign to boycott the "Miss Universe" competition, **acknowledged** on Instagram that "after weeks" of trying to get in touch with Mswane, "with an intention of educating her with regards to the plight of the Palestinian people," she had blocked two PSA social-media accounts.



No normal sport in an abnormal society!



"South Africa Tennis cannot feign ignorance about the growing evidence from Palestinian and Israeli human rights organisations, various UN mechanisms, human rights legal experts and eminent South Africans such as the late Archbishop Tutu, that Israel is an apartheid state," South Africa BDS said in a statement.

Soon after government withdrew support for Miss South Africa for not supporting the boycott the South African Davis Cup tennis team played a match in Israel. The Coalition raised this to a global campaign and demanded that our government implement a consistent BDS policy.

No to Israeli Apartheid Artwashing!



Coalition members in Cape Town successfully campaigned in Salt River and District Six communities to refuse community art projects of BazArt, an art collective receiving money from the Israeli Embassy, and succeeded in getting prominent South African cultural workers to withdraw participation from a BazArt festival.



Salt River Heritage Society mural

Isolate apARtheid! Call for cultural boycott against Israeli sponsored art festival and creative conference in Cape Town 23 – 27 February

The SA BDS Coalition applauds the withdrawal of participants from the Cape Town Baz-Art conference and International Public Art Festival (IPAF) from 23 to 27 February to protest Baz-Art accepting sponsorship from the Israeli Embassy.



Salt River Heritage Society Palestine solidarity murals painted on houses in the community

APARTHEID ISRAELI WATER TECHNOLOGY IS NOT THE SOLUTION TO SOUTH AFRICA'S WATER CRISIS

"WE ARE NOT FOOLED BY ISRAELI PROPAGANDA – WE KNOW THAT ISRAEL IS NOT A WORLD WATER LEADER – IT DEPENDS ON WATER STOLEN FROM THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, DRIVING THEM OFF THEIR OWN LAND TO EXPAND ITS COLONIAL PROJECT. THIS IS WATER APARTHEID. PART OF THE GLOBAL POLITICS OF WATER PRIVATISATION AND WATER THEFT WHERE WATER IS FOR THE FEW AND FOR PROFIT."

- NMB WATER CRISIS COMMITTEE MEMBER, SIYABULELA MAMA

The End Water Apartheid campaign initiated by the Coalition brings together Palestinian and South African grassroots water activists to counter the myth that Israel is the solution to our water crisis.

Cii RADIO

YUMUN JADEED

NEW DAY

Why is it so imperative for local elected officials to cut all ties with any Israel based company?

End Water Apartheid statement - <https://tinyurl.com/3h9tvty5b>

End Water Apartheid!

The End Water Apartheid campaign strongly condemns the Jewish National Fund (JNF) sponsored meetings last Thursday and Friday and arrangements between elected municipal officers, officials and an Israeli delegation of so-called 'water experts.' The DA Mayor of Tshwane, Randall Williams, MMC Sun of City of Joburg and their colleagues must be denounced for complicity with an apartheid state promoting the myth that buying Israeli water technology will 'solve' our water crisis.

Lobbying & Advocacy

Israel practices the crime of apartheid



ISRAEL'S APARTHEID AGAINST PALESTINIANS

CRUEL SYSTEM OF DOMINATION AND
CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY



In 2021 reports from Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International confirmed what Palestinians, UN mechanisms, Israeli and international human rights organisations as well as prominent South Africans such as Archbishop Tutu have long been saying: Israel practices the crime against humanity of apartheid as defined in the UN Apartheid Convention. The Coalition is lobbying for the South African government to take a stand in the UN calling out Israeli apartheid and advocating for the same measures of sanctions that the international community imposed on apartheid South Africa.

Highlights:

- *Coalition meeting with Minister Pandor helped expedite Presidential and Cabinet approval to recommend signature of the UN Apartheid Convention.
- *Meetings with DIRCO to work towards South Africa raising a UN General Assembly resolution calling for the reinstatement of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid.
- *Brought together South African senior officials with likeminded counterparts in the Global South towards international support for a South African resolution.
- *Successful advocacy for ANC policy to call out Israeli apartheid.



28 July 2022

SA BDS Coalition welcomes Minister Pandor recognising Israeli crimes as apartheid

The South African BDS Coalition welcomes Minister Naledi Pandor's comments this week accepting the overwhelming body of detailed, factual evidence demonstrating that Israel is committing the crime of apartheid against the Palestinian people.

"How many more reports do we need that call Israel out on their unfair treatment of Palestinians and point out that Israel is implementing apartheid?" The Minister asked, referencing reports issued by Israeli human rights organisations, [Human Rights Watch](#), [Amnesty International](#), [United Nations Special Rapporteurs](#), and the first report of the [International Commission of Inquiry to Investigate Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem](#), chaired by South African jurist Navi Pillay. Minister Pandor's comments were made in her opening address to the Palestinian African Heads of Mission conference on 26 July in Pretoria.

We are pleased that the South African government has finally reached this conclusion, recognising Israel's apartheid crimes, and we reiterate Pandor's unequivocal view that "strong action to support Palestine must be taken by the UN, and a committee on apartheid should be established under the auspices of the UN General Assembly". The SA BDS Coalition, together with the global Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, calls for South Africa to take a firm stand in the UNGA on this matter. The international community cannot continue passing resolutions without taking action, beginning by declaring Israeli crimes against humanity as apartheid.

Pandor reminded the audience, "As oppressed South Africans, we experienced first-hand the effects of racial inequality, discrimination and denial and we cannot stand by while another generation of Palestinians are left behind." She also pointed out that South Africa's post-apartheid government and people have a political and moral responsibility to isolate apartheid Israel - as called for by the Palestinian people.

South Africa's downgrade of diplomatic relations with Israel was a welcome start. We must now move towards ensuring that all government departments refuse to engage normally with this apartheid state. The Minister also challenged civil society to intensify the global campaign for BDS. "Advocating for the rights of the Palestinian people must be accompanied by material and practical support," she said.

The SA BDS Coalition, as a member of the Pan-African Palestine Solidarity Network (PAPSN), continues to mobilise across the continent to kick apartheid Israel out of the African Union after the unilateral decision last year by the AU Commission Chair, Mousa Faki Mahamat, to accept Israeli credentials. As the Minister said, it is "incomprehensible" for the AU to reward Israel for its brutal occupation of Palestine and its colonial and apartheid practices. Alongside other PAPS affiliates, we will continue to support the efforts of Minister Pandor, our government and other African states to "correct the mistake" of Israeli accreditation and ensure that the AU abides by its obligations under its founding documents, including the African Charter for Human and Peoples' Rights to "eliminate colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, Zionism".

The tirade of vitriolic insults and absurd attacks on the Minister following her address demonstrates the bankruptcy of the Israeli lobby that seeks to whitewash Israel's apartheid crimes. The tired tactic of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) and other groups supporting Israeli apartheid to dismiss any criticism of Israel as "anti-Semitic" has been debunked by South Africa's Constitutional Court, and has proven to actually do more harm to the legitimate battle against anti-Semitism. The ConCourt has decisively ruled that anti-Zionism is not anti-Semitism. Some Zionists have gone as far as to suggest that Minister Pandor, a stalwart of our freedom struggle, made these statements because she did not understand what apartheid was. Such racism is not unexpected from the supporters of an apartheid state, and should be rejected forcefully by all South Africans.



SA BDS Coalition welcomes Minister Pandor recognising Israeli crimes as apartheid



Zane Dangor, DG Department of International Relations and Cooperation accepts Coalition memorandum and addresses the march on Nakba Day 2022

Anti Zionism is NOT Anti Semitism

The South African Jewish Report (SAJR) made a baseless claim that a cartoon published by the Coalition in support of the Clover strikers was anti-Semitic. The Coalition takes allegations like this very seriously and took the matter to the Press Council which ruled in our favour. An appeal lodged by the SAJR was dismissed.



7. For the reasons given above as well as those by the Ombud, I am of the view that the applicant has no reasonable prospects of success on appeal. Regarding an appeal against the sanction imposed by the Ombud, there are also no reasonable prospects that the Appeals Panel would consider it to be so severe as to warrant interference. The accusation of anti-Semitism is a serious one, and may not be taken lightly. The application for leave to appeal is therefore dismissed.

Dated this 8th day of March 2021

Judge B M Ngoepe, Chair, Appeals Panel

Press Council expels SA Jewish Report
First-ever expulsion of a member after refusal to comply with Press Council rulings

The South African Jewish Report has been expelled from the Press Council of South Africa (PCSA) with immediate effect after refusing to obey rulings from the Acting Press Ombud and the PCSA Chair of Appeals, Judge Bernard Ngoepe.

It is the first time that the Press Council has expelled a member.

Press Council Chair Judge Phillip Levinsohn said the decision was taken after lengthy correspondence and after the SA Jewish Report had refused to obey the rulings against it.

"The SA Jewish Report appealed the ruling by Acting Ombud Johan Retief in the complaint, SA BDS Coalition and GIWUSA v SA Jewish Report, but their application for leave to appeal was dismissed by Judge Ngoepe," Judge Levinsohn said. "We spent time and effort corresponding with the SA Jewish Report in an attempt to resolve the issue. They then refused to publish the ruling against them. SA Jewish Report also abandoned a second complaint, SA BDS Coalition vs SA Jewish Report, after losing another application for leave to appeal by Judge Ngoepe."

He added: "The SA Jewish Report then attempted to withdraw from the Press Council rather than publish the rulings. You cannot do that.

"It is a great pity that we have had to expel them, but we cannot tolerate a member of the Press Council willfully refusing to obey rulings of the Press Ombud and the Chair of Appeals.

"The Press Council is a voluntary, co-regulatory, public-dominated body which, *inter alia*, mediates and adjudicates complaints against its members in terms of the Press Code.

Failure by the SAJR to abide by the ruling and apologise to the Coalition led the Press Council to take the unprecedented move of expelling the SAJR.

Chief Justice Mogoeng apologises to the Coalition

In another landmark case, the Chief Justice was forced to apologise to the Coalition and other complainants over Christian Zionist comments he made on a webinar with the Chief Rabbi hosted by the right wing Israeli Jerusalem Post newspaper.

Chief Justice ordered to apologise for pro-Israeli utterances

Breaking News: A significant victory for anti-racists. A letter and the decision concerning the SA BDS Coalition's complaint against Chief Justice Mogoeng for his pro-apartheid Israel utterances has just been received.

The Judicial Conduct Committee has ordered the Chief Justice to apologise unconditionally and retract his statements following complaints by the SA BDS Coalition and others. After a closely argued and comprehensive 67-page decision, Judge Phisoa Majofoke insists on the following remedial action:

"The respondent CJ [Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng] shall issue an apology and retraction worded as follows:

Apology and Retraction
I, Mogoeng Mogoeng, Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, hereby apologise unconditionally for becoming involved in political controversy through my utterances in the online seminar (webinar) hosted by The Jerusalem Post on 23 June 2020, in which I participated.

I further hereby unreservedly retract and withdraw the following statement which I uttered subsequent thereto or other words to the same effect: "I stand by my refusal to retract or apologise for any part of what I said during the webinar. Even if 50 million people were to march every day for 10 years for me to do so, I would not apologise. If I perish, I perish." I reaffirm my recognition for the statutory authority of the Judicial Conduct Committee of the Judicial Service Commission established in terms of Part 11 of the JSC Act of 1994 to decide on any complaint of alleged judicial misconduct against me and all judges in the Republic of South Africa. 243.3

The respondent CJ must, within ten (10) days of this Decision read the above Apology and Retraction at a meeting of serving Justices of the Constitutional Court and release a copy thereof under his signature to the OJC and to the media in the normal manner in which the Constitutional Court and the OJC issue media releases.

JUDGE P M MAJOFOKE (MEMBER OF THE JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE)

For more information please contact:

SA BDS Coalition welcomes Press Council expulsion of South African Jewish Report

The SA BDS Coalition is, for once, in agreement with the editor of the SA Jewish Report (SAJR). We too, as Peta Krost says in the latest issue of the SAJR "believe in the need for an independent ombud who wouldn't be swayed by politics and racial hatred." That is precisely what we have in South Africa through the Press Council, which as it's Chairperson, Judge Phillip Levinsohn, states is "a voluntary, co-regulatory, public-dominated body which, *inter alia*, mediates and adjudicates complaints against its members in terms of the Press Code".

The SAJR labelled the SA BDS Coalition anti-Semitic for publishing a cartoon on social media depicting a wealthy capitalist stuffing his mouth with money. The cartoon was produced by the General Industrial Workers Union (GIWUSA). The Coalition proudly stands side by side with the trade unions at Clover as they battle against the devastating repercussions for workers of the company's take-over by Milco, a subsidiary of the Israeli Central Bottling Company, complicit in perpetuating the inhuman system of Israeli apartheid. The SAJR belied its own anti-Semitism by assuming that the figure in the cartoon was Jewish and attacking us for replicating an anti-Semitic trope. Further, if the cartoon really was so offensive, why did they republish it to accompany their story?

Thankfully we have a Press Council and a process through which we can lodge complaints against such slander. After much consideration of all the facts, the Press Council found in our favour and sanctioned the SAJR. A frivolous attempt to take the matter on appeal also found in our favour. Slander and hate speech is a criminal offence. The Press Council's ruling is in line with its own code and the South Africa Constitution.

The SAJR however had no intention of abiding by due process, refusing to publish the judgement and issue an apology to us. In order to avoid taking the prescribed remedial action the SAJR claimed they were going to leave the Press Council. However the ruling was made when the SAJR membership was intact. The SAJR's attempt to abscond from its obligation is cowardly, irresponsible and displays bad faith. Their tricks to evade compliance are comparable to a fugitive from justice.

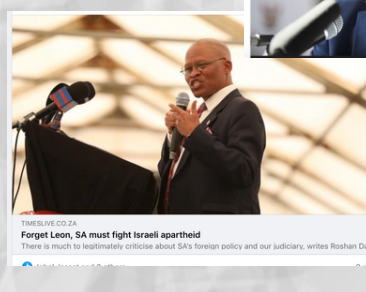
The Press Council was thus driven to take the unprecedented step of expelling the SAJR. Threatening to flout our law because they think they are above fair process is reminiscent of apartheid Israel's disregard for international law which it flouts with impunity in implementing its settler colonial occupation, segregation and discrimination of the Palestinian people.

This is not the first time that the SAJR failed to acknowledge basic media ethics. The paper presumes to speak for the entire Jewish community yet has previously refused to publish right of replies from prominent anti-Zionist South African Jews. But what can we expect from a rag that acts as the mouthpiece of the Zionist federation and wholeheartedly defends Israel, an apartheid state which has murdered two journalists, Shireen Abu Akleh and Ghofran Warasneh in the last few weeks, and at least 45 media workers since the year 2000.

Making false claims of anti-Semitism is a tired strategy used by pro-Israeli organisations, such as the SAJR, to demoralise any criticism of Israel. The Constitutional Court recently made a judgement in the case of accusations of anti-Semitism made against Bongani Masuku, the former International Secretary of COSATU. Our apex court ruled that anti-Zionism is not anti-Semitism. For the SAJR to continue to conflate the two and attempt to label all criticism of Israel as anti-Semitic has been shown up as a blunt weapon by the ruling of the Press Council.

For more information please contact:

Selection of Coalition media on Chief Justice rulings:



SA BDS Coalition

Forward to a Free Palestine!

As South Africans we know that the Israeli settler colonial system of repression, violence, segregation and displacement constitutes the crime against humanity of apartheid. Rev Frank Chikane visited Palestine this year and described the situation as **worse** than apartheid.

The SA BDS Coalition is inspired by the Palestinian people and their struggle for freedom and justice. The Palestinian spirit of 'sumud' (steadfastness) and resistance demands of us to continue to organise, mobilise and isolate Israel until apartheid is dismantled. We join with Palestinians in solidarity as our struggle is one - against apartheid, colonialism, racism, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination from South Africa to Palestine.

A luta continua!



This report has only touched on the numerous solidarity actions that the Coalition and its members are involved in.

There is so much more work we need to do. Join a local Palestine solidarity organisation and get involved with the SA BDS Coalition - Sekunjalo!

The Coalition held its second AGM in May 2022. We sincerely thank all the PSOs and others that contributed towards a Coalition Coordinator from August 2021-July 2022. Without your generosity our solidarity work cannot continue.



Account Name: SA BDS Coalition
Bank: First National Bank
Account No: 62849620697
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Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ