

www.independentjewishvoices.ca

INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICES
C A N A D A
VOIX JUIVES INDÉPENDANTES

NATIONAL UPDATE: DIANA RALPH

IJV played a key role in helping to galvanize and coordinate Jewish support for the people of Gaza and showing the world that Canadian Jews condemned the Israeli massacre.

We co-sponsored Gaza solidarity demonstrations in cities across Canada, and had a visible presence in media interviews. We issued two press releases condemning the murderous escalation of violence by the Israeli government.

As IJV Steering Committee member Judy Deutsch said, "This massacre will only intensify the cycle of violence in the region and heighten the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The aim of these attacks is not to bring about peace, but to strengthen the position of the Israeli government as it heads into elections next February."

Independent Jewish Voices called for an immediate halt to all violence in the conflict, the cessation of the Israeli government's blockade against the people of Gaza, a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Occupied West Bank, and the dismantling of Israeli settlements. We also demanded that the Canadian government recall its ambassador to Israel and condemn Israel's assault on the population of Gaza.

IJV issued a statement of support for the Jewish women, including IJV members Sandra Ruch and Judy Deutsch, who sat in at the Israeli Consulate in Toronto and helped coordinate a vigil in Ottawa where Smadar Carmon read the names of murdered Gazan children and the rest of us chanted, "We remember."

IJV member Sandra Ruch is joining a women's delegation to Gaza for International Women's Day, organized by the Code Pink group, to show solidarity with the people of Gaza and to gather documentary evidence of the devastation they experienced at the hands of the Israeli military.

We are now co-sponsoring the Gaza petition (see attached) which will be presented to Parliament in a lobbying day scheduled for April.

POINTS OF VIEW

SARA ROY - ON JEWISH VALUES FROM HER ARTICLE LIVING WITH THE HOLOCAUST... THE JOURNEY OF A CHILD OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS OBEEDIENCE TO A STATE WAS NOT AN ULTIMATE JEWISH VALUE, NOT FOR THEM, NOT AFTER THE HOLOCAUST. JUDAISM PROVIDED THE CONTEXT FOR OUR LIFE AND FOR VALUES AND BELIEFS THAT WERE NOT DEPENDENT UPON NATIONAL BOUNDARIES, BUT TRANSCENDED THEM. FOR MY MOTHER AND FATHER, JUDAISM MEANT BEARING WITNESS, RAILING AGAINST INJUSTICE AND FOREGOING SILENCE. IT MEANT COMPASSION, TOLERANCE, AND RESCUE. IT MEANT... ENSURING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE THAT THE MEMORIES OF THE PAST DO NOT BECOME THE MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE. THESE WERE THE ULTIMATE JEWISH VALUES.
JOURNAL OF PALESTINE STUDIES VOL XXXII, No. 1, AUTUMN 2002, ISSUE 125



THE PEOPLE of

MARCH-MARS 2009
NEWSLETTER

C
O
N
T
E
N
T
S

NATIONAL UPDATE.....	1
CONTENTS.....	1
POINTS OF VIEW: WORDS FROM SARA ROY	
JEFF HALPER TOUR	2
STUDENTS AGAINST ISRAELI APARTHEID	2
DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE.....	2
ROBERT FISK TOUR.....	2
SUPPORTING CAF	3
SUPPORTING ISRAELI SHIMINISTIM.....	3
REGIONAL REPORTS	
OTTAWA.....	3
WINNIPEG.....	4
APPEAL FOR FUNDS: DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE	4
INTERIM STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS.....	4
BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS BY MARTY ROTH.....	5
ARE ZIONISTS MAKING ANTI-SEMITISM RESPECTABLE?	
BY SCOTT WEINSTEIN.....	6
IJV BASIS OF UNITY.....	7
IJVMEMBERSHIP FORM.....	8
OUTLOOK MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION.....	8
INVITATION 1 ST IJV ANNUAL AGM.....	9

* IMAGE DESIGNED BY BASHAR ALAEDDIN; VANCOUVER DIGITAL ARTIST
www.basharalaeddin.blogspot.com



IJV cosponsored Jeff Halper's successful tour to eight cities from Halifax to Victoria, from January 12 to 29. In each city, Halper spoke to overflowing crowds, eloquently exploding maistream myths. He demonstrated how Israel has established what he has termed a "matrix of control", fragmenting the Palestinian population into Bantustans, creating 650 roadblocks to impede Palestinian movement, building 250 settlements,

controlling the region's water aquifers and pressuring Palestinian residents of Jerusalem to leave, creating a massive infrastructure available for use to Israelis only, and building the Wall.

Halper argued that Israeli policy goes beyond apartheid to the warehousing of the entire Palestinian population as "surplus humanity", using them as guinea pigs to test weapons designed for use against civilian populations and experimenting with urban warfare tactics which Israel then markets around the world.

Halper exposed Canada's complicity in this oppressive project, and laid out strategic directions for Canadians to support both the Palestinian cause and global justice in general.

These messages were especially timely because Halper's tour coincided with Israel's Gaza bloodbath. He spoke at several solidarity rallies, and his media exposure here helped to challenge Israeli propaganda.

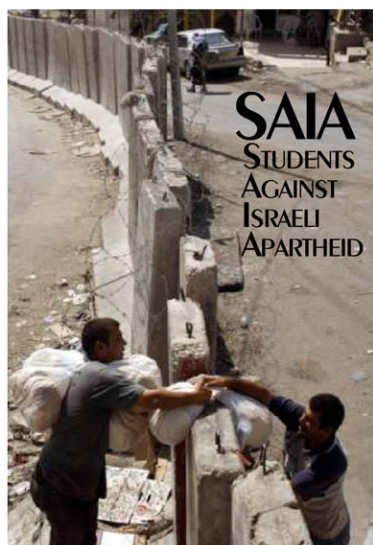
The tour raised more than \$20,000 for Halper's organization, the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions. These funds are crucial because the European Union recently succumbed to Israeli pressure and opted not to renew its grant to ICAHD of more than \$300,000.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH

STUDENTS AGAINST ISRAELI APARTHEID

B'nai Brith and other Israel Lobby groups launched a major assault against students who organized more than 40 Israeli Apartheid Week activities across Canada. The most blatant example was B'nai Brith's full-page ad in the February 14 National Post, calling on university presidents to ban Israeli Apartheid Week. Carleton, the University of Ottawa, and York University all banned SAIA's posters.

IJV sent a letter of support for SAIA Carleton to President Roseann Runte and encouraged those on the IJV list-serve also to support freedom of speech. SAIA received more than 300 letters of support, including those from prominent lawyers and human rights organizations. They also received extensive and positive media coverage, which had the ironic effect of publicizing their poster and their events, and generated large crowds at their scheduled events.



DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE - GENEVA 2009

**UNITED AGAINST RACISM:
DIGNITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL**

The Durban Review will set standards for implementing the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) adopted in 2001, whose purpose is to end racism in all its forms.



Fabienne Presentey, Sid Shniad and Diana Ralph will represent IJV at the *Durban Review of the World Conference Against Racism in Geneva*, Switzerland, April 20-24.

The Harper government announced in January 2007 that Canada would boycott the Review. The U.S. State Department announced in late February that it would not participate in the Review, making Canada, Israel, and the US the only countries in the world that are boycotting the conference. Ottawa's statement echoed the position of Israel and its Lobby, arguing that Durban I was an anti-Semitic hate-fest and that the Durban Review would also be anti-Semitic.

IJV experience has demonstrated that these allegations are malicious and baseless. Although there were a few anti-Semitic participants at the NGO forum in 2001 (among more than 10,000 participants), there was NO anti-Semitic content either in the NGO Forum Declaration or in the formal UN DDPA.

Israel Lobby groups including the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, UN Watch, the Magenta Foundation, the World Jewish Congress and others are mobilizing to discredit the Durban Review and to urge governments to boycott it. On April 21, Canadian Liberal M.P. Irwin Cotler and prominent Zionist activist will lead a "March of the Living" to protest against the Durban Review.

IJV believes that we have an important role to play in challenging this propaganda campaign. We are working in solidarity with African-Canadian, Arab, Asian, union groups and the organisation the Charter of Human Responsibilities - Canada to ensure that the Durban review conference is a success. We are also working in solidarity with the US Congressional Black Caucus to support them in their call for the Obama government to participate despite their announced refusal.

ROBERT FISK TOUR

Scott Weinstein organized a speaking tour for renowned British journalist Robert Fisk in Montreal and Ottawa from February 18-21, where Fisk spoke about Gaza and the Middle East Wars to large audiences.

SUPPORTING



When the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Jason Kenny, attacked the Canadian Arab Federation in February, announcing the cessation of funds to the CAF, IJV wrote a letter to him and distributed a press release in support of the CAF. We said that *"From extensive experience, we know that neither the Canadian Arab Federation nor Khalid Mouammar is anti-Semitic. CAF has consistently supported Canadian Jews. CAF also works to improve Canada's human rights policies and services to all immigrant and racialized groups. We respect Khaled Mouammar as a man of principle and courage, who has always put himself and CAF on the line to support Jews and to oppose anti-Semitism."*

Mr. Kenny is threatening CAF's funding because CAF stands for justice for Palestinian people and because it expresses principled criticism of oppressive Israeli policies. The Conservative government has gone further than any previous Canadian administration in endorsing illegal and brutal Israeli assaults on the people of Palestine and Lebanon. Echoing Israel and its Lobby, the Conservative Government labels as "anti-Semitic" any criticism of Israeli actions, including the Gaza massacre, house demolitions, and the illegal use of phosphorous and Dense Inert Metal Explosive (DIME) weapons against civilians.

We affirm that criticizing illegal and oppressive Israeli policies is NOT anti-Semitic. Anti-Semitism refers to hostility and/or prejudice against Jews. Like any other government, Israel has obligations under international law. Raising concerns about the oppressive policies of this or any other government is an ethical imperative.



<http://willyloman.wordpress.com/2009/01/31>

SUPPORTING

In December, IJV sent a letter to Ehud Barak, Israeli Defence Minister and issued a press release declaring our solidarity with the Shministim-Israeli high school graduates who been repeatedly jailed, for refusing to serve in the Israel Defence Forces because of the ongoing Israeli occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people.

We called for their immediate and unconditional release, without threat of further imprisonment.

I
S
R
A
E
L
I

S
H
M
I
N
I
S
T
I
M

REGIONAL REPORTS

OTTAWA REPORT
BY ADAM BALSAM

We have had a busy couple of months in Ottawa. In late December, we organized three protests around the Gaza massacre that brought together thousands of people from the broader community. These generated quite a few interviews and received quite a bit of attention from local and mainstream media. Jeff Halper spoke at one of our protests and gave an amazing series of talks at our two major universities, informing us about the intricacies of the physical structure of Israeli apartheid in the occupied territories. Our final protest culminated in a small, but very effective Chapters picket that informed customers of the economic support that the CEO of Chapters is giving to the Israeli military. We have increased our membership as a result of these events. It now stands in the mid twenties.

February was also saw events organized by us as well as those put on in cooperation with the broader solidarity community, including a talk by Robert Fisk on the 21st and another put on by Anarchists Against the Wall on the 22nd.

Israel Apartheid Week, organized by Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA) and Solidarity with Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR), took place the first week of March. Bob Lovelace of Ardoch Algonquin First Nation and Yafa Jarrar, a student activist from Ramallah, spoke on March 2 about "Prisoners from Turtle Island to Palestine". On March 4 Omar Barghouti, a founding committee member of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, talked on "Israel: Democracy as an Existential Threat". On March 5, Ronnie Kasrils, a Jewish South African Anti-Apartheid activist spoke about the growing international campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel. On March 6, Suzanne Weiss, a survivor from the Warsaw Ghetto and Samah Sabawi, of APAC and originally from Gaza addressed the topic "From Warsaw Ghetto to Gaza Ghetto". Many of the events should prove useful in both increasing our membership and informing the public.

SAIA Carleton, a group that includes Jews (I am a member), has been the target of campus repression, censorship, threats and slanderous accusations of anti-Semitism from Zionist organizations on campus. All of this was part of an attempt to sabotage the events of Israeli Apartheid Week. Zionist groups have had the Apartheid Week poster banned on campus on the grounds that it may incite hatred of Jews – a transparently absurd accusation, given the fact that the poster is cartoon of a child in Gaza being bombed by an Israeli Apache helicopter. The is not anti-Semitic. It is critical of the actions an oppressive and murderous state.

We must make it clear that neither the Israeli government nor its unquestioning supporters speak for us. If we are truly committed to the credo "Never Again!" we must stand up against these bogus accusations and fight for an end to state-sponsored oppression and murder, regardless of who is being targetted.

SAIA needs our support. Claiming to speak on behalf of all Jews, B'nai Brith ran a full page ad in the National Post, calling for people to complain to the Carleton Administration about Israeli Apartheid week in hopes of shutting it down on the grounds that it was anti-Semitic. They neglect to mention that one of the Israel Apartheid Week speakers is a holocaust survivor. We need to mobilize, as members of the Jewish community and speak out publically against these absurd accusations, threats and slander, making it clear that B'Nai Brith does not speak on our behalf.

WINNIPEG REPORT BY MARK ETKIN

JEFF HALPER'S NATIONAL SPEAKING TOUR

Dr. Jeff Halper, noted Israeli peace activist, founder of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD), and 2006 nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize was hosted by Independent Jewish Voices in a cross-Canada tour from January 11 to 30, 2009.

There was an overwhelming response from Canadians individuals and organizations in response to Jeff's tour. Events were originally booked in seven cities: Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg and Vancouver. As plans developed, however, we received a number of additional requests to add cities to the tour. As a result, Kitchener and Victoria were added, but it proved impossible to accommodate requests from Fredericton, Regina, Calgary and Edmonton.

Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta and Diana Ralph were successful in soliciting numerous co-sponsorships from Canadian civil society, unions and church groups.

Financial support and other help was received from the national co-sponsoring organizations: *United Jewish People's Order, Canadian Arab Federation, Canadian Friends Service Committee, Science For Peace, Canadian Auto Workers, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Near East Cultural & Educational Foundation, Kairos, Canadian Friends of Sabeel, the United Church of Canada, and the Steelworkers' Humanity Fund*, as well as local organizations including *CUPE Ontario's Social Justice Committee, CanPalNet*, church groups that chose to remain anonymous, university departments, media, and large numbers of individuals. The interest and the support from individual Canadians and organizations was staggering.

Jeff's presentations were excellent and were well-received everywhere. Most venues were full, and many had standing room only. There was major media coverage of Jeff and his views in most cities. A lot of money was raised for ICAHD. All money in excess of IJV's expenses – thousands of dollars – will be sent to ICAHD.

The tour was successful on a number of different levels. IJV gained prominence as the main hosting organization. Working relationships were established with other peace, union and church groups. New IJV members were enrolled.

Many people were exposed to Jeff's views on the conflict for the first time. In some cities, where his talks were entitled: "Israel/Palestine: Toward Peace or Apartheid," it was the first time that the term "apartheid" was used publicly in reference to Israeli policy. A considerable amount of money was raised for ICAHD. A successful first IJV national tour was completed.

We are looking forward to sponsoring a second national speaking tour in 2010.



www.JewishVoiceforPeace.org

APPEAL FOR FUNDS

We will be the sole Jewish voice standing against the Israel Lobby propaganda at the Durban Review

But it's expensive to get there. We need your help.

Please donate to help cover our IJV delegates' travel expenses.

Make out cheques to IJV (and put Durban Review in the subject line)

**Mail to P.O. Box 23088
Ottawa, Ontario K2A 4E2**

IJV-VJI CANADA

Judy DEUTSCH: j.deutsch@utoronto.ca
Mark Etkin: etkin@cc.umanitoba.ca
Judy HAIVEN: jhaiven@gmail.com
BRUCE KATZ: b.katz@sympatico.ca
Gilda KATZ: gkatz@sympatico.ca

INTERIM STEERING COMMITTEE/COMITÉ DE COORDINATION PROVISOIRE

Andy LEHRER: arlcanada@gmail.com
Dylan PENNER: dpenner@activistmagazine.com
FABIENNE PRESENTY: fpresenty1@yahoo.fr
DIANA RALPH: dianar@magma.ca
CARL ROSENBERG: cjoutlook@telus.net

MARtha ROTH: martharoth@earthlink.net
HARRY SHANNON: harry.s.shannon@gmail.com
Sid SHNIAD: shniad@sfu.ca
SCOTT WEINSTEIN: scottmontreal@yahoo.com

BOYCOTT DIVESTMENT SANCTIONS

BOYCOTT
ISRAELI
GOODS

Don't Squeeze a Jaffa
Crush the Occupation
www.bicj.org



EDITOR'S NOTE:

INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICES HAS NOT TAKEN AN ORGANIZATIONAL POSITION ON THE ISSUE OF BDS. BUT THIS IS A SUBJECT THAT IS RECEIVING INCREASING INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION, ESPECIALLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ISRAELI ONSLAUGHT AGAINST GAZA, WHICH HAS GENERATED AN UNPRECEDENTED CALL FOR CAMPAIGNS TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WITH A VIEW TO FORCING A CHANGE IN ITS BEHAVIOUR. THE TYPES OF ACTION CALLED FOR INCLUDE ACADEMIC, CONSUMER AND CULTURAL BOYCOTTS; DIVESTMENT BY CHURCH, UNIVERSITY AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS; AND OUTRIGHT SANCTIONS. THE HISTORICAL PRECEDENT FOR SUCH CAMPAIGNS IS THE BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS (BDS) ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST THE APARTHEID REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY VANCOUVER-BASED IJV MEMBER MARTY ROTH, PROVIDES INFORMATION THAT HE HAS COMPILED ON THE SUBJECT.

By Marty Roth

The call for an academic boycott of Israel has created considerable controversy. Those who oppose it argue that it conflicts with educational values like the free exchange of ideas. But the fact remains that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has deeply impaired the Palestinian right to education, while Israeli academia remains conspicuously silent and continues to play a significant role in the prevailing system of oppression. Israeli research institutes, think tanks and academic departments have historically legitimized Israeli's ethnic cleansing, the denial of refugee rights, and other discriminatory policies; Israeli universities actively collaborate and cooperate with the Israeli intelligence service, the army, and other agencies involved in the occupation regime. As Israeli Professor Oren Ben-Dor wrote, "The academic boycott is central to starting the process of Israeli self-examination that is a core prerequisite to a resolution of the conflict." (electronic intifada) What is mostly widely called for is a boycott against academic institutions, not necessarily individual academics. See U.S. Campaign for the Academic & Cultural Boycott of Israel which has a complete list of academic boycott actions around the world <http://usacbi.wordpress.com/press-release>

Consumer boycott activists are also striving to have Israeli products produced in settlements to be labeled as such. Individual consumers can oppose Israeli treatment of the Palestinians by boycotting goods and services from Israel, as well as products from companies that invest in the Israeli war economy or provide material support to the Israeli military. The consumer boycott also involves pressuring stores in one's community, asking them to refuse to carry Israeli products. The other divestments that have been discussed call on states, cities, unions and banks to withdraw their investments from Israel Bonds, and on corporations and institutions to ensure that their pension investments do not support Israel.

The sanctions campaign calls for the severance of military, trade and diplomatic ties with Israel, and the termination of Israel's membership in international bodies such as the UN, World Health Organization, the Red Cross, the World Trade Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the abrogation of treaties such as the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement.

The call for these actions is coming from Palestinian civil society. 171 Palestinian unions, associations, campaigns, and organizations have called upon international civil society and people of conscience around the world to engage in boycott, divestment and sanctions campaigns against Israel until it ends the Occupation, ceases discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel, and permits displaced Palestinian refugees to return to their homes.

In response to this call, letters and petitions of support have appeared throughout the world and actions have followed, including a refusal by Durban dockworkers on 8 February to unload an Israeli ship, divestment by the Church of England of its holdings in the Caterpillar corporation, a boycott of Israeli goods launched by the Irish Board of Trade Unionists and BDS resolutions passed by Hampshire College in Amherst Massachusetts, the University of Manchester Students Union, the South African Trade and Allied Workers Union; Western Australian members of the Maritime Union of Australia and other organizations.

A Vancouver-based peace and justice organization, Boycott Israeli Apartheid Campaign, has been in existence for several years now. Its major action in the past has been a weekly campaign of leafletting various Chapters Bookstores in the area. Much of the information in this report is taken from their BDS statement. Their preamble is as follows:

Since its founding in 1948, the State of Israel has systematically oppressed the Palestinian people and denied them the fundamental rights of freedom, equality and self-determination. The ongoing colonization and illegal occupation of Palestine is defined by racism, dispossession, and brutal violence, as the recent massacre of 1360 people in Gaza has demonstrated.

Despite abundant condemnation from the United Nations and relevant bodies such as the International Court of Justice, the international community has failed dismally to force Israel to comply with international law and bring justice to the Palestinian people. Israel is currently in contravention of over 70 UN resolutions, and war crimes against Palestinians continue to be carried out with impunity. The time has come for action, not just words.



A partial list of companies being targeted by boycott actions because of their investments in and/or backing for the occupation includes: *Chapters/Indigo, Caterpillar, CanWest Global, Galil Winery, Home Depot, IBM, Intel, Motorola, Nestlé, Sara Lee and Starbucks.*

An excellent from article originally run in *The Nation*, by *Naomi Klein* answers some of the objections raised against BDS actions. IN HER WORDS, "THE BEST STRATEGY TO END THE INCREASINGLY BLOODY OCCUPATION IS FOR ISRAEL TO BECOME THE TARGET OF THE KIND OF GLOBAL MOVEMENT THAT PUT AN END TO APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA."

www.naomiklein.org/articles/2009/01/israel-boycott-divest-sanction

FOR DETAILS ON INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES SEE

http://stopstripmining.gnn.tv/blogs/30779/List_of_U_S_companies_that_finance_Israel

RESOURCES:

Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid: www.caiaweb.org

Tadamon! Cultural Boycott Against Israeli Apartheid:

www.tadamon.ca/campaigns/boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-against-israeli-apartheid/boycott-culturel-contre-lapartheid-israelien

www.bigcampaign.org/index.php?page=why_boycott_divestment_and_sanctions

Who Profits? www.whoprofits.org

A BOYCOTT COMPENDIUM:

<http://s109811772.websitehome.co.uk/bigcampaign/uploads/pdfs/bigcampaignboycottlist.pdf>

Electronic Intifada: <http://electronicintifada.net>



"The end of apartheid stands as one of the crowning accomplishments of the past century, but we would not have succeeded without the help of international pressure – in particular the divestment movement of the 1980s. Over the past six months, a similar movement has taken shape, this time aiming at an end to the Israeli occupation."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu



ARE ZIONISTS MAKING ANTI-SEMITISM RESPECTABLE?

BY SCOTT WEINSTEIN

February's London Conference on Global Antisemitism attempted to hijack the politics of prejudice. Last month, Canadian minister Jason Kenney and ten Canadian parliamentarians revealed Canada's ambitious plan to restrict civil dialogue by confusing criticism of Israel and Zionism - with anti-Semitism.

As the closing "London Declaration" of the Conference of Global Antisemitism affirms: *"We are alarmed at the resurrection of the old language of prejudice and its modern manifestations - in rhetoric and political action - against Jews, Jewish belief and practice and the State of Israel."*

Disguised as a pledge to fight anti-Semitism, the London Declaration encourages Jews and non-Jews to unite to eradicate all forms of anti-Semitism. However this necessary task is undermined by the political linkage of Jews with the state of Israel and Zionist ideology.

Conference participants advocate using anti-Semitism politics to counter the emerging BDS campaigns [Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel] that are spreading across Europe and North America. The BDS movement calls into question the ideological justifications for the Jewish state's violence against Palestinians, just as the anti-Apartheid movement undermined Western support for a racist South-African state.

The U.K. Community Security Trust which co-hosted the London conference, noted that anti-Semitic incidents

decreased in 2008 (for the second straight year) but increased in an unprecedented fashion during and after the Gaza invasion.

This does not surprise Jewish critics of Israel. The Israeli military operations that bombarded the trapped civilian population of Gaza with fragmentation bombs, high- impact explosives and white phosphorus, were globally perceived as cruelly disproportionate retaliation for Hamas's rockets.

HOW "ANTI-SEMITISM POLITICS" WORK

The extent to which state-sponsored or encouraged attacks on Israel's critics has grown is chillingly underscored by the current climate in Canada. Canada is boycotting the Durban II UN Conference against racism on the grounds that it's criticisms of Israel will be anti-Semitic. Articles appearing in *The National Post* regularly attack supporters of Palestinian self-determination and critics of Israel. Canadian Liberal MP Irwin Cotler wrote in *The National Post* Feb. 21, *"The first manifestation of this ideological antisemitism was its institutional and juridical anchorage in the 'Zionism is Racism' resolution at the UN. The second manifestation is the indictment of Israel as an apartheid state"*.

B'nai B'rith placed a full-page advertisement in the Feb. 14 *National Post* urging university presidents to ban Israeli Apartheid Week. Indeed, since the London Conference ended Carleton University, the University of Ottawa and

York University, have taken action against IAW publicity and student organizers. Cotler echoes Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who in 2008 stated that criticism of Israel is anti-Semitic. In January, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Canada-Israel Committee and the B'nai B'rith collaborated with the Harper government in a public campaign attacking Gaza solidarity demonstrators as hate mongers and anti-Semites. They asked police to investigate demonstrators for "hate speech."

Across North America, tenured professors' jobs are being threatened or have been fired for their criticisms of Israel. Israel criticism now tests if freedom of speech exists in our institutions.

HOW ANTI-SEMITISM POLITICS BACKFIRES

Robert Fisk, the author of *The Great War for Civilization* and Middle East correspondent recently remarked *"By libelling serious critics of Israel as anti-Semites, these people genuinely undermine real anti-Semitism by making it respectable, and shame on them for doing so. Jewish critics of Israel fight anti-Semitism and also oppose Zionism. Increasingly, liberal societies view Zionism that is being waged by nationalist extremists, as a larger threat affecting their own societies and also Jews worldwide"*.

Israel's very security weakens as its occupation and siege of Palestine becomes instant digital news, and its international apologists attack those demanding a different foreign policy towards Israel. Indeed, last week an unofficial CIA analysis circulated concluding that Israel will not survive as a Jewish state for more than twenty years.

A new generation of Jews identifies less with Israel and is less keen to support it. The Gaza atrocities may have been a watershed in building more Jewish opposition to Israel as a racist Jewish nation. Ominously, support for Israel is rising with Christian Zionists who base their solidarity on anti-Semitic prophecies of Armageddon, when Jews return to Israel and defeat the Arab armies. Then Jesus returns and Christians – not Jews – get saved.

Today, non-Zionist Jews are exposing the mutation of anti-Semitism politics by pro-Zionist adherents. They aim to separate the fight against anti-Semitism from the Zionist agenda, and prevent anti-Semitism serving as a wedge issue among politicians who support Jews, but are critical of Israel.

The London conference steering committee members, including Canadian MP Irwin Cotler, strive mightily to label the battle against Israel's occupation of Palestine and its bombardment of Gaza as anti-Semitism. We must unmask them as apologists for a racist regime, rather than the fighters for human rights they pretend to be.



MEMBERSHIP FORM ON PAGE 8

WE REPRESENT JEWS IN CANADA FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, OCCUPATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS WHO HAVE IN COMMON A STRONG COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE AND UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS. WE COME TOGETHER IN THE BELIEF THAT THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF OPINION AMONG THE JEWISH POPULATION OF THIS COUNTRY IS NOT REFLECTED BY THOSE INSTITUTIONS WHICH CLAIM AUTHORITY TO REPRESENT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WITHIN ALL COMMUNITIES SHOULD FEEL FREE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON ANY ISSUE OF PUBLIC CONCERN WITHOUT INCURRING ACCUSATIONS OF DISLOYALTY. WE HAVE THEREFORE RESOLVED TO PROMOTE THE EXPRESSION OF ALTERNATIVE JEWISH VOICES, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF THE GRAVE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH THREATENS THE FUTURE OF BOTH ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS AS WELL AS THE STABILITY OF THE WHOLE REGION.

WE ARE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- 1. HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL AND INDIVISIBLE AND SHOULD BE UPHELD WITHOUT EXCEPTION. THIS IS AS APPLICABLE IN ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES AS IT IS ELSEWHERE.**
- 2. PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS ALIKE HAVE THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL AND SECURE LIVES.**
- 3. PEACE AND STABILITY REQUIRE THE WILLINGNESS OF ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.**
- 4. THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ANY FORM OF RACISM, INCLUDING ANTI-SEMITISM, ANTI-ARAB RACISM OR ISLAMOPHOBIA, IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.**
- 5. THE BATTLE AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM IS VITAL AND IS THREATENED WHENEVER OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI GOVERNMENT POLICIES IS AUTOMATICALLY BRANDED AS ANTI-SEMITIC.**

THESE PRINCIPLES ARE CONTRADICTED WHEN THOSE WHO CLAIM TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF JEWS IN CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES CONSISTENTLY PUT SUPPORT FOR THE POLICIES OF AN OCCUPYING POWER ABOVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF AN OCCUPIED PEOPLE. THE PALESTINIAN INHABITANTS OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP FACE APPALLING LIVING CONDITIONS WITH DESPERATELY LITTLE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. WE DECLARE OUR SUPPORT FOR A PROPERLY NEGOTIATED PEACE BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES AND OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO IMPOSE ITS OWN SOLUTIONS ON THE PALESTINIANS.

IT IS IMPERATIVE AND URGENT THAT INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICES FIND A COHERENT AND CONSISTENT WAY OF ASSERTING THEMSELVES ON THESE AND OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN. WE HEREBY RECLAIM THE TRADITION OF JEWISH SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSAL FREEDOMS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. THE LESSONS WE HAVE LEARNED FROM JEWISH HISTORY COMPEL US TO SPEAK OUT. WE THEREFORE COMMIT OURSELVES TO MAKE PUBLIC OUR VIEWS ON A CONTINUING BASIS AND INVITE OTHER CONCERNED JEWS TO JOIN AND SUPPORT US.



Independent Jewish Voices
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Voix juives indépendantes
FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

NAME/NOM _____

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION (OPTIONAL)/ ORGANISME FACULTATIF _____

EMAIL /COURRIEL _____

PHONE/TÉLÉPHONE _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE _____

____ I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO WORK WITHIN THE PRINCIPLES OF THE IJV UNITY STATEMENT (PAGE 7)/ AYANT PRIS CONNAISSANCE DE LA DÉCLARATION D'UNITÉ, J'ADHÈRE AUX PRINCIPES DE CELLE-CI (VOIRE P.7)

____ I AM JEWISH (VOTING MEMBERSHIP)/
JE SUIS JUIVE/JUIF (MEMBRE AVEC DROIT DE VOTE)

____ I AM NOT JEWISH (ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP)
JE NE SUIS PAS JUIVE/JUIF (MEMBRE ASSOCIÉ/E)

I'D LIKE TO JOIN THE FOLLOWING IJV COMMITTEE(S) (OPTIONAL)
JE DÉSIRE PARTICIPER AUX COMITÉ(S) SUIVANTS DE VJI (FACULTATIF):

- ____ REACHING MAINSTREAM JEWS/ CONSCIENTISATION AUPRÈS DES COMMUNAUTÉS JUIFS COURANTS
- ____ CHALLENGING ISLAMOPHOBIA/ LUTTER CONTRE L'ISLAMOPHOBIE
- ____ LOBBYING/ GROUPES DE PRESSION
- ____ SUPPORTING INT'L AND ISRAELI JEWISH PEACE GROUPS/
SOUTENIR DES ORGANISMES JUIFS EN ISRAËL ET AILLEURS
- ____ COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA
- ____ FUND-RAISING/ LEVÉE DE FONDS
- ____ PROGRESSIVE JEWISH THINK TANK /GROUPE DE RÉFLEXION JUIF PROGRESSISTE
- ____ MEMBER RELATIONS/ L'ACTUALITÉ INTERNE
- ____ PROGRESSIVE JEWISH YOUTH/ JEUNESSE JUIVE PROGRESSISTE
- ____ SUPPORTING ALLIES: CHURCHES, UNIONS, AND PEACE GROUPS/
SOUTIENT AUX GROUPES ALLIÉS: SYNDICATS, ORGANISMES DE PAIX, INSTITUTIONS CONFESSIONNELLES

MEMBERSHIP DUES (SLIDING SCALE \$3 - \$15 PER MONTH; STUDENTS AND LOW INCOME FREE)/COTISATIONS (À ÉCHELLE MOBILE MENSUELLE DE 3\$À15\$ - SUPPRIMÉE POUR PERSONNES À FAIBLE REVENU

____ I'M AUTHORIZING MONTHLY DEDUCTIONS OF \$_____ FROM MY BANK ACCOUNT AND ATTACHING A CHEQUE MARKED "VOID".
JE PERMETS LA PERCEPTION MENSUELLE DE _____ \$ DEPUIS MON COMPTE BANCAIRE. CI-JOINT, UN CHÈQUE ANNULÉ.

(SIGNATURE)

____ I'M SENDING A SINGLE CHEQUE FOR 12 MONTHS OF _____ \$ (\$36 TO \$180). CI-JOINT UN CHÈQUE AU MONTANT DE _____ (36\$À180\$).

____ I REQUEST THAT THE IJV WAIVE MY PAYMENT OF DUES BECAUSE I AM A STUDENT OR HAVE A LOW INCOME. JE DEMANDE LA SUPPRESSION DES COTISATIONS CAR JE SUIS ÉTUDIANT/E OU UNE PERSONNE À FAIBLE REVENU.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR FORM AND PAYMENT (IF ANY) TO/VEUILLEZ ENVOYER VOTRE INSCRIPTION ET PAIEMENT À:
INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICES/VOIX JUIVES INDÉPENDANTES, P.O. Box 23088, OTTAWA, ONTARIO K2A 4E2

Outlook

Canada's Progressive Jewish Magazine

Why you should subscribe to

OUTLOOK MAGAZINE

Canada's only Jewish magazine with a socialist-humanist perspective.

The best coverage of Yiddish and Jewish books, poetry, art, and theatre.

Cutting edge news analysis: Canada, Israel/Palestine, the Middle East, and the world.



It's a bargain!

OUTLOOK MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION FORM

MAIL TO: OUTLOOK,
#3-6184 ASH ST.
VANCOUVER, B.C. V5Z 3G9

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____
____ GIFT SUBSCRIPTION

TEL (____) _____

EMAIL _____

- ____ 1 YEAR (6 ISSUES) \$36
- ____ 2 YEARS (12 ISSUES) \$60
- ____ LIBRARIES, INSTITUTIONS \$50
- ____ GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS \$25

FOR EVERY GIFT SUB, WE WILL SEND YOU A COPY OF (CHECK ONE):

- ____ CANADIAN JEWISH OUTLOOK ANTHOLOGY OR
- ____ JUDAISM: MYTH, LEGEND, HISTORY, AND CUSTOM FROM THE RELIGIOUS TO THE SECULAR

____ POSTAGE AND HANDLING FOR BONUS BOOK(S)
ADD \$10.00 EACH

____ TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION (YOUR DONATION = OUR CONTINUITY)

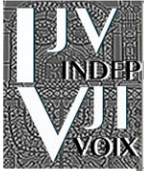
____ TOTAL
____ CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED
____ I WISH TO PAY BY VISA (WE ONLY ACCEPT VISA)
NAME ON VISA CREDIT CARD _____

CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRY DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

AMOUNT _____



www.independentjewishvoices.ca

INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICES

C A N A D A

VOIX JUIVES INDÉPENDANTES

AN INVITATION TO THE
1ST IJV ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FRIDAY - SUNDAY, JUNE 12-14 2009
OTTAWA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JUDY REBICK

ACTIVIST AND RABBLE.CA CO-FOUNDER

PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOPS ON:

BDS
REFUGEE RIGHT OF RETURN
GAZA SUPPORT

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR UPDATED INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER

GO TO

www.independentjewishvoices.ca