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September 8, 2016

Honorable Helen Rosenthal
Chair
New York City Council Committee on Contracts
City Hall
New York, New York

Re: Proposed Res. No. 1058-A

Dear Chair Rosenthal:

I want to thank you and the New York City Council for the invitation to speak on this critically important issue.

On a very personal note, being with you today is like being home to me. I lived across the street when I went to law school, I had law offices on Vesey Street and I spent a lot of time in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and my son Greg served with great distinction as Chief of Staff to the outstanding Councilmember Karen Koslowitz.

But there is a far more compelling factor that connects and binds you and me--and that is our nation, state and city's relationship with our strategic ally--the democratic state of Israel.

But first a disclosure: I have a particular bias in favor of Israel; I am an American Jew who experienced no small amount of anti-Semitism as a youngster, I am President of the New York Chapter of the National Association of Jewish Legislators and a member of its national Board of Directors, I have introduced and fought for constitutional anti bds legislation in our state capitol and I have spent time in and have family in Israel.

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But the real reason that I am here today is that I am a citizen of America and a citizen of New York, and because of that remarkable status I prize and I value, as do each of you, justice, fairness and national, state and regional self interest.

To be sure, those uniquely American concepts of justice and fairness have absolutely nothing in common with the well-financed and highly orchestrated movement to demonize and delegitimize our strategic ally, Israel. Not only is there no common ground, but the interests of Americans and New Yorkers scream out for our governments, federal, state and city, to stand with and to stand by the only democracy in one of the world's most dangerous neighborhoods.

Let me discuss the rationale for the resolution by first stating that those who would oppose it have adopted a particularly myopic and indeed, prejudiced, view of American history. Since its earliest days, our nation has engaged in what may today be termed economic diplomacy, trade diplomacy or commercial diplomacy.

President Thomas Jefferson waged war against the Barbary States because he made the wise determination that the US would not pay tribute to nations that enslaved our sailors and that we would not pay to ransom to purchase their freedom.

During the Civil War, our Federal government blockaded southern ports.

Before American entry into World War I, President Woodrow Wilson honored the English sea blockade of Germany.

And on July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt froze all of Imperial Japan's assets in the United States to retaliate for Japan's cruel occupation of French Indochina. This act cost Japan $\frac{3}{4}$ of its overseas trade and 88% of its critically needed imported oil.

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More recently, the United States and New York State imposed substantial sanctions on corporations that did business with Iran's energy sector.

And when the States of Indiana and North Carolina enacted anti human rights legislation in 2015 and 2016, Governor Cuomo wasted no time issuing Executive Orders barring New York officials from non-essential travel to those states.

There is no doubt that Paul Krugman and Tom Friedman are right: Trade can act as a facilitator of good relations between governments and between peoples.

But for the last several years, those who oppose the existence of Israel have used trade as a weapon against our ally. The bds movement and the movement to demonize and delegitimize Israel are designed to harm that nation and for what purpose?

Some might argue that the intent is merely to oppose Israeli settlements on the West Bank, that is, to send a message to the Israeli government that it should negotiate with the Palestinian Authority. But it is the PA, for its own parochial political interests, that refuses to go to the negotiation table. As is so often said, the Palestinians have, sadly, never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

We all know that the real underlying philosophy of this movement is to bring about the annihilation of Israel.

An organization self labeled the "Palestinian Civil Society," a major proponent of bds demonization, is almost naively candid when its official website boasts that its aim is "Ending Israel's occupation and colonization of Arab lands." We are not so naïve as to doubt that 'occupied Arab lands' refers to all of Israel.

UCLA's Professor Judah Pearl, the still grieving father of the martyred journalist Daniel Pearl, has written:

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"Anti-Semitism targets Jews as individuals; anti-Zionism targets Jews as a people. Anti-semitism would deny Jews equal standing as human beings; anti-Zionism would ban Israel from equal membership in the family of nations.

"If we examine anti-Zionist ideology closely, we see that its aims are: to uproot one people, the Jewish people, from its homeland, to take away its ability to defend itself in sovereignty, and to delegitimize its historical identity. It is racist and fundamentally eliminationist."

But there is a more basic reason that Governor Cuomo signed an Executive Order that ends New York doing business with companies that engage in bds demonization. It is, simply speaking, that that movement is bad business for New York.

We New Yorkers exported more than \$7 billion to Israel in 2014. Israel is the 5th largest importer of our states' goods and services.

Israel is as well our strategic military partner in a part of the world in which we Americans and we New Yorkers have few friends. Military cooperation and Israeli military advances along with Israeli intelligence are indispensable to the defense of our nation. This is a truth that is self-evident as we sit several hundred feet from where thousands of our family members and friends were murdered on September 11.

Nearly half of our states have enacted some type of anti bds and anti demonization measures. These measures do not punish free speech. They punish actual conduct that is injurious to America.

So, why on earth would we New Yorkers stand idly by while our ally is injured?

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There are no 'innocent bystanders' in this fight, which is a battle for democracy itself. Inaction simply enables the attempted destruction of our ally, Israel, so despised because it is the beacon of modernity in a part of the world where modern thought, communication, democracy and human rights are anathema to the forces of fundamentalism and atavism.

Again, I want to thank you for the invitation to share my thoughts and I want to recognize Councilmember Andrew Cohen for authoring this resolution and I wish to thank all the Members of the Council who support this legislative initiative and I salute your efforts to advance this highly significant resolution.

Sincerely,



Charles Lavine
Member of Assembly

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Committee on Contracts

Reso 1058: Resolution condemning all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the global movement to boycott, divest from and sanction the people of Israel

Testimony of Council Member Inez D. Barron
Thursday, September 8, 2016

The Boycott Divest and Sanctions (BDS) movement is an international campaign to bring pressure on Israel to end the discriminatory, oppressive, and deadly oppression of Palestinian people. It is supported by and advanced by a collaboration of Jews, Muslims and Christians along with others of various faiths, ie. Jewish Voice for Peace, Mennonite Central Church, Quakers, Presbyterian Church, World Council of Churches.

The BDS movement seeks to advance peace and improve the lives of Israelis and Palestinians; achieve an equitable two state solution; and conduct interfaith dialogue. A boycott is a protest that calls for withdrawal from commercial and social relations with organizations or countries.

Divestments is an action that sells off economic holdings. Sanctions penalize or impose a penalty. These tactics are used when other negotiating measures have not been successful. These tactics historically have been successfully used in major movements to end oppression, racism and suppression. The Civil Rights Movement gained momentum and expanded through the famous Montgomery bus boycott, along with boycotts and sit ins at Woolworths stores.

The apartheid system of South Africa was weakened and put to an end use of these tactics. Locally, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. and then Randy Evans movement forced major department stores, such as A&S, Martin's and EJ Korvettes to change their policies and practices in favor of a more racially balanced structure.

Today nations, educational institutions, high profile entertainers and educated consumers are joining this effort to bring an end to an oppressive condition that allowed conditions to exist that have resulted in deaths of innocent civilians, including women and children, destruction of family lives, increased number of orphans and loss of economic opportunities for Palestinian people.

As Chair of the Committee on Higher Education, I am particularly sensitive to ensuring that students maintain their right of free speech, even though some may be offended by the issues they seek to advance. In the 1960's students used their voices to take action and to be both proactive and responsive to conditions in the world.

The free speech movement led to protection of students to engage in vigorous debate on campus. The reason passage of S8017, which bars student groups from receiving funds if they participate in an activity that causes harm to, or casts this reputé on allied nations or its consumer commercial products is unconstitutional. The executive order, which penalizes companies that participate in BDS is unconstitutional. Students have traditionally been catalysts in social movements. They raise awareness of issues such as refugees; they protest the hypocrisy of the so-called free trade agreements; they heighten sensitivity of human trafficking; they call out nuclear proliferations. Likewise students should in no way be inhibited from participating in the BDS movement and having activities that bring this issue to light.

BDS is not about religion or national origin. BDS does not call for boycotting Jews, thus is not anti-Semitic. BDS call for an end to the discrimination of time and discriminatory practices inside of Israel, the right of return for those for the hundreds of thousands banished to refugee camps.

BDS is a non-violent response to a human rights violation situation. It does not use bombs, shellings, missiles, guns attacks or unlimited imprisonments to try to achieve its objectives.

BDS is in fact a tool to fight repression of a group of people who are fighting for their dignity, their freedoms and yes even their lives.

**New York City Council
September 8, 2016**

**Testimony by Stephen Greenberg, Chairman, Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations**

Hello, I am Stephen Greenberg, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. On behalf of the Conference's 53 member organizations we sincerely thank Councilman Cohen and the committee for your interest in, and commitment to combatting the BDS Movement and its bigoted, discriminatory and reprehensible goals and activities. The ramifications of BDS are far more nefarious than economic and political isolation – BDS is increasingly posing a physical threat to Jewish students and advocates of the Jewish state, and its activities span the commercial, cultural, and academic spheres. BDS is a poison that is permeating our communities, a cancer of hate that is metastasizing through society. Fortunately, societies are not judged by those spreading hate, but by how those in positions of authority react and counteract that hatred.

Although the BDS campaign has far-reaching aspirations and is engaged in racist and discriminatory tactics in every domain, it has an intense focus on university campuses and academia, where it unfortunately has been successful in radicalizing our youth. Primarily through the contemptible and notorious campus group, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), BDS activists have targeted Jewish students, faculty and administrators; physically assaulted campus Israel advocates; and violently disrupted Jewish and pro-Israel events on campuses nationwide in violation of the First Amendment. Just last week, an Israeli filmmaker was disinvited from Syracuse University because, according to the faculty member who had extended the invitation, "the BDS faction on campus will make matters very unpleasant for you and for me if you come." As you know, rampant anti-Semitism has penetrated CUNY's 24 campuses, and the system is currently defending itself against anti-Semitic employment discrimination allegations in court. At Hunter College last fall, Jewish students were subjected to violent, genocidal chants by SJP members at a rally during which those SJP students suggested that tuition increases were the result of a Zionist conspiracy. Mock eviction notices were distributed in NYU dormitories with high concentrations of Jewish students, symbolizing what the SJP activists believed to be the expulsion of Palestinian Arabs from Jewish land after Israel's independence. At Columbia, Jewish students were forced to take down a display countering SJP's "Israel Apartheid Week" presentation, which was promulgating lies about Israel and the Israeli people. Rutgers University faced legal material support for terror warnings when BDS-inspired groups raised funds for the pro-terror flotilla attempting to smuggle weapons into the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip by breaking Israel's naval blockade, contrary to international law. In July of this year, 2 black Americans, Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, were killed in altercations with police officers. In a blatant attempt to exploit their tragic deaths, NYU's SJP chapter declared that Israel was to blame because many U.S. police departments train with the Israel Defense Forces – [which is unfortunately the world's most experienced counter-terror agency]. NYU SJP did not find it ironic that

Palestinian groups like Hamas are actively engaged in the African slave trade, and that it is not Israel, but the Palestinians, that perpetuate international abuse and exploitation of non-whites.

These examples of BDS-inspired harassment and intimidation of Jews on U.S. campuses are only the tip of the iceberg, and the stories nationwide are extraordinarily alarming. Alpha Epsilon Pi, a well-known international Jewish fraternity, reported 18 violent incidents against its students and fraternity houses this past year alone, with four AEPi brothers having been hospitalized.

What should be most disturbing about BDS and SJP are their connections to designated foreign terrorist organizations and their nefarious sources of funding. Jonathan Schanzer, a former terrorism finance analyst for the U.S. Treasury Department, provided testimony before Congress this spring in his capacity as Vice President for Research at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. According to Schanzer:

“In the case of three organizations that were designated, shut down, or held civilly liable for providing material support to the terrorist organization Hamas, a significant contingent of their former leadership appears to have pivoted to leadership positions within the American BDS campaign. . . While members of the organizations’ leadership were jailed, deported, or otherwise brought to justice, many high-level and mid-level figures remained in the United States . . . [and] have gravitated to a new organization called American Muslims for Palestine (AMP). AMP is a Chicago-based organization that is a leading driver of the BDS campaign [and is] arguably the most important sponsor and organizer for Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), which is the most visible arm of the BDS campaign on campuses in the United States. AMP provides speakers, training, printed materials, a so-called “Apartheid Wall,” and grants to SJP activists. AMP even has a campus coordinator on staff whose job is to work directly with SJP and other pro-BDS campus groups across the country. According to an email it sent to subscribers, AMP spent \$100,000 on campus activities in 2014 alone. . . AMP is a not-for-profit corporation, but not a federal, 501c3, tax-exempt organization. Therefore, AMP does not have to file an IRS 990 form that would make its finances more transparent. . . The corporate structure of AMP is cause for concern, but it pales in comparison to the significant overlap between AMP and people who worked for or on behalf of organizations that were designated, dissolved, or held civilly liable by federal authorities for supporting Hamas.”

Although the BDS movement tries to position itself as a “grassroots” organization, these connections to foreign organizations demonstrate that there is nothing grassroots about it. In fact, BDS is the progeny of the Arab League boycott of Israel, which began as a boycott of Jewish persons and businesses long before the state of Israel was internationally recognized. When the boycott was formally and publicly codified by the

Arab League Council (ALC), on December 2, 1945, the statement released by the ALC declared: “Jewish products and manufactured goods shall be considered undesirable to the Arab countries” and that all Arab “institutions, organizations, merchants, commission agents and individuals” are called upon “to refuse to deal in distribute or consume Zionist products of manufactured goods.” As was the case then, and still is now, the terms “Jewish” and “Zionist” are used synonymously by the Arab League and by the Arab world. It is overwhelmingly clear that the bigoted motivation of the Arab League boycott of Israeli nationals and companies, as well as anyone who “sympathizes” or does business with the “Zionist regime,” was predicated on an animus towards Jews and the Jewish character of the state of Israel.

BDS breeds the same anti-Semitism and racism that is propagated by all the dictatorial regimes committed to Israel’s destruction through both physical and economic warfare. And consistent with its patrons, the BDS movement is fundamentally anti-Semitic; its goals are not only incompatible with a two state solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict, but desirous of a one state solution—without Jews. Those that claim that the BDS movement is not anti-Semitic are ignoring reality. One can simply look to the recent controversy in Spain, where BDS advocates proudly targeted *non-Israeli, Jewish* singer Matisyahu, attempting to have him expelled from a scheduled music festival in Valencia. Indeed, with more than 200 disputed territories around the world, BDS advocates’ exclusive focus on Israel, the world’s only Jewish state, reveals their prejudice: anyone truly concerned with human rights and apartheid would call attention to the religious, racial, ethnic and gender apartheid occurring in every Muslim-majority country in the Middle East. Unfortunately, the BDS movement does not care about the lives of the oppressed unless the supposed oppressors are the Jews.

BDS may seem attractive to New York’s young and impressionable students, who are opening their eyes to injustices here and around the world, exposing themselves to new ideas and fascinated by domestic and foreign movements for the advancement of civil and human rights. But the BDS campaign is a perversion of these ideals, singling out the world’s one and only Jewish state for condemnation and delegitimization. And like many radical movements, BDS does more to hurt the population it ostensibly serves than it does to hurt the population it targets. By exploiting the Palestinian people and their reality under their own regimes – which use civilians as human shields, spend international aid money on weapons and terror infrastructure, and indoctrinate children to wage jihad against Jews and Westerners – BDS ignores the rampant violations of the Palestinians’ human and civil rights by the corrupt political leaders that actually control their realities, their opportunities and their futures. Indeed, BDS is only pro-Palestinian to the extent that it is anti-Israel.

Instead of the racist messages of BDS, we should be capitalizing on the passion of our students and activists in ways that are productive to society and have positive and practical goals and outcomes. The BDS movement is the antithesis of this aspiration. Government agencies, public officials and anyone else with influence should roundly condemn the BDS movement as the discriminatory, bigoted and manipulative campaign that it is. Let’s put our heads together to solve problems instead of leveraging and

intensifying existing problems for personal gain and the promotion of a narrative that is inconsistent with reality or notions of peace and coexistence. While BDS divides, we must find messages that unite. While BDS singles out and discriminates, we must appreciate the unprecedented religious, cultural and political pluralism of Israeli society, and aspire to bring such freedoms to the rest of the Arab world. While BDS leaders are connected to groups that commit acts of terrorism and promote religious radicalism, we must shine the spotlight on those promoting messages of peace and acceptance.

We are grateful for the Council's commitment to principles of democracy, equality and tolerance, and offer the full support of the Conference as you consider this resolution and any others relevant to our work.



**New York City Council
September 8, 2016**

Testimony by Brooke Goldstein, Director, The Lawfare Project

Good morning. My name is Brooke Goldstein, I serve as Director of The Lawfare Project, a legal think tank and litigation fund dedicated to combatting lawfare – the abuse of the law as a weapon of war against Israel, the United States and the West. We are pleased that the New York City Council is interested in learning about the bigoted and discriminatory activity being propagated and undertaken by the BDS movement and its members and proponents. As you may already know, discrimination against persons, products and corporations based on ethnicity and national origin is not only illegal under New York’s Human Rights Law, but it is a position that is antithetical to the guarantees of freedom and fairness that exist in the State of New York and the United States of America.

For those who are unfamiliar with the history of BDS, the boycott and divestment strategy aimed at bankrupting Israel and Israeli businesses was conceived and initially implemented by the Arab League prior to Israel’s independence in 1948. It is a reflection of pure hatred against the Jewish people and their state, and a rejection of the Jewish people’s right to self-sovereignty. Many Arab League countries have continued these commercially discriminatory practices with the same stated objective to this day, and the corporate “blacklist” has grown to include a vast and diverse variety of international businesses targeted solely because of their national origin. The modern BDS movement is a vengeful derivative of the Arab League boycott, but the two campaigns are synonymous in their motives and goals: they incite economic warfare against a principal U.S. ally, in hopes of destroying of the world’s only Jewish state.

While it cannot be said that every BDS advocate feels hatred against Jews, the movement is inherently and undeniably anti-Semitic at its core. That’s why, when President Carter signed the federal Export Administration Act into law and made participation in the Arab League boycott illegal, he said its purpose was to “end the divisive effects on American life of foreign boycotts aimed at Jewish members of [American] society.” Other federal laws, including the Ribicoff Amendment to the Tax Reform Act of 1976¹ and the Sherman Antitrust Act,² have also been

¹ In 1976, President Ford signed the Tax Reform Act of 1976 (TRA) and its Ribicoff Amendment into law, creating a separate tax return reporting requirement and imposing tax burdens on U.S. taxpayers if they or members of their controlled groups participate in certain international economic boycotts. The amendment penalizes United States taxpayers who participate in, or cooperate with, boycotts not sanctioned by the U.S. government. The amendment is not limited in scope to activities in U.S. commerce, and can apply to any U.S. taxpayer regardless of intent.

The TRA's reporting requirement obligates taxpayers to declare annually their "operations" in, with, or related to a boycotting country or its nationals and requests received to participate in or cooperate with an international boycott.¹⁹ The Treasury Department publishes a quarterly list of boycotting countries for reference by individuals or corporations as they prepare their annual reports. This list helps corporate officers make business decisions with awareness of the potential for boycott proposals from these nations and their agencies and instrumentalities.



applied to prohibit and penalize discriminatory commercial activity against Israel and Israelis. U.S. federal law and policy is crystal clear that participation in boycotts against U.S. allies, whether they are Israeli, or Chinese, or Jordanian, or Canadian, are intolerable and illicit.

BDS activities are not only illegal on the federal level. The Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia state legislatures have recently passed near-unanimous resolutions condemning the BDS movement and exposing it for the anti-Semitic, anti-peace initiative it truly and openly is. State laws have been or are being enacted in Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and South Carolina, outlawing BDS activity, and anti-BDS bills have already been introduced in several other states. Some states have created policy boards tasked with identifying corporations who engage in BDS-inspired boycotts; recognized corporations in these states will be banned from state contracts and state investment in public pension funds. Other states – like New York – have anti-discrimination statutes on the books, which include private rights of action for individuals and corporations that face commercial discrimination based on ethnicity or national origin. In the coming months, dozens more U.S. state legislatures will consider anti-BDS legislation, and the U.S. Congress will consider federal bills in both the commercial and anti-discrimination contexts. So while radical BDS activists continue to attempt to advance this repugnant movement, the national trend in the United States is

26 U.S.C. § 999(b)(3)(A) defines participation in and/or cooperation with an international boycott as an individual agreeing, “as a condition of doing business directly or indirectly within a country or with the government, a company, or a national of a country . . . to refrain from doing business with or in a country which is the object of the boycott or with the government, companies or nationals of that country . . . [or] to refrain from doing business with any company whose ownership or management is made up, all or in part, of individuals of a particular nationality, race, ore religion, or to remove (or refrain from selecting) corporate directors who are individuals of a particular nationality, race, or religion[.]”

² The Sherman Antitrust Act¹¹ (or Sherman Act) is a federal statute that criminalizes anti-competitive business activities, including boycotts, affecting domestic U.S. business interests. When the Sherman Act became law, Justice Scalia (then U.S. Assistant Attorney General) wrote that if two or more U.S. firms were to combine for the purpose either of not dealing with some firm(s), or of preventing some neutral third-party firms from dealing with the object of the U.S. boycotter's activities, the combination could be termed a true "boycott" in the sense that that term has traditionally been employed in antitrust law. Justice Scalia said the Sherman Act was enacted to "vindicate public interest in a free market" and that related case law confirms that "any concerted refusal to deal is per se unlawful."

In the context of commercial boycotts, a violation of the Sherman Act can occur in situations involving only one domestic entity and at least one other foreign entity. When, for example, the Bechtel Corporation ceased business operations with firms on the Arab League's blacklist, the Justice Department prosecuted Bechtel,¹⁴ ultimately setting the precedent that U.S. antitrust law prohibits participation in tertiary boycotts, even when a single corporate actor forms a combination with parties acting outside the scope of U.S. law. Any other interpretation, according to the Supreme Court, would allow the combined companies to act as an "extra-governmental agency, which prescribes rules for the regulation and restraint of interstate commerce . . .," thus usurping legislative power from the federal government. By boycotting Israeli goods and companies directly or indirectly related to Israel, the BDS movement attempts to privatize the regulation of commerce by influencing U.S. corporations to refuse to trade with one of the United States' friendliest international partners, in a manner that clearly runs counter to the spirit and letter of the Sherman Act. BDS-inspired U.S. corporate actors violating the Sherman Act are guilty of a felony and may face criminal fines of up to \$100,000,000 if a corporation, or \$1,000,000 if an individual, and/or up to ten years' imprisonment.

The Sherman Act also creates a private right of action for individuals harmed in their business or property by antitrust violations. Available damages include three times the amount of damages sustained, plus court costs and attorneys' fees.



toward condemning, and often outlawing, BDS activity. The expectation is that discriminatory commercial conduct, specifically that conduct being advanced by BDS proponents, will soon be prohibited and penalized in every U.S. jurisdiction, and hopefully by the federal government as well.

Here in New York, boycotts undertaken on account of the victim's protected class have long been outlawed. In fact, the New York Court of Appeals noted in a 1995 decision that New York's own Anti-Boycott legislation "found its impetus in the Arab boycott of Jewish businesses (and) was draft[ed] more broadly to prohibit not only boycotts imposed by foreign entities, but any business tactics . . . which are driven by 'religious or racial bigotry'" Section 296(13) of New York State's Human Rights Law provides that: It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for any person to boycott or blacklist, or to refuse to buy from, sell to or trade with, or otherwise discriminate against any person, because of the race, creed, color, sexual orientation and national origin, [and other protected categories]. Courts have steadfastly affirmed that section 296(13) must be read broadly to include and prohibit discrimination in all forms of commercial activity and business practices, and that a finding of liability is justified when it can be shown that the "defendant engaged in a pattern of conduct that commercially disadvantaged only members of a protected class." Boycotts of *only* Israeli companies, irrespective of claimed motivation, undeniably satisfy this criterion. It is irrelevant under the law whether the impetus is bigotry, or supposed protest of the Israeli government.

While BDS proponents typically claim they are acting to demonstrate disagreement with the Israeli government, these claims are disingenuous and transparent. BDS proponents are free to criticize Israeli policies – as Israelis do every day in one of the world's most active and dynamic democracies. However, targeting or discriminating against a person or company because of their ethnicity or national origin is entirely unacceptable. One would not boycott a restaurant owned by a Chinese man to protest the Chinese government's policy, nor would one refuse to purchase from an African American retailer to declare condemnation of the government of Sudan. That is discrimination and it is illegal in New York State, pure and simple.

And yet, the BDS movement targets individuals and corporations because of their Jewish ethnicity and Israeli national origin—as well as secondary and even tertiary businesses that engage commercially with Israelis—ostensibly to protest the Israeli government. Tellingly, the BDS movement singles out the Jewish state, and only the Jewish state, in its so-called human rights advocacy. This is racism, pure and simple.

Claims of victimization by the individuals perpetrating this discriminatory conduct are baseless and absurd, as are the First Amendment arguments they repeatedly assert in their attempts to slow the nationwide progress in legislating against commercial discrimination. Advocacy of a boycott or of the BDS movement's more general goals is not prohibited, nor could it be prohibited anywhere in the United States under the First Amendment. However, when advocacy is combined with action,



and it crosses the line from protected speech to prohibited commercial conduct, there are clear violations of law – especially in New York. Ironically, it is the BDS movement and its proponents that operate to undermine our liberal democratic values of freedom of speech and association each time they rabidly disrupt presentations and events on American campuses featuring Israeli politicians, innovators, artists and academics.

While the right of BDS proponents to *advocate* for boycotts is and must be protected, there is nothing unlawful or unconstitutional in exposing the nature of their message or declaring that the *action* they are *encouraging* is illegal. According to the Office of Anti-Boycott Compliance at the U.S. Department of Commerce, there are specific actions that may be penalized and prohibited, and these are precisely the actions that BDS calls upon businesses to undertake. For example, Agreements to refuse or actual refusal to do business with Israeli companies; Agreements to discriminate or actual discrimination against persons based on race, religion, sex, or nationality; and Agreements to furnish or actual furnishing of information about business relationships with Israeli companies – are all illegal, so clearly, the central message of BDS is the promotion of unlawful activity, and anti-Zionism.

Zionism is the civil rights movement of the Jewish people: a movement to re-establish Jewish sovereignty in the historic national homeland of the Jewish people. Zionism is as legitimate as every other civil rights movement, and in fact it has informed and influenced various other minority groups in their quests for equality and social justice. Anti-Zionism means denying the basic civil and human rights of the Jewish people, and it is indistinguishable from anti-Semitism. Moreover, anti-Zionism is racism – and this is what the BDS movement is about.

Because of the unequivocally, unapologetically bigoted nature of the BDS campaign, it is entirely appropriate – in fact, laudable – that the New York City Council is considering a resolution denouncing the movement and its message. The Lawfare Project stands firmly behind Resolution 1058 and is available anytime for questions or comments.

Remarks for the Legislature Floor

*Michael S. Miller, Executive Vice President and CEO
Jewish Community Relations Council of New York*

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Good morning. My name is Michael Miller and I am the Executive Vice President and CEO of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, which represents more than 60 local Jewish organizations in New York City, Westchester, and Long Island.

I am here to speak in favor of the passage of Proposed Resolution No. 1058-A – “A resolution condemning all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the global movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction the people of Israel.”

I want to thank all the Council Members who have cosponsored this important resolution and specifically commend Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member Andrew (Andy) Cohen, and the Chair of the Jewish Caucus, Council Member Mark Levine, whose efforts have been instrumental in bringing this matter before us today.

The relationship between the City of New York and the State of Israel is deep and ever-evolving. As the city with the largest Jewish population anywhere in the world, many New Yorkers share great interest and concern for developments impacting on Israel’s safety, security and viability. As the Holy Land, Israel is not only central to the Jewish faith but also to Christianity and Islam. Jesus walked and preached in the Holy Land, from the Galilee to Jerusalem, and it is where the Prophet Muhammad preached and ascended to heaven.

Beyond faith, New Yorkers and Israelis share many values. Israel and the United States are two vibrant and robust democracies. As such, Israelis and New Yorkers both actively participate in their political discourse and drive progress and change. We each make it a priority to ensure that our poor are elevated, our hungry are fed, our sick are cared for, and that each person, regardless of race or the color of their skin, has equal rights and privileges enshrined in law. In fact, Israel is the only country outside of the United States that commemorates Martin Luther King Jr. Day. And as we are but three days from the 15th anniversary of the devastating September 11th attacks, it is particularly meaningful to note that the Israeli Memorial to the Victims of 9/11 was unveiled several years ago in a picturesque setting on the outskirts of Jerusalem. At that time, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Daniel Shapiro stood at that haunting structure, which lists the names of all of the victims, and reminded us that: “Here, at this painfully beautiful memorial site, we are a reminder to everyone that we, Americans and Israelis, stand together in a spirit of solidarity and commitment to the future.”

That spirit is non-partisan. One need not be a member of a particular faith or political party to support the U.S.-Israel relationship. This is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. It’s an American issue. Together, we must maintain this relationship, as successive U.S. administrations have demonstrated. It is this issue, today, which the resolution before you reaffirms.

Speaking of reaffirming, it is also reaffirming that over the last 15 years, active commercial ties between New York and Israel have blossomed in a wide range of industries. Hundreds of Israeli companies are publicly traded on the major exchanges here in New York. The Cornell-Technion Campus on Roosevelt Island will soon benefit our students, our economy, and the whole of society. American musicians regularly perform in Israel and Israeli cultural icons often entertain here in New York. And each year, our city and state ship more than \$5 billion worth of exports to Israel.

Over the last decade, the State of Israel has been a victim of economic warfare in the form of a well-orchestrated and well-funded campaign to delegitimize the world's only Jewish and Democratic state. Activists from all around the world – including here in America – have sought to cripple Israel through BDS: Boycotts of Israeli products; Divestment from Israeli companies and, more importantly, American companies doing business in Israel; and the imposition of a global Sanctions regime upon Israel. The BDS movement has successfully intimidated supporters of Israel in several arenas, including the arts, culture, corporations, academia, churches, grocery stores, pension funds, investment firms, and many more. While the movement's leaders claim they wish to open an "honest discussion about Israel," its activists have publicly shouted down Israeli speakers, disrupted Israel-focused events, and rejected applications from pro-Israel scholars to participate in academic panels concerning Israel. So much for open discourse.

But why is Israel targeted? The propaganda spewed by such activists claims that the purpose of the BDS Movement is to pressure Israel into ending its occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. However, upon further examination of the BDS movement's stated goals, it is clear that it's actually not interested in merely providing the Palestinians with an independent state alongside Israel. Rather, BDS is actively seeking to replace the Jewish state with a Palestinian state. 70 years ago, after the horrors of the Holocaust were revealed, the world woke up and understood the imperative for the establishment of a Jewish state as a haven and homeland – the need for the Jewish people to be in control of their own destiny. Over the years, Arab armies, Arab boycotts, and Arab terrorism have been used to try to exterminate the Jewish state, but all have failed. Now, in an era when the last survivors of Hitler's Holocaust are passing away, malevolent individuals, under the guise of pursuing Palestinian self-determination, are seeking to deprive the Jewish people of that very same right to self-determination. That is a highly discriminatory and anti-Jewish double standard.

As the resolution here implies, peace in the Middle East depends on both Israelis and Palestinians working together toward the mutual goal of a negotiated two-state solution. Two states for two peoples. In contrast, BDS tactics are one-sided and are focused solely on eliminating Israel. BDS turns a blind eye to Palestinian actions which seek to undermine a two-state solution, such as terrorism, indiscriminate rocket fire on civilian areas, repeated refusals to negotiate for peace, and unfortunate rejections of Israeli offers for Palestinian statehood. Rather than focusing on improving the situation for both peoples, BDS activists sabotage the internationally-backed peace process that is premised on advancing mutual understanding and respect between the parties.

Economic boycotts and divestment actions will not help the Palestinian people. The path to the two-state solution depends on creating an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation combined with economic development and political achievement. Blocking that path is the BDS Movement.

If you believe in the right of the Jewish people to be safe and secure in their historic homeland, I urge you to support this resolution.

If you believe in the right of the Palestinian people to their own state alongside, but not instead of, Israel, I urge you to support this resolution.

If you believe in a true peace process and oppose divisive, destructive tactics that attempt to cripple our ally Israel, I urge you to support this resolution.

If you believe that together, we can play a constructive role in ensuring that Israelis and Palestinians can work toward achieving mutual understanding, cooperation, and a better future for themselves, their children, and their grandchildren, I urge you to support this resolution.

Thank you.

FOR THE RECORD

First I would like to thank the City Council for having these hearings and considering anti-boycott legislation.

The US State Department defines demonizing Israel, using double standards for Israel, and delegitimizing Israel as anti-Semitism.

BDS is not a movement about improving the lives of the Palestinians whether living in Israel's West Bank or the Gaza Strip. It is purely a movement about the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people.

If you go on the BDS website they refer to UN resolutions as far back as 1948 - before there was a so-called occupation.

The PLO was established in 1964 - before there was a so-called occupation. As you go throughout their website, they keep referring to 1948 so it is clear that BDS is not about 2 states for 2 peoples, it is about the destruction of Israel AND the Jewish people.

Let me quote from Abed Amaala who happens to be the Shadow Commerce Minister in the Jordanian Parliament who published an OpEd yesterday:

BDS is a threat to us all - a threat to America as much as it is a threat to Israel, Jordan and our Palestinian brothers.

BDS claims to target Israel because Israel oppresses the Palestinians. If so, why does BDS never target Jordan's government, which oppresses and destroys the lives of the majority of Jordanians of Palestinian origins, and where many of my own people, the Bedouin Jordanians, go hungry?

Why does BDS never boycott Lebanon, where Palestinians are banned from working as taxi drivers? Why does it not boycott Syria, where President Bashar Assad has killed thousands of Palestinians in Yarmouk camp?

Shame on you for attacking the only country that offers jobs to my Palestinian brothers.

Shame on you for attacking the country that provides free health care for Palestinian cancer patients.

These are the facts:

3500 Palestinians have been murdered in Syria.

A half millions Syrians have been murdered in the last 5 years. It is murder not war.

Where is the BDS movement?

Just yesterday Syria used chemical weapons, chlorine bombs in a crowded neighborhood in Aleppo.

Is there a whisper from the BDS Movement?

Over 30 million Kurds, an indigenous people to the Middle East, have been fighting for freedom and a nation for over 100 years, much longer than the Palestinians. No one raises a flag to support them.

Where is the BDS movement for Tibet?

Where is the BDS movement for some 30+ nationalities fighting for freedom?

Now let's look at what the BDS movement in Israel looks like.

September 1, 2016 – "Israel first responders form kaleidoscope of cultures". I am not going to read this article but this is what Israel is.

Israel's Second in Command in the Israeli police is a Muslim.

Sitting on the Israeli Supreme Court is a Muslim.

In Parliament, outside of the Muslim parties, there are 17 Muslim members of which 13 have seats in the Arab parties and 4 have seats in the Meretz, Likud and Labor Parties and Yisrael Beiteinu.

And finally, besides the fact that Jews are indigenous to Palestine, isn't there supposed to be a free movement of people? Don't Jews as individuals have a right to move where they want?

Why is Gaza Judenrein (free of Jews) and why does the PA authority want there to be a Palestinian state that is Judenrein and yet Palestinians can live freely in Israel....and they do, as they vote, serve in the Army and serve in National Service.

It is critical for this progressive body to show the world that the Progressives recognize BDS for what it is - anti Zionism and anti-Semitism.

Intersectionality has bullied Jews from speaking up on college campuses like Syracuse University. Syracuse University Professor Gail Hamner disinvited Israeli film maker Shimon Dotan from screening his film called "The Settlers".

It turns out that Mr. Dotan's film is anti-settler but the mere fact that he is a Jew and an Israeli demanded that he not be invited. If not for a slip up, none of this would have been known as Professor Hamner admitted that she had no particular stance on the BDS movement but on the college campus she *"felt caught in an ideological matrix and by her own ego needed to sustain certain institutional affiliations"*.

The University rescinded its decision recognizing that what happened was terrible but did not come out and publicly change its policy.

So if this progressive body of the City Council comes out with anti BDS legislation it will send a tremendous message to the world that Progressives stand with Israel - the only progressive liberal democracy in the Middle East - and that Progressives stand with anti BDS in its most virulent form of anti-Semitism.

I am a child of Holocaust survivors. My parents' generation had nowhere to go and had there been an Israel it is quite possible that the Jews could have been saved.

Before we look at Israel with a double standard, let's stop the war in Syria and other countries using violence as a form of oppression.

One final thought - I would like to recognize Brad Lander for his stand against Christopher Bollyn who spoke last night at the Brooklyn Commons about how the Zionist and the Jews were the ones behind 9/11. While 9 organizations affiliated with the venue condemned the event none of them pulled out their sponsorship of the Brooklyn Commons.

This is why it is important that the City Council take a stand and not simply say that you are in favor of legislation.

Thank you for your time.

FOR THE RECORD

Meeting of New York City Council, Committee on Contracts, Sept. 8, 2016, to discuss Res. 1058-2016: *"Condemning all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the global movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction the people of Israel."*

Remarks submitted by Professor Rosalind P. Petchesky, Jewish Voice for Peace-NYC

Good morning City Council members and fellow New Yorkers. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in opposition to the resolution currently before this committee.

I am a Distinguished Professor Emerita of Political Science, recently retired from teaching at Hunter College and the CUNY Graduate Center, and a resident for decades of Manhattan's Upper West Side. I am also an active member of the national organization, Jewish Voice for Peace, and its Academic Advisory Council, here today representing JVP's New York City chapter. Let me say straight out, this resolution is deeply offensive to me—as a New Yorker, a scholar and educator, a lifelong social and racial justice advocate, and as a Jew.

The resolution contains numerous fallacies and distortions, but in this short time I'll point out only the most egregious:

1. **Equating criticisms of Israeli policies and of Zionism with "efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel."** This flawed thinking rests on the assumption that Israel is and must remain an exclusively *Jewish* state whose Palestinian, Christian and non-believing residents are second-class at best. Many illustrious Jews (Martin Buber, Hannah Arendt, and Albert Einstein come to mind) have rejected this ethno-nationalist ideology because it is inherently undemocratic and exclusionary. Many of JVP's own members, rather than wanting to "delegitimize the State of Israel," still hope to see it transform into a truly democratic, pluralist society. Our purpose is not "existential" but rather legal and moral—to stop the illegal colonial occupation, dispossession, house demolitions, daily racist oppression and endless killings and imprisonment of unarmed Palestinian men, women and children.
2. **Falsely alleging that BDS is aimed at "the people of Israel" and that it is "anti-Semitic."** This is a misleading distortion of BDS. The boycott and sanctions provisions of BDS are aimed at US and European corporations and Israeli government and institutions, not the Israeli people. Like the boycott of apartheid in South Africa and the Montgomery bus boycott during the Civil Rights era, BDS is a nonviolent movement to call attention to gross injustices. As reports by JVP and Palestine Legal and the Center for Constitutional Rights have amply documented (<https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Stifling-Dissent-Report-Overview.pdf>; <https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/attach/2015/09/Palestine%20Exception%20Report%20Final.pdf>), the massive campaign against BDS—engineered by the Israeli government, its security forces, and US billionaires—aims to suppress Palestine solidarity activism and all criticism of Israel on university campuses. Its main targets are the students and faculty colleagues I work with and our right to

peaceful dissent and expression. Claims that such dissent is “anti-Semitic” are *entirely bogus*. It is no more “anti-Semitic” for me to criticize Israeli government policies than it is “unpatriotic” for me to criticize my own government.

- 3. Implying that criticisms of Israel and Zionist ideology constitute a “form of discrimination.”** This mistaken notion denies two important facts. First, a targeted boycott or campaign against one set of injustices does not in any way prevent other such campaigns; on the contrary, they often reinforce one another. The alliance between the Black Lives Matter movement and Palestine liberation groups to oppose police brutality and militarization and mass incarceration is just one example of how these campaigns are in fact connected. The charge that we are unfairly “singling out” Israel in a world full of atrocities completely ignores that many groups that criticize Israeli policies are engaged in multiple struggles for peace and justice around the world. Second, this false idea of “discrimination” dismisses the profound conviction we in JVP, and I personally as a Jew, have that, while we must speak out against all forms of oppression and human rights abuses, we have a special moral responsibility to speak out in the case of Israel because, like the U.S. government, it purports to act in our name.

As a political scientist I have to ask why the City Council feels obliged to pass a resolution on behalf of a foreign power. Equating Zionism and the interests of the State of Israel with the interests of *all* New Yorkers not only disregards our city’s Palestinian, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Chinese, Korean, etc. populations. It also insults the many Jews in New York City who don’t share Zionist values and who freely protest the illegal and inhumane actions of the Israeli government and its U.S. benefactors. We are treated as nobodies here.

So my principal objection to this resolution is its clear purpose: to use tactics of dissemblance and obfuscation in order to suppress free speech and political expression supporting Palestinian rights and opposing Israeli wrongs. Although a City Council resolution has no force of law, it can nevertheless contribute to a poisonous climate of intimidation and hostility, especially against students and activists. The City Council should reject this kind of biased and dangerous taking of sides.

THE RECORD

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**New York City Council
Committee on Contracts
Hearing on Resolution No. 1058-A
Testimony of Professor Katherine Franke
September 8, 2016**

Chairwoman Rosenthal, Councilmembers Johnson, Koo, Constantinides, Miller, Wills and Deutsch thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on Resolution No. 1058-A.

I am the Sulzbacher Professor of Law at Columbia Law School in New York City, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Center for Constitutional Rights, a non-profit legal and educational organization dedicated to advancing and protecting the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Introduction

In my own capacity as a scholar and professor of constitutional law and civil rights, and on behalf of the Center for Constitutional Rights, I offer the following historical and legal analysis of Resolution No. 1058-A. First, the resolution embodies a regretful departure from the support that the New York City Council, its individual members, and other elected officials in New York have given to social movements in a wide range of contexts in the United States that have used boycotts as a tactic in their larger political struggles. Second, the resolution identifies for condemnation political activity that the Supreme Court of the United States has clearly held as constitutionally protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. As such, the resolution, if adopted, would mete out state sponsored censure toward citizens who are

exercising constitutionally protected rights and would, as a result, chill that protected speech. Finally, the resolution itself rests on findings and premises that misstate the aims of the BDS movement in this context and the political commitments of those who support the use of a boycott and other similar tactics in their efforts to contest human rights violations committed by the state of Israel.

History of Boycotts as a Political Tactic Used by Social Movements

Almost every social movement has at some point deployed boycotts as a tactic to advance its political goals, along with demonstrations, picketing, strikes, sit-ins, and other forms of direct action. The Boston Tea Party figured centrally in the larger boycott of British goods by American colonists and was used as part of a protest by the Sons of Liberty to foreground the problem of “taxation without representation.”¹ In 1791, supporters of abolition of the slave trade in Britain urged a boycott of slave-produced sugar.² In 1902 the Chinese boycotted U.S. products to protest the extension of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1902.³ In 1903 Mohandas

¹ Michael Schudson, *Citizens, Consumers, and the Good Society*, 611 *The Annals of The American Academy Of Political And Social Science* 236, 240 (2007) “The boycott of British goods was a key tactic for involving the general public in a fight for independence ... citizens signed their names to a publicly circulated and posted list, testifying to their commitment not to purchase imported British goods. This public affirmation of the boycott brought ordinary people, women as well as men, into the public realm as never before. By the time of the Boston Tea Party, British goods had ‘invited colonists to think radical new thoughts about empire. British manufactures came to symbolize dependence and repression.’” (quoting T.H. Breen, *The Marketplace Of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence* (New York: Oxford University Press 2004)).

² William Fox’s widely circulated pamphlet in 1791, *Address to the People of Great Brittain on the Propriety of Abstaining from West India Sugar and Rum*, inspired nation-wide boycott of West Indian sugar and rum as a tactic to protest the British slave trade. See J.R. Oldfield, *Popular Politics and British Anti-Slavery: The Mobilisation of Public Opinion against the Slave Trade 1787-1807* (Routledge 1998) p. 57.

³ See John W. Foster, *The Chinese Boycott, The Atlantic* (January 1906), available at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/unbound/flashbks/china/foster.htm>.

Gandhi and other anti-colonial actors in India called for a boycott of British goods, launching the *Swadeshi* (self-sufficiency) movement.⁴ In 1955 when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat in the “white section” of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, she sparked the Montgomery bus boycott to protest racial segregation in public transportation and began a chain reaction of similar boycotts throughout the South.⁵ In 1959 the African National Congress in South Africa called for British subjects to boycott South African goods, which grew in deliberate steps to include a world-wide boycott, sanctions and divestment movement.⁶

Interestingly, boycotts have figured centrally in the Jewish social justice tradition. Jewish philosopher Martin Buber recounted the story from the late 1700s of Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev, Ukraine on the eve of Passover, declared the local matzoh factory *treif* (not kosher) because “the women in this factory work from early morning until late at night. They are laboring too long and too hard. They are not being paid fairly for their labors.” In so doing, he triggered a boycott of the factory’s matzoh by Jews in the community.⁷ In 1933 an anti-Nazi boycott of German goods began in the U.S., Lithuania, Britain, Poland, and Mandatory Palestine on account of the Nazi’s growing anti-Semitism.⁸ In 2008 Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Ruth

⁴ S.N. Sen, *History of the Freedom Movement in India (1857-1947)* (1997) p. 95-96 (“Swadeshi and Boycott are the two necessary aspects of one and the same thing. One cannot flourish and strive without the help of the other ... These two economic weapons rapidly developed into a political agitation aimed at securing freedom from British bondage.”)

⁵ Stuart Burns, ed., *Daybreak of Freedom: The Montgomery Bus Boycott* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press 1997); Martin Luther King, *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story* (Boston: Beacon Press 2010).

⁶ *Forward to Freedom: The History of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement 1959-1994*, <http://www.aamarchives.org/campaigns/boycott.html>.

⁷ Rebecca Vilkomerson and Donna Nevel, *A Bubble Not Burst*, Forward, April 8, 2014.

⁸ Moshe Gottlieb, *The Anti-Nazi Boycott Movement in the United States: An Ideological and Sociological Appreciation*, 35 *Jewish Social Studies* 198 (1973); Moshe Gottlieb, *In the Shadow of War: The American*

Messinger, and Rabbi Avi Weiss were among 1,000 Jewish leaders who endorsed a boycott of kosher meatpacker, Agriprocessors. The boycott was organized by *Uri L'tzedek*, a group founded by students at the seminary *Yeshivat Chovevei Torah* in New York.⁹

The frontal attack on boycotts as a political tactic made by supporters of Israel is truly ironic given the endorsement that prominent Jewish and Zionist organizations have given to boycotts in other contexts. For instance, American Jews convinced the World Jewish Congress to endorse a resolution calling for a boycott of German goods in 1936. And when the Supreme Court considered the constitutionality of black citizens' boycott of racist businesses in Mississippi in the 1960s the American Jewish Congress submitted a friend of the court brief co-authored by Nathan Dershowitz (brother of Alan Dershowitz) arguing that "politically motivated economic boycotts have a long and honored history in our nation," and that boycotts "are forms of expression undoubtedly protected by the First Amendment."¹⁰

Just thirty years ago some of New York's most prominent politicians strongly endorsed a financial boycott and divestment of public funds from companies that did business in South Africa.¹¹ These boycott supporters included Mayor Ed Koch, Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger, Comptroller Harrison Goldin, union leader Victor Gotbaum, and Carol Bellamy, the City Council President.

Anti-Nazi Boycott Movement in 1939–1941, 62 *American Jewish Historical Quarterly* 146 (172).

⁹ *Boycott Threatened Against Largest US Kosher Meatpacker*, World Jewish Congress, June 5, 2008, <http://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/news/boycott-threatened-against-largest-us-kosher-meatpacker?printable=true>.

¹⁰ *NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware, Motion of American Jewish Congress for Leave to File Brief and Brief Amicus Curiae*, 1981 WL 390216 (1981).

¹¹ David W. Dunlap, *Some Trustees Want City Pension Funds To Cut Pretoria Ties*, *The New York Times*, March 7, 1984, available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/1984/03/07/nyregion/some-trustees-want-city-pension-funds-to-cut-pretoria-ties.html?pagewanted=all>.

In 2014 and 2015 Mayor Bill de Blasio boycotted the St. Patrick's Parade in New York City because of its policy of prohibiting gay groups from marching openly.¹² Last March, Mayor de Blasio and Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that they were boycotting the state of North Carolina, banning non-essential travel by public officials, after the state passed a law that was widely regarded as homophobic and transphobic. The Mayor went even further, threatening to boycott the state of Georgia if a law went into effect that would have allowed faith-based organizations to discriminate against people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.¹³ And last May the Mayor urged New Yorkers to boycott fast food chain Chick-fil-A on account of its ownership's biased statements toward LGBT people, "I'm certainly not going to patronize them and I wouldn't urge any other New Yorker to patronize them."¹⁴

To claim that the boycotts endorsed by public officials in New York were premised upon an animus toward South Africans, the Irish, North Carolinians, Georgians, or chicken sandwich retailers would be absurd. What our elected officials were doing was voicing opposition toward particular discriminatory policies, and they turned to a familiar organizing tool in doing so: the boycott. No one could, or did, plausibly argue that their use of boycotts in these contexts amounted to a form of bias toward specific ethnic, religious, or regional groups.

¹² Vivian Yee, *Boycott of St. Patrick's Day Parade Puts Mayor in Middle*, The New York Times, March 2, 2014, available at: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/03/nyregion/at-parades-or-not-de-blasio-makes-point.html?_r=0.

¹³ Tina Nguyen, *New York Governor Andrew Cuomo Boycotts North Carolina over Anti-L.G.B.T. Law*, Vanity Fair, March 29, 2016, available at: <http://www.vanityfair.com/news/2016/03/north-carolina-lgbt-discrimination-cuomo>. Emily Ngo, *Cuomo, de Blasio ban state and NYC worker travel to N.C.*, Newsday, March 28, 2016, available at: <http://www.newsday.com/news/new-york/bill-de-blasio-bans-nyc-worker-travel-to-nc-over-anti-lgbt-bill-1.11628410>.

¹⁴ Daniel Reynolds, *Bill de Blasio Urges Boycott of Chick-fil-A*, The Advocate, May 8, 2016, available at: <http://www.advocate.com/politicians/2016/5/08/bill-de-blasio-urges-boycott-chick-fil>.

Yet that is the charge made against citizens who resort to a boycott to protest human rights violations committed by the state of Israel. They, like the supporters of boycotts enumerated above, regard boycott, divestment and sanctions as legitimate measures to be found in a larger social justice tool-kit that can be deployed to protest state policies that they find objectionable. Like the supporters of boycotts mentioned above, their use of a boycott does not express animus toward a particular racial or ethnic group.

Boycotts as Constitutionally Protected Political Activity

Government actions and restrictions cannot be based on the desire to punish First Amendment activities that aim to encourage social and political change in a nation's policies. The Supreme Court most famously applied this principle to politically motivated boycotts in *NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co.*, a case in which the Court considered a challenge to a local NAACP chapter that had organized a boycott of white-owned businesses to pressure city officials in Port Gibson, Mississippi to meet a number of demands for racial equality and integration. The Court recognized that political boycotts involve a range of expressive activity and rely on the First Amendment freedoms of "speech, assembly, association, and petition." They brought boycotts under the protective constitutional umbrella of the First Amendment because political boycotts are directed at issues of public concern, and as such they are protected activities that "rest[] on the highest rung of the hierarchy of First Amendment values and [are] entitled to special protection."¹⁵ "Speech does not lose its protected character . . . simply because it may embarrass others or coerce them into action."¹⁶

¹⁵ *NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co.*, 458 U.S. 886, 913 (1982).

¹⁶ *Id.* p. 910.

Calls to boycott Israel cannot be differentiated from these and other historical examples of boycotts simply because they may be unpopular with some elected representatives today. Such a differentiation would constitute viewpoint discrimination prohibited by the First Amendment. The broadest version of this content-based rule instructs that greater constitutional solicitude is appropriate for the interests of all boycotters with a clearly political message, such as calls to boycott racist Nazi policies, British imperialism, Chinese Exclusion laws, Jim Crow segregation, apartheid in South Africa, or the state of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians in violation of international law.

The Resolution Misconstrues the Motivations Behind the Turn to BDS in this Context

Resolution No. 1058-A tragically reduces the use of a boycott in this context to a form of bigotry that is not born out by the facts. Those who support BDS point to a wide range of human rights violations committed by the State of Israel that include: the illegal 50-year occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem in violation of, *among other legal texts*, the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949; the wall constructed by the Israelis that has been found by the International Court of Justice to violate multiple provisions of international law;¹⁷ the forcible dispossession and exile of Palestinians from their property and territory in 1948 with no right of return or reparation; military campaigns directed by the state of Israel against Palestinians living in Gaza that violated rules of proportionality, targeting of civilians and civilian institutions (such as hospitals, water supplies, sewer systems etc.), and use of chemical weapons; and discrimination against

¹⁷ *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2004 I.C.J. 131 (Jul. 9), at <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/index.php?pr=71&code=mwp&p1=3&p2=4&p3=6>.

Palestinians living in the state of Israel itself; among other charges of violations committed by the Israeli state against Palestinians. Disagreement exists among legal scholars, jurists, and relevant public officials about the merits of these claims, yet these claims have gained legitimate attention and concern in respected international legal bodies and tribunals. None of these claims, however, are premised upon an animus toward the Jewish people, but rather concern the actions of a state, in this case, the state of Israel. Rather, they raise serious matters of public concern that land in the core of political speech protected by the First Amendment. To reduce a political movement that seeks to hold a state accountable to international legal rules to a form of bigotry insults the very idea of international law and those who seek its enforcement.

Conclusion

The Center for Constitutional Rights was founded 50 years ago to support the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and its leaders – including Fannie Lou Hamer – who were organizing and risking their lives to register African American voters in a larger effort to end racial segregation and economic injustice in this country. Boycotts figured centrally in the work of Hamer, Rosa Parks and other African American women who formed the backbone of the civil rights movement. The Center for Constitutional Rights defended the rights of civil rights activists to engage in uncomfortable and transformative civil rights actions 50 years ago, and we continue to do so today, defending the rights of today's activists to use boycott, divestment and sanctions as a tool by which to protest violations of international law committed by the state of Israel against Palestinians. We are deeply troubled that the New York City Council would consider endorsement of a resolution that ignores the political and constitutional history of boycotts. We are equally troubled that the New York City Council would allow itself to be

captured by extreme partisans whose aim is to deny fundamental constitutional rights of political expression and action to our fellow citizens.



Simon Wiesenthal Center
Testimony by: Michael D. Cohen, Eastern Director
September 8, 2016

NYC Council Committee on Contracts
Hearing on Resolution 1058-2016 :

Condemning all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the global movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction the people of Israel.

Rabbi Marvin Hier
Founder and Dean

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It is my honor to represent the Simon Wiesenthal Center at the New York City Council Committee on Contracts' hearing "Condemning all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the global movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction the people of Israel." On behalf of our 400,000 constituent American families, including 150,000 members residing in the New York City area, I wish to commend City Councilman Andrew Cohen (D-Riverdale) for launching this important initiative and the 34 Council Members who have already added their support for this timely resolution.

What happens in New York is noticed and when New Yorkers speak up, the world listens. It is time for our city, home to the largest Jewish population outside of Israel, to speak out against the insidious global BDS campaign that seeks to demonize, weaken and ultimately do away with America's trusted friend and ally and the only true democracy in the troubled Middle East.

BDSers aren't out to influence Israeli policies; they are out to delegitimize her.

It is important to recognize that:

****BDS has never helped a single Palestinian. It isn't designed to create more jobs for Palestinians, only to erase Israeli ones. The BDS movement is attempting to shut down businesses where Palestinians and Jews work together and are paid equal salaries even when it means that hundreds of Palestinians on whose behalf BDSers claim to advocate lose their jobs and ability to feed and support their families.**

****The goal of the BDS movement is to isolate the Jewish state, denigrate her among Christian Churches, and ban her academicians from our schools. Barring Israeli academics from New York conferences and shunning Israel's dynamic universities are unwarranted draconian moves appropriate perhaps for the likes of state-controlled Iranian and North Korean institutions, not against our nation's most reliable friend and ally in the Middle East.**

BDS is both morally wrong and geo-politically bankrupt, as it solely and unfairly holds Israel to a double standard, while the terrorist attacks launched by her neighbors, time and again are given a free pass.

Make no mistake about it, the unfair targeting of the Jewish state alone for defending itself from terrorist entities Hamas, Hezbollah and their backers-- in a world where horrific human rights abuses around the world go unchallenged-- is a prime 21st century manifestation of the world's oldest hate – anti-Semitism.

At the Simon Wiesenthal Center our mission is to combat all forms of hate and bigotry by building multi-faith coalitions, by building people up, not by threatening to tear them down. We support free speech on campus, but we will not stand idly as supporters of BDS abuse “free speech” to promote hate speech, in one case disrupting a faculty meeting to attack a Jewish professor at Brooklyn College as “Zionist pig”.

We welcome the leadership of the New York City Council in standing up against extremist and dangerous bullying of Israel as her friends and supporters. By passing this resolution, you will be adding a powerful new voice to the growing anti-BDS chorus, ranging from state legislatures in New Jersey, Tennessee, Illinois, South Carolina, Florida, California, Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio, Virginia, and Arizona, as well as our executive leadership in New York.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to address you this morning.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center is a global human rights organization devoted to imparting the contemporary lessons of the Nazi Holocaust and promoting Tolerance and human dignity. The Center's global agenda includes confronting anti-Semitism, hate and terrorism, promoting human rights, standing with Israel, and defending the rights and safety of Jews worldwide. The Simon Wiesenthal Center is accredited as an NGO at the United Nations, UNESCO, OSCE, Organization of American States (OAS), the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO) and the Council of Europe.



**STATEMENT BY IMAM AL-HAJJ TALIB 'ABDUR-RASHID
IMAM, THE MOSQUE OF ISLAMIC BROTHERHOOD (HARLEM, NYC)
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, CIVIL AND
HUMAN RIGHTS, THE MAJLIS ASH-SHURA
(ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL) OF NEW YORK
HEARING ON RESOLUTION 1058A - SEPTEMBER 8, 2016**

GOOD MORNING. PEACE BE UNTO YOU ALL. AS-SALAAMU 'ALAIKUM. I AM IMAM AL-HAJJ TALIB 'ABDUR-RASHID, THE IMAM OF THE MOSQUE OF ISLAMIC BROTHERHOOD, A 49 YEAR AFRICAN AMERICAN SUNNI MUSLIM CONGREGATION LOCATED IN HARLEM. TODAY THOUGH I AM HERE IN MY CAPACITY AS A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MAJLIS ASHURA, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, OF NEW YORK. I CURRENTLY SERVE AS A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THAT BODY IN MATTERS OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE MAJLIS ASH-SHURA OF NEW YORK REPRESENTS OVER 80 MOSQUES AND MUSLIM ORGANIZATIONS - IMAMS, BOARD PRESIDENTS, ACTIVISTS & YOUTH DIRECTORS - LEADING WOMEN, MEN, AND YOUTH OF COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE METROPOLITAN AREA.

WE OF THE MAJLIS ARE HERE TO EXPRESS OUR OPPOSITION TO THOSE CALLING FOR PUNISHMENT THROUGH CONDEMNATION, OF THE GLOBAL BDS ISRAEL MOVEMENT, AND ITS SUPPORTERS AND PARTICIPANTS HERE IN NEW YORK.

THOSE WISHING TO CONDEMN THAT MOVEMENT HAVE SPOKEN WITH PASSION AND ELOQUENCE TODAY. WE WHO SUPPORT IT HOPE AND PRAY TO DO THE SAME, IN EXPRESSION OF OUR ETHICAL OBLIGATION AS MUSLIMS TO ENGAGE OTHERS MUTUALLY AFFECTED BY THE OUTCOME OF A DECISION . WE DO SO IN A QUR'ANIC SPIRIT OF *SHUURAH* (MUTUAL CONSULTATION) AS NEW YORKERS. WE INTEND TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE AT HAND DIRECTLY TO THE POINT, PARTICULARLY SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER IN THE BEST DEMOCRATIC TRADITION.

WE OF THE ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF NEW YORK COMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL FOR DOING WHAT THE RESPECTED GOVERNOR OF OUR STATE, FAILED TO DO BEFORE ISSUING HIS EXECUTIVE ORDER, WHICH IS TO HOLD HEARINGS IN ORDER TO LISTEN TO AND EVALUATE THE VARYING POINTS OF VIEW REGARDING THE BDS ISRAEL MOVEMENT, BEFORE PASSING JUDGMENT ON IT AND DEEMING IT AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT IT WORTHY OF PUNISHMENT. THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS THAT GOVERNS ALL PEOPLE IN THIS LAND DEMANDS BETTER, AS THE MEMBERS OF THIS AUGUST BODY HAVE DEMONSTRATED, AND WE THANK YOU FOR THAT.

WE OF THE ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF NEW YORK RECOGNIZE THAT ULTIMATELY THE ISSUES RAISED HERE TODAY WILL BE ADDRESSED MOST APPROPRIATELY IN BUILDINGS NORTH OF CITY HALL, IN THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. UNDOUBTEDLY THE DEBATE THERE WHICH HAS BEEN OCCURING FOR DECADES, WILL CONTINUE JUST FIVE DAYS FROM NOW. BUT

SINCE WE ALL LIVE AS NEIGHBORS IN AN INTERNATIONAL CITY, AND JUSTICE DEMANDS TRUTH, WE AS MUSLIMS ARE COMPELLED TO EXPRESS OUR OPINIONS AND VIEWS AS OTHERS HAVE ALREADY DONE, AND WILL YET DO TODAY.

IT IS IMPORTANT THOUGH THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE BDS ISRAEL MOVEMENT FOR WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT. WHETHER WE AGREE OR DISAGREE ON ITS UTILITY WE MUST BE ABLE TO SEE PAST ANY MISCHARACTERIZATIONS OF IT THAT ARE BEING PROMULGATED BY SOME FOLK FOR POLITICAL REASONS. IN EXAMINATION OF THE CHARACTER OF THE BDS ISRAEL MOVEMENT , WE SEE SOME OF ITS OPPONENTS USING TACTICS THAT OTHER PEOPLE USE IN MODERN AMERICA WITH REGARDS TO RACISM.

BECAUSE RACISM HAS BEEN PUBLICLY EXPOSED AS THE WRONG THAT IT IS, THERE ARE THOSE WHO CHARACTERIZE IT IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO DIVERT CRITICISM DIRECTED TOWARDS IT AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT IT, FRAMING RACISM IN A WAY THAT DISGUISES ITS TRUE NATURE. SIMILARLY WE MUST EXAMINE THE FRAMING OF BDS ISRAEL BY SOME WHO WOULD USE THE SAME STRATEGM.

BECAUSE IF WE ALLOW BDS ISRAEL TO BE FRAMED AS ANTI-SEMETIC (MEANING I PRESUME, ANTI-JEWISH ANTI-SEMETIC IN CONTRAST TO ANTI-ARAB ANTI-SEMETIC, SM BECAUSE ARABS ARE JUST AS MUCH A SEMETIC PEOPLE AS JEWS) -IF WE ALLOW BDS ISRAEL TO BE FRAMED AS ANTI-JEWISH ANTI-SEMETIC, THEN IT WILL BE AND SHOULD BE REJECTED BECAUSE ANTI-SEMITISM OF ANY KIND IS WRONG. IF WE ALLOW BDS ISRAEL TO BE FRAMED AS HATE SPEECH, THEN IT

WILL BE AND SHOULD BE CENSURED BECAUSE HATE SPEECH IS WRONG. IF WE ALLOW BDS ISRAEL TO BE FRAMED AS AN EFFORT TO DELEGITIMIZE ISRAEL, THEN MANY GOOD PEOPLE WILL DEEM IT WORTHY OF AN UNQUESTIONING CONDEMNATION, BECAUSE WHEN A DEMOCRACY IS VIEWED AS BEING UNDER ATTACK THEN OTHER DEMOCRACIES WILL MOVE TO DEFEND IT.

WE OF THE MAJLIS ASHURA, ALONG WITH OUR PARTNERS AND ALLIES, CONDEMN RESOLUTION 1058A'S PROPOSED CONDEMNATION OF BDS ISRAEL. WE VIEW IT AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS A REPLICATION ON THE CITY LEVEL OF THE ARGUABLY UNCONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES ADOPTED BY OUR STATE GOVERNMENT, WITH REGARDS TO THAT STRATEGM OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT.

IT IS OUR INTENTION THIS MORNING (AFTERNOON) TO SPEAK THE TRUTH AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, AND IN THE WORDS OF ALMIGHTY GOD IN THE QUR'AN, TO DO SO SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO THE POINT. FURTHER, WE WILL DO SO IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD'S COMMANDMENT AS FOUND IN THE TORAH OR OLD TESTAMENT, IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH - "COME LET US REASON (OR SETTLE THIS MATTER) TOGETHER".

FIRST, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, THE WORDING OF RESOLUTION 1058A CONTAINS LANGUAGE WHICH IS MISLEADING. IT CALLS FOR CONDEMNATION OF "ALL EFFORTS TO DELEGITIMIZE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT TO BOYCOTT, DIVEST FROM, AND SANCTION THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL".

WE SAY THAT THE OPENING AND THEREFORE FRAMING DECLARATION OF THE RESOLUTION IS INACCURATE AND AGAIN, MIS-LEADING. THE PURPOSE OF THE BDS ISRAEL MOVEMENT IS NOT TO DELEGITIMIZE THE STATE OF ISRAEL, NOR TO VICTIMIZE ITS PEOPLE, YET AGAIN. RATHER ITS OPENLY STATED INTERNATIONAL *RAISON D'ETRE* SINCE THE YEAR 2005, HAS BEEN AND IS TO "URGE VARIOUS FORMS OF NON-VIOLENT PUNITIVE MEASURES AGAINST ISRAEL, UNTIL IT COMPLIES WITH THE PRECEPTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW". BDS ISRAEL DEFINES ITS STATED GOALS AS:

1. " ENDING THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION AND COLONIZATION OF ALL ARAB LANDS AND DISMANTLING THE WALL.
2. " RECOGNITION OF 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 ".

IN TODAY'S WORLD OF VIOLENT STRIFE AND ACTS OF TERRORISM COMMITTED BY INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND GOVERNMENTS SEEKING EITHER TO PRESERVE THE STATUS-QUO OR OPPOSE IT, THE BDS MOVEMENT IN ALL OF ITS FORMS AND MANIFESTATIONS IS AN EARNEST EFFORT TO EFFECT SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH PROTEST DIVESTMENT, AS AN ACT OF ECONOMIC SHAREHOLDER ACTIVISM.

WE OF THE ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STAND FOR JUSTICE, AND WE SUPPORT AND HAVE ENGAGED IN ACTS OF PROTEST THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF NEW YORK OVER THE DECADES, WHEN WE HAVE DEEMED IT NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE EXISTENCE OR OCCURRENCE OF AN INJUSTICE.

WE ALSO OPPOSE ALL ACTS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM, WHETHER INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, OR STATES COMMIT THEM. IN THE IMMEDIATE PAST WE DECLARED THIS PUBLICLY RIGHT FROM THE STEPS OF THIS BUILDING (CITY HALL). THEREFORE WE SUPPORT THE BDS ISRAEL MOVEMENT AS A VIABLE, AUTHENTIC, AND LEGITIMATE MEANS OF NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE OR STRUGGLE, IN A MATTER DEMANDING JUSTICE.

CRITICIZING OR OPPOSING A NATION'S POLICIES OR ACTIONS IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO SEEKING THE DELEGITIMIZATION OF THE NATION ITSELF. OUR EXPERIENCE AS AMERICANS HAS TAUGHT US THIS VALUABLE LESSON TIME AND TIME AGAIN, AND EVEN NOW DURING THIS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CYCLE, WE ARE STILL BEING TAUGHT OR REMINDED OF THIS.

SINCE THE BIRTH OF THE NATION THERE HAVE BEEN THOSE WHO SEEMINGLY DID NOT OR DO NOT REMEMBER THIS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRACY, WHEN IT WORKS IN OPPOSITION TO THEIR VIEW IN THE MOMENT. BUT IN THIS COUNTRY DISSENT IS WOVEN IN PRINCIPLE AND LAW INTO THE VERY FABRIC OF OUR WAY OF LIFE, AS

AMERICANS. THE SUPREME COURT DEFENDS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, AND HAS DEEMED PROTEST IN WORDS AND ACTIONS AS CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED. THAT SAME SUPREME COURT HELD IN NAACP V. CLAIBORNE HARDWARE THAT STATES HAVE NO RIGHT TO PROHIBIT PEACEFUL POLITICAL ACTIVITY. INDEED WHEN THE GOVERNMENT BEGINS TO POLICE THOUGHTS, IDEAS, AND BELIEFS, OR SEEKS TO CRIMINALIZE ADVOCACY AND PUNISH THOSE WHO SUPPORT BDS ISRAEL, IT IS POLITICALLY, MORALLY, AND ETHICALLY DANGEROUS FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.

AS MUSLIMS WE ARE TAUGHT FROM THE TRADITIONS OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PEACE BE UPON HIM), THAT WHEN WE SEE AN EVIL WE SHOULD CHANGE IT WITH OUR HANDS. IF WE CAN'T DO THAT THEN WE ARE COMMANDED TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST IT. AND IF WE CAN'T DO THAT THEN WE TO OPPOSE IT IN OUR HEARTS, ALTHOUGH THAT IS THE WEAKEST OF FAITH. THEREFORE MUSLIM AMERICANS RECOGNIZE, AS DO OTHERS, THAT THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE THROUGH PROTEST IS NOT WAGED ONLY THROUGH MARCHING AND CARRYING SIGNS, BUT THROUGH VARYING METHODS OF EFFECTIVE ACTION.

THIS IS THE CASE NOT ONLY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, BUT ALSO THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN MANY COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ACHIEVED THAT LEVEL OF FREEDOM, EVEN AS OTHERS SEEK TO ACHIEVE IT. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS A HUMAN RIGHT, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ARE OFTEN IF NOT ALWAYS REFLECTIVE OF SACRED RIGHTS. THE MAJLIS ASHURA DEFENDS SACRED RIGHTS, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE BDS ISRAEL MOVEMENT IS SEEKING TO EXERCISE AN ASPECT OF THOSE RIGHTS. BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS ARE NOT THE ONLY MEANS TO A JUST AND NON-VIOLENT RESOLUTION. BUT THEY ARE AMONGST THEM.

BOYCOTTING IS AN EFFECTIVE AND LEGITIMATE AMERICAN TRADITION. IN THE YEAR 1930 IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO, WHEN SUBJECTED TO THE INJUSTICE OF RACIST HIRING PRACTICES, THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, LED INITIALLY BY A GRASSROOTS ACTIVIST NAMED SUFI ABDUL-HAMID, AND THEN REINFORCED BY THE BLACK CHURCH, INSTITUTED THE TACTIC OF ECONOMIC BOYCOTT AS A MEANS FOR SEEKING REDRESS TO THEIR GRIEVANCES.

THE RESULT WAS THE HIRING IN TWO MONTHS OF SOME 300 PEOPLE IN NEED OF JOBS. THE ULTIMATE RIPPLE EFFECT OF THIS CAMPAIGN OVER TIME WAS THE SECURING OF 10,691 JOBS FOR THOSE IN NEED, WHO WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED THEM OTHERWISE. ALL OF THIS OCCURRED AS MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAS JUST BEING BORN IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

THE SAME THING HAPPENED RIGHT HERE IN NEW YORK CITY TWO YEARS LATER IN 1932 FOR THE SAME REASON. THOSE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK WHO REALLY KNOW ITS HISTORY, AND THE HISTORY OF HARLEM,

REMEMBER WELL WITH OUR COMMUNAL CONSCIOUSNES, THE SUCCESSFUL BOYCOTT OF BLUMSTEIN'S DEPARTMENT STORE ON WEST 125TH STREET, OPPOSITE THE APOLLO THEATRE.

DECADES LATER, WHEN THE BLACK PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA HAD THEMSELVES SUFFERED FOR DECADES FROM INSTITUTIONALIZED RACIAL INJUSTICE IN THE FORM OF APARTHEID, EVENTUALLY A MOVEMENT OF BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTION DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT CAME INTO BEING AS A NON-VIOLENT MEANS OF EFFECTING SOCIAL CHANGE.

THE WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE OPPOSED IT. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OPPOSED IT. GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSED IT. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES RONALD REAGAN OPPOSED IT. BUT EVENTUALLY THAT MOVEMENT PREVAILED, AND THE RESULT WAS A NON-VIOLENT RESOLUTION TO WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN THE BLOODIEST RACE WAR IN THE HISTORY OF HUMANKIND. THE NON-VIOLENT RESOLUTION TO THAT NATION'S PROBLEM WAS ULTIMATELY POLITICAL, AND NOT MILITARY. IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED BECAUSE TACTICS SUCH AS BDS SOUTH AFRICA WERE SUCCESSFULLY EMPLOYED ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS.

THE TACTIC OF BOYCOTTS, DIVESTMENTS AND SANCTIONS (BDS) HAS BEEN USED FOR YEARS TO PRESSURE U.S. COMPANIES TO STOP ILLEGALLY PROFITING FROM FOREIGN OCCUPATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN CASES

WHERE THE UNITED STATES HAS BLOCKED THE UNITED NATIONS FROM ENFORCING ITS RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF OCCUPATION FORCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE U.N. CHARTER.

BOYCOTT AND DIVESTMENT CAMPAIGNS IN PREVIOUS DECADES TARGETED COMPANIES SUPPORTING SOUTH AFRICA'S OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA AND INDONESIA'S OCCUPATION OF EAST TIMOR. A CAMPAIGN IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY, PARTICULARLY STRONG IN EUROPE, IN SUPPORT OF BDS AGAINST THE MOROCCAN OCCUPATION OF WESTERN SAHARA.

ALSO IN THIS DAY AND TIME BDS ISRAEL IS NOT THE ONLY CURRENT USE OF SUCH STRATEGEMS OR TACTICS FOR THE ACHEIVEMENT OF JUSTICE. IN MARCH 2001 THE FLORIDA-BASED COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS CALLED A CONSUMER BOYCOTT OF TACO BELL, TO PROTEST WORKER EXPLOITATION BY ITS TOMATO SUPPLIERS. FOUR YEARS LATER IN MARCH 2005, TACO BELL AGREED TO MEET ALL DEMANDS TO IMPROVE WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR FLORIDA TOMATO PICKERS IN ITS SUPPLY CHAIN. FURTHER AT THIS VERY MOMENT ,ACTIVISTS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS SEEKING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ARE FURTHERING A BDS MOVEMENT TO SAVE THE EARTH - U SEE?

I REPEAT, BDS ISRAEL IS AN EARNEST EFFORT TO EFFECT SOCIAL CHANGE IN THAT NATION THROUGH PROTEST DIVESTMENT, AS AN ACT OF ECONOMIC SHAREHOLDER ACTIVISM. THE SHAREHOLDERS IN THIS CASE ARE NOT ONLY ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS, BUT PEOPLE OF THE

GLOBAL PEACE AND JUSTICE MOVEMENT, INCLUDING THE ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF NEW YORK AND ITS PARTNERS AND ALLIES.

WE CONDEMN TERRORISM AND WORK FOR PEACE. BUT THOSE WHO CONDEMN BOTH VIOLENT AND NON-VIOLENT STRUGGLE AGAINST INJUSTICE ARE REALLY ADVOCATING NON-STRUGGLE, OR STRUGGLE RESTRICTED TO MEANS CONVENIENT OR SOLELY PALATABLE TO THOSE BEING STRUGGLED AGAINST, AND THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE DOWNTRODDEN MASSES OF PEOPLE.

THE BDS ISRAEL MOVEMENT IS ONE SUPPORTED BY RELIGIOUS BODIES LIKE THE MAJLIS ASHURA, AS WELL AS CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS. LIKewise THERE ARE THOSE WHO OPPOSE BDS ISRAEL, LIKE THE UNITED METHODIST AND EPISCOPAL CHURCHES. HOWEVER THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS BODIES, WHO BOLSTERED BY THE YOUNGER GENERATION, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR, AND LIBERALS AND PROGRESSIVES OF VARIOUS FAITHS AND ETHICAL COMMITMENTS, ARE STANDING IN SUPPORT OF BDS ISRAEL IN GROWING NUMBERS.

IT IS THAT STRENGTH OF GROWING NUMBERS THAT HAS RESULTED IN THE POLITICAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNTER-OFFENSIVE, WHICH BRINGS US HERE TODAY. THOSE WHO OPPOSE BDS ISRAEL ARE ALSO GROWING, AND THIS IS THE REASON FOR THE ORCHESTRATED BACKLASH AND "WHITELISTING" OF BDS ISRAEL

SUPPORTERS SUCH AS THAT WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN NEW YORK STATE.

TACTICS VARY WITHIN THE BDS ISRAEL MOVEMENT, ESPECIALLY AMONGST THE RELIGIOUS GROUPS. TAKE THE QUAKERS FOR INSTANCE. THEY CHOOSE NOT CALL FOR A FULL BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL NOR OF COMPANIES SOLELY BECAUSE THEY ARE EITHER ISRAELI OR DOING BUSINESS IN ISRAEL. THE ACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE ALSO DO NOT FOCUS ON INDIVIDUALS. BUT THEY DO CHOOSE TO ACT WITHIN THE MORAL MANDATE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

QUAKER SUPPORT FOR THE USE OF BOYCOTTS AND DIVESTMENTS IS CONTEXTUALIZED BY THEIR LONG SUPPORT FOR BOYCOTTS, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS, AS ECONOMIC TACTICS THAT APPEAL TO HUMAN CONSCIENCE AND CHANGE BEHAVIOR. IN THE 1800S, QUAKERS HELPED LEAD THE "FREE PRODUCE MOVEMENT," A BOYCOTT OF GOODS PRODUCED USING SLAVE LABOR. IN RECENT TIMES, AFSC HAS PARTICIPATED IN BOYCOTT AND DIVESTMENT CAMPAIGNS CONNECTED TO THEN CIVIL RIGHTS, ANTI-APARTHEID, FARM WORKER, AND PRISON RIGHTS STRUGGLES.

THE AFSC CLAIMS THAT SINCE 1948 THEY HAVE WORKED WITH BOTH PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS TO ACHIEVE A JUST AND LASTING PEACE, AND THEY REMAIN COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING NONVIOLENT ACTIVISM DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THIS END. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AFSC

PRINCIPLES AND HISTORY, THEY SUPPORT ALL NONVIOLENT EFFORTS TO REALIZE PEACE AND JUSTICE IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE, INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC USE OF BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS TACTIC. YET ACCORDING TO THE WORDS OF OUR GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO, AND THOSE OF RESOLUTION 1058A, QUAKERS AND OTHERS WILL STAND CONDEMNED. "IF YOU BOYCOTT ISRAEL" OUR STATE'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE SAID " ..WE'RE GOING TO BOYCOTT YOU".

HOWEVER MANY RELIGIOUS GROUPS SUPPORT BDS. AMONGST THE CHRISTIAN GROUPS ARE:

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC)

BRITISH METHODIST CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKER TEAMS, PALESTINE

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE EPISCOPAL PEACE FELLOWSHIP

KAIROS EUROPA

MALAYSIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

PALESTINIAN CHRISTIANS: KAIROS DOCUMENT

NATIONAL COALITION OF AMERICAN NUNS

SABEEL

FRIENDS OF SABEEL NORTH AMERICA

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CENTRAL COMMITTEE

NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

CHRISTIAN AID (UK AND IRELAND)

CHURCH OF SWEDEN

DANCHURCHAID (DENMARK)

DIAKONIA (SWEDEN)

FINNCHURCHAID (FINLAND) NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

IKV PAX CHRISTI (NETHERLANDS)

ICCO (INTERCHURCH ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION)

CORDAID (NETHERLANDS) - THE CATHOLIC ORGANISATION FOR RELIEF
AND DEVELOPMENT AID

QUAKER COUNCIL FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

QUAKER PEACE AND SOCIAL WITNESS (UK)

AMONGST THE JEWISH GROUPS SUPPORTING BDS ISRAEL ARE:

INTERNATIONAL JEWISH ANTI-ZIONIST NETWORK

JEWISH VOICES FOR PEACE, US

AMERICANS FOR PEACE NOW, US

MERETZ USA

INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICES, US

JEWS FOR JUSTICE FOR PALESTINIANS, UK

A DIFFERENT JEWISH VOICE (EEN ANDER JOODS GELUID), NETHERLANDS

JEWS FOR BOYCOTTING ISRAELI GOODS, UK

NOT IN OUR NAME, ARGENTINA

INTERNATIONAL JEWISH ANTI-ZIONIST NETWORK, TORONTO
JEWISH VOICE FOR A JUST PEACE IN THE NEAR EAST, AUSTRIA
FRENCH JEWISH UNION FOR PEACE (UNION JUIVE FRANÇAISE POUR LA
PAIX), FRANCE
JEWS AGAINST ZIONISM, CANADA
JEWS SAY NO, NYC
RETE-ECO, ITALY (THE ITALIAN NETWORK OF JEWS AGAINST THE
OCCUPATION)
AND AMERICAN JEWS FOR A JUST PEACE, US.

NOW CERTAINLY ALL PEOPLE ACT IN THIER PERCEIVED INTEREST.
AS I STATED, DURING THE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACIAL INJUSTICE IN
AMERICA AND SOUTH-AFRICA, IN THE FORMS OF SEGREGATION AND
APARTHEID, THE OPPOSITION TO THOSE BDS MOVEMENTS PREACHED,
ORGANIZED, LOBBIED, AND DID ALL SORTS OF THINGS. BUT MORALLY
THEY WERE WRONG.

BDS ISRAEL IS A POLITICAL TACTIC IN A POLITICAL STRUGGLE, NOT
A RELIGIOUS ONE. BUT FOR MUSLIMS AND MILLIONS OF OTHER PEOPLE
OF FAITH IN THE SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT, THE POLITICAL AND THE
SPIRITUAL ARE LINKED. MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT INJUSTICES OF A
SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC NATURE AFFLICT THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE.

THOSE WHO DISAGREE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO DO SO. THOSE WHO OPPOSE BDS ISRAEL HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO DO SO AND TO VOICE THEIR OPPOSITION TO IT AS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DOING HERE TODAY, EVEN AS OTHERS OF US VOICE OUR SUPPORT. BUT THE AMERICAN NATION STATE AND ITS GOVERNMENT - FEDERAL , STATE OR LOCAL, SHOULD NOT CONDEMN NOR PUNISH THOSE WHO SEEK A JUST AND NON-VIOLENT SOLUTION, TO A PROBLEM OF INJUSTICE.

TO DO SO WHILE UPLIFTING THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND WORLD PEACE IN ONE'S RHETORIC, WHILE ENACTING SOMETHING ELSE IN THE HALLS OF GOVERNMENT, IS TO PRACTICE WHAT EL-HAJJ MALIK EL-SHABAZZ/MALCOLM X CALLED "THE HYPROCRISY OF DEMOCRACY".

WE OF THE ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF NEW YORK URGE YOU AS MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL, TO EXERCISE THE TRUTH AND JUSTICE OF DEMOCRACY AND TO OPPOSE ITS HYPOCRISY, BY VOTING AGAINST RESOLUTION 1058A.

FINALLY, WE SAY TO YOU AND TO ALL OF OUR NEIGHBORS REGARDLESS OF FAITH, THAT THE PROPHET ISAIAH IS HELD SACRED IN ALL OF THE ABRAHAMIC FAITH TRADITIONS, INCLUDING ISLAM. AND WE BELIEVE HIS WORDS TO BE APPROPRIATE HERE - **"THUS SAYS THE LORD: 'KEEP JUSTICE, AND DO RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR SOON MY SALVATION WILL COME, AND MY**

RIGHTEOUSNESS BE REVEALED. BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO DOES THIS...' "

(ISAIAH 56:1,2)

THEN IN THE QUR'AN IT IS WRITTEN

"BE EVER STEADFAST IN YOUR DEVOTION TO GOD, BEARING WITNESS TO THE TRUTH IN ALL EQUITY; AND NEVER LET HATRED OF ANYONE LEAD YOU INTO THE SIN OF DEVIATING FROM JUSTICE. BE JUST: THIS IS CLOSEST TO BEING GOD-CONSCIOUS. AND REMAIN CONSCIOUS OF GOD: VERILY, GOD IS AWARE OF ALL THAT YOU DO" (QUR'AN 5:8)

WE SAY TO YOU OF OUR CITY COUNCIL- ACT JUSTLY, AND PRESERVE JUSTICE. DO NOT SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION. INSTEAD, LEAVE SUCH MATTERS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND CONVICTION OF CONSCIENCE, TO THE PEOPLE WILLING TO SPEAK, AND TO ACT SEEKING REDRESS IN A MATTER OF GRAVE INJUSTICE.

THANK YOU. PEACE BE UNTO YOU ALL. PAZ, SHALOM, AND SALAAM

LISA BUCHSBAUM POLLACK,
Executive Director, Hunter College Hillel
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
September 8, 2016

I speak before you, the City Council, as both the Executive Director of Hillel at Hunter College and the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and veteran of Israel's War for Independence who would be turning 93 tomorrow. My devotion to the preservation of the Jewish faith came from my father, a man who had seen the worst of humanity. The preservation of Judaism is why I today work for Hillel. Each and every day, I am privileged to engage with young Jewish New Yorkers at Hunter about Judaism, its values, and the complexities that arise in today's ever changing world. Not surprisingly, as these conversations go on, sensitive topics come to the fore- most prominently being the role of Israel today. My students hold an incredibly broad spectrum of views on Israel, however, when they converse about this sensitive topic their intelligence and willingness to avoid personal attack shines.

The very notion of the Global BDS movement violates the spirit of conversation I seek to engender in my Hillel. Though my students are young, and both cursed and blessed with the passion that comes from youth, I do not seek to silence them. Frank and honest conversations about Israel are necessary. Israel is not the mythical city upon a hill - like every other country, it has its flaws. But, in spite of its flaws, it is still a great country succeeding in a region that is strife with discord. In my student's conversations, that is the theme- one of openness and honesty about both Israel's challenges and successes. .

The supporters of the BDS movement strive for none of this balance – only condemning Israel and ignoring her place as the most democratic society in the Middle East. They openly and proudly compare Israel to Nazi Germany, particularly wounding to me and my students, many of whom carry familial scars of the Holocaust. Any important issue that we as a society face today, ranging from racial inequality to student debt, is liable to be conflated on our campus with the alleged depravity of Israel. To illustrate, on November 12, 2015, the Million Student March that was to have addressed student debt and faculty remuneration (both noble causes) turned into a riot with protestors chanting “Zionists out of CUNY” and “Intifada Revolution”. This rally was later duplicated on other CUNY campuses, followed by an investigation into anti-Semitism in CUNY schools mandated by the Governor. The climate created by the BDS movement and its supporters creates an environment in which students and faculty are uncomfortable publicly addressing or taking a stand around Israel and clubs are weary to co-sponsor with Hillel. Conversation is curtailed and tolerance is diminished.

The supporters of the BDS movement thrive on claiming some moral supremacy that is simply not theirs to claim. As they seek to excise Israel and its expansive contributions to the world, ranging from academia to technology, they are embracing a hatred that poisons our society. Those who seek support of BDS are not noble fighters- they are haters harming our shared humanity.

I pride myself on encouraging open debate and conversation. Hunter College stands as a bastion of academia and a symbol of the potential of New York, at the forefront of encouraging cultural exchange, free and open discourse, and a willingness to welcome a multitude of cultures and ideologies. The notion of BDS violates the tenets

of Jewish faith, the aims of Hunter College, and the very freedoms upon which the United States was founded and New York thrives. With both the memory of my father and in the interest of my students and life on the Hunter College campus, I implore the city council to condemn the Global BDS movement.

September 8, 2016

Malcolm X Grassroots Movement opposes New York city council resolution condemning all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the global movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction the people of Israel.

The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement continues to stand with freedom loving people and people of good conscience around the world in opposition to this resolution.

Since our organization was founded in 1991, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement has and continues to firmly assert the right of the Palestinian people to resist their ongoing occupation and colonization by the Israeli government and the international forces of Zionism. We also firmly support the Palestinian peoples right to self-determination and statehood, and the unequivocal and irrevocable right to return.

While essential services in NYC and other cities around the country remain fiscally challenged, it is unconscionable to continue the annual investment of roughly 3 billion dollars to the state of Israel. With communities that look like my Bed Stuy in serious need of resources to create sustainable health, education, anti-poverty, culture and arts initiatives, those dollars would be better spent here. To attack those defending and supporting human rights and specifically calling for Boycott and divestment is absolutely immoral. I ask you to imagine yourselves in these same seats in the mid 1980s when the global community called for divestment of South Africa's apartheid regime. How would you have voted? Where would you stand on this issue. You have an opportunity, but more importantly an obligation to stand on the right side of history. The constitution that you all have sworn to uphold protects the rights of US citizens to call out injustice. For lawmakers to step over their bounds of simply disagreeing and attack the rights and strategies of those standing for freedom is an attack on democracy.

Mayor Deblasio is wrong

The Governor of NY is wrong and so are those in support of this resolution. We urge you to reconsider, defend democracy and stand in the principles of freedom and justice.

Ladies and gentlemen of the council, my name is Laurence Sulner and I'm currently a sophomore at the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College. I am a Jew, and for as long as I've been politically conscious, I've been an unabashed, unapologetic Zionist.

My grandmother, a Holocaust survivor, never quite recovered from the trauma of surviving the war. As a result, she had my father baptized because, as she said, "it's ok to be Jewish in your heart but not on paper." The constant violence and suffering she witnessed and endured in wartime Europe was enough to scare her the rest of her life.

Growing up a Jew in Manhattan, I never expected to face violence for being a proud Jew and proud lover of Israel, especially at a college a subway stop from where I grew up. Luckily, I haven't yet faced violence, but that doesn't mean BDS hasn't called for it.

You see, they co-opt other worthy causes as their own, co-sponsoring or coordinating an event with another group. Just last year, at a protest about adjunct professor's benefits, SJP and their BDS affiliates were front and center; this was a labor issue that has nothing to do with Israel or the Middle East. Just like at many other rallies, cries of "Zionists out of CUNY" and "INTIFADA! INTIFADA" emanated from the southwest corner of 68th Lexington.

It hasn't quieted me yet, but it has instilled fear in me, along with countless other Jewish students. As a result, I implore you to pass this resolution.

Laurence Sulner

ICNA demands repealing of unconstitutional efforts to censor and black list citizens and businesses engaged in BDS against injustice.

The Islamic Circle of North America calls on the New York City Council to reject Resolution 1058 and the limitations it places on free speech and peaceful civil protests.

The resolution unfairly targets the peaceful and legitimate BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement against Israel without mentioning that Israel has violated more international laws and United Nations resolutions than any other nation in history.

Economic protests are fundamental to the establishment of this nation and are a cornerstone of free speech. This nation was founded out of an economic protest - the Boston Tea Party, and it would be hypocritical for the city council to now ban forms of peaceful economic protests under the guise of protecting a friendly nation.

At this time of great polarization in our nation, free speech must be protected at all costs, lest we become one of the repressive regimes we see around the world.

Any restrictions on BDS is against the American constitution and violates the civil rights of freedom of speech, expression and association of the constituents of our great city.

Our city should not be punishing political speech. Boycotts have had a long history of being used as a tool for social justice movements, and the movement for Palestinian rights should not be singled out for censorship. This sets a dangerous precedent of a politically-motivated McCarthyite blacklist.

ICNA hopes that the city council will reaffirm the fundamental rights of its constituents to engage in activism for social justice and does not black list activists for their political thoughts, speech and association as guaranteed by our constitution and reject this resolution.



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NEW YORK CITY RESOLUTION 1058-A

Submitted by

Evan R. Bernstein, Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League, New York

New York City Council, Contracts Committee

September 8, 2016, New York, NY

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) fully supports New York City Council Resolution 1058-A which condemns the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign (BDS) and any manifestation of it in the State of New York.

BDS is a biased and simplistic approach to the complex nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It casts a dispute over territorial and nationalist claims as the fault of only one party – Israel. We all hope and pray for a true resolution to the conflict that allows for a secure, independent and prosperous future for both Palestinians and Israelis. The reality is that BDS offers no such path to Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, reconciliation or peace. It offers no constructive improvement for Palestinians. Its advocates do not support a two-state solution. Rather, they seek to merely isolate and demonize Israel and deny the Jewish state the right to self-determination and statehood.

To be sure, criticism of Israel and Israeli policies can be reasonable and legitimate, but BDS, which singles out Israel for pariah status, is neither reasonable nor legitimate – it is biased and disproportionate.

We have seen in New York City the divisive impact of BDS on educational, faith, corporate, cultural and political communities.

On more than one New York City campus, we have witnessed BDS lead to needless agitation and division of the student body, and in some cases, to Jewish, pro-Israel, and even uninvolved students, made to feel isolated and besieged.

As legislators, you have the responsibility and opportunity to condemn the BDS movement's divisive and simplistic solutions. You have an opportunity to support constructive initiatives to build connections between Israelis and Palestinians and help prepare both societies for peace. You have the ability to promote the investment of mutually-beneficial business, academic, and cultural ties with Israel.

We support 1058-A as an important declaration that the City of New York recognizes and rejects the insidious and destructive nature of the BDS campaign, and will work to enhance the already strong ties between New York City and Israel, and to work for peace, justice and equality.

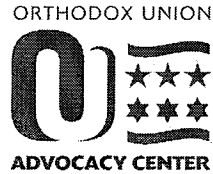
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Bernstein', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Evan R. Bernstein
New York Regional Director

Serving the Empire State

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FOR THE RECORD



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 1058-A

Chairwoman Rosenthal and Members of the Committee, thank you for holding this hearing to consider passage of Proposed Resolution 1058-A, condemning all efforts to delegitimize and boycott the State of Israel. My name is Jake Adler and I am the New York Policy Director for the Orthodox Union, the nation's largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization.

The Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement is a movement that at seeks to delegitimize a democratic nation, an ally of the United States, and to exclude this nation, Israel, from all economic, academic and cultural pursuits with the world. This movement denies the right of Israel to exist and rejects the two state solution, of a free and democratic State of Israel alongside a free and democratic Palestinian State. This movement aims to grow hatred and division and to cut an entire nation off from the rest of humanity. We are coming up on the 15th anniversary of September the 11th 2001, a day that witnessed both the worst of humanity and the absolute best of humanity. September the 11th demonstrated what humanity can do together in the face of adversity, and what humanity is capable of when hatred is allowed to fester. Unfortunately adherents to the BDS movement have committed to a course of hatred and division instead of peace. The New York City Council, just blocks away from the World Trade Center, that witnessed such horrific destruction 15 years ago, should send a message to the world that civility and democracy, peace and unity are what New York supports and pass Resolution 1058-A.

We are extremely appreciative to Council Member Cohen for sponsoring this resolution and to the Council Members who have signed on in support, we also remain appreciative to our partners in the legislator who have pushed for Statewide legislation on this issue and to Governor Cuomo who signed an executive order barring state business with participants in the BDS movement.

FOR THE RECORD

Regarding resolution 1085-A

My Name is Charles J. Sirey, living at 140 Riverside Blvd, N.Y., N.Y. I was born in Brooklyn 86 years ago and except for five and half months in the United States Army and nine years in Chappaqua, N.Y. have been a NYC resident all my life. I have been a member of The Religious Society of Friends (called Quakers) for almost 50 years.

I wish to say that the resolution currently being considered by the City Council, #1058-A, is both a violation of my right to free speech and an infringement on my right to practice my religion.

The resolution seeks to penalize any citizen who boycotts the products of individuals, companies and/or sovereign, secular political entities whose actions the citizen believes are immoral or unjust and to whom he can therefore no longer in good conscience give patronage. The resolution also seeks to penalize a religious minority for refusing to provide economic support for practices it considers sinful.

The Boycott is a time-honored pacifist tool used by members of The Religious Society of Friends. One of history's earliest Boycotts was used by John Woolman in the 1750's when he and other early American Quaker reformers refused to purchase goods and services they deemed the fruits of slavery and attempted to convince other Friends that slavery was against Christian principles. By 1778, four years after Woolman's death, the Society prohibited slave holding.

The Boycott is no longer an exclusively Quaker practice.

Today, it is widely used by other religious and secular groups to fight injustice without recourse to violence. In our more recent past it has been used to good affect in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, United Farm Workers' grape and lettuce boycott, divestment from South Africa to protest Apartheid, boycotts of corporations using sweatshops, and many, many others. Among the targets of the current Boycott program are the companies who reap financial gains from the unfair exploitation of Palestinians in the illegally occupied territories.

To quote Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, "Profiting from the fruits of violence is not kosher."

Please reject resolution 1058-A.

FOR THE RECORD

Testimony before the New York City council re: Resolution 1058-2016

Donna Nevel, Board Member, Jewish Voice for Peace

As part of my commitment to speaking out and supporting the movement for justice in Palestine and Israel, I would like to speak about why I consider it my responsibility to stand in support of the movement for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) and why I strongly oppose the resolution being put forth today. As a board member of Jewish Voice for Peace, a national organization dedicated to a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis, I am speaking here to represent the growing numbers of progressive Jews who support this global movement for justice.

The BDS movement is motivated by a call for solidarity from the international community. In 2005, a broad coalition of Palestinian civil society called for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions against Israel until it complies with international law and ends its violations of Palestinian rights.

The resolution under discussion shamelessly and shamefully distorts the BDS movement's goals. BDS is about leveraging pressure to compel a state to change its behavior and respect human rights. The BDS movement is not permanent; this pressure is needed only UNTIL Israel complies with basic principles of equality.

BDS has garnered such strong international support among concerned people, including Jews, across the globe because people of conscience oppose decades of denial of a people's basic human and national rights.

One of the false and destructive accusations being made is that it is anti-Semitic to support BDS. This is not only a highly irresponsible accusation, and harmful to those fighting for justice, but it also does an injustice to the reality of actual anti-Semitism when it occurs.

It is not discriminatory in any way to hold a nation-state accountable for its human rights abuses and for violations of international law. There is nothing anti-Semitic about that in any rational definition of anti-Semitism.

There has been a call from Palestinian civil society, whose community is suffering on a daily basis, to join an international effort to hold Israel accountable to changing its behavior. That is ethical; that is a call I embrace.

On a final and personal note, I support the ethical and yes, dignified call for BDS--as a Jew and as a human being committed to justice and to peace. I have always felt—and continue to feel—deeply connected to my community's history of struggle and resistance; of the anti-Semitism and oppression we've endured. In no way is my support for BDS and my deep commitment to justice for Palestinians at odds with that deep connection to my people. In fact, it grows out of my history and life as a Jewish person who grew up learning from my deeply ethical parents to be proud of who I was but to never think I was better than anyone else or any other people, and to fight against injustice whenever and wherever I saw it.

Therefore, I will continue to support BDS with thousands and thousands of others across the globe UNTIL there is a just solution rooted in ending state policies that are discriminatory and anti-democratic and in insuring equal rights and respect and safety for all.

I hope you will reject this very wrong-headed resolution that attempts to trivialize and distort a critical human rights issue.

Thank you.

From Sagiv Galew

On this matter we hope that you ask yourself whom this resolution is for. It is not an articulation of the fear or virtues of the Jewish People. It is not a commitment to the Israeli people. It is an article of fear. It is a finely tailored garment of malevolence, which this council kindly asks us to tie around our eyes.

As a New Yorker, as a Jew and as an Israeli I say no thank you.

With all due respect, wake up council members; Israel has developed an occupation regime replete with impunity and brutality. The crimes are recorded. The photos have been taken. The soldiers came back and confessed to their own war crimes, but you stand resolute to condemn BDS?

Today I'll share a bit about myself with you. I was born and raised in Israel. When I was young we moved to an exclusively Jewish settlement in the West Bank. My dad demolished homes in the military. My grandfathers fought in wars. As a young woman, my mother was in the intelligence corps. I had a very Israeli upbringing.

I was raised to learn and repeat a morbid aphorism which to this day, I believe encapsulates the dehumanizing policies used to sustain the occupation: I learned that a "good Arab is a dead Arab." After soccer matches we Israeli boys expressed our enthusiasm with chants such as "death to the Arabs." As I grew up military life enthralled me. I aspired to be an elite infantry commander and rack up as many dead bodies under my name as the next best soldier. I remember sitting with my friends trying to compare which of our dads hurt Palestinians more, which was more elite, which was apart of the more violent operations, which father killed more of "them."

I was bred within hate and it blinded me to the crimes and violence perpetrated in my name. Today I see the impact such inculcation has on those I grew up with. I see the tantalizing racism that binds the political imagination and hearts of the young and the old. I see a nation built for sustaining it's powerful position, to remain on top of the Palestinian people with our studded boots pressing hard on their dignity.

Finally, I ask you to find courage to resist this fear mongering resolution. In the words of the Jewish thinker, Hannah Arendt:

"Courage liberates men from their worry about life for the freedom of the world. Courage is indispensable because in politics not life but the world is at stake."

We live in this world. Palestinians are apart of this world. Palestine exists, and the day our world unanimously recognizes it humanity will be a little better, a little safer. I ask you to vote against this resolution.

I'm Zenobia Ravji, the Associate Director of the Department of Coalitions at the Israel Project.

I spent two years in Israel as a freelance journalist. Prior to journalism I was involved in social activism at my alma mater, the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign.

I am not Jewish, Arab or Israeli. My family and I immigrated to Chicago from Kenya. We are Zoroastrians, an ancient ethnoreligious people from Iran. We no longer have a homeland, and many of us live in the diaspora.

I feel a unique kinship with the Jewish people. Like Jews, Zoroastrians have been persecuted for millennia, kicked out of their native home of Iran and forced to preserve their identity in the diaspora. While I was in Israel, it was evident that Israel was the only country in the Middle East, where Zoroastrians and other religious minorities could peacefully and openly practice their religion.

The BDS movement has tried to push itself into the ranks of legitimate social justice movements. But BDS is not about social justice. It's about bullying, genocide, anti-semitism, and the abuse and manipulation of the unfortunate history of oppressed peoples around the world for sympathy and support from the international community.

This year we, at the Israel Project, are working to tell the stories of black South African social activists who traveled to Israel to find that: Israel indeed is not an apartheid state.

They found that boycotting Israeli companies and products was detrimental to the Palestinian economy. They found that BDS was more concerned about filling the pockets of Palestinian officials than advocating for the rights of the Palestinian People. They found that BDS is inciting violence and hatred, instead of advocating for compromise and peace.

Worst of all, they found that all of this is happening while their own history of racism and prejudice in apartheid South Africa is being distorted and abused for economic gain and political power.

The BDS movement is bigger than boycotting Israeli goods; it's a movement that, to me and other religious minorities, represents continued persecution and isolation in the Middle East.

So, as a religious and ethnic minority, my counterparts and I around the world urge you to pass this resolution. New York City will not subsidize discrimination, hate, bullying, and the theft of the history of oppressed peoples. Instead NYC will embody the openness and progressive values for which our great city is globally renowned.

As a Jewish New Yorker, resident of the Norwood section of the Bronx, I want you to know that I vehemently oppose proposed Resolution 1058-A, which condemns efforts to call out the policies of the State of Israel, including the burgeoning BDS movement.

The authors and sponsors of Resolution 1058-A are either ill-informed or intentionally regurgitating false charges of anti-Semitism to provide cover for the human rights abuses against Palestinians carried out by the State of Israel, its military, and right wing settlers in the occupied West Bank.

Nowhere in Resolution 1058-A is there any mention of why a movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction the STATE of Israel exists. Here are few reasons why I support BDS until the Israeli state abides by international human rights law:

- Between 750,000 and one million Palestinians were expelled and made refugees by Zionist paramilitaries, and subsequently Israeli forces, during Israel's creation in 1947-49. <http://imeu.org/article/quick-facts-the-palestinian-nakba>
- More than 50 Israeli laws enacted since 1948 directly or indirectly discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel in all areas of life. <https://www.adalah.org/en/law/index>
- Israel is the only country in the world to automatically prosecute children in military courts that lack basic safeguards for a fair trial. <http://nwttac.dci-palestine.org/>
- The State of Israel maintains a nearly 50 year-old military occupation of The West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza through a brutal combination of separation walls, checkpoints, and illegal Jewish-only settlements.

As you state in proposed Resolution 1058-A, "The City of New York has the largest population of Jewish residents in the nation and is home to the largest Jewish community outside of Israel." You should be aware that an increasing number of Jews in New York City, like myself, do not support the oppressive, racist, and illegal practices of Israel. Jewish officials who support those policies do not speak for us.

Pamela Sporn

[Type text]

9-8-16 Testimony on Resolution 1058A

Greetings Chair member Helen Rosenthal and City Council Contracts Committee Members,

I am Alice Sturm Sutter, a Jewish New Yorker living in North Manhattan. I am an RN and a retired nurse practitioner. I work on many human rights issues and am active in the Women In Black in Union Square and North Manhattan. We are part of an international movement of Women in Black that began in Israel in 1988, to oppose the occupation of Palestinian land.

I am also part of the Raging Grannies and we are grieving our beloved 101 year old Lillian Pollak whose vibrant spirit led us to believe that she was immortal! Lillian was Jewish, a mother, grandmother and great grandmother, a teacher, writer, poet, and relentless human rights activist. Not too long ago we delivered a singing testimony to you at the Trans Pacific Partnership hearings. Lillian was an active participant in our Women In Black vigils. She recently wrote a poem to raise our awareness of the horror of daily life in Gaza, called "Cousin Do Not Come".

I will present a few lines: "We are afraid! We are afraid all the time....not knowing when or where another Israeli drone will follow and target us with its lethal load. There is no safe place"

I strongly urge all City Council members to vote against Resolution #1058A "condemning all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the global movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction the people of Israel,"

The boycott divestment and sanctions movement came out of a social movement of Palestinian people. Their people endure decades of home demolitions, land seizures, detentions, destruction of olive trees and farmland, denial of water rights and many violent attacks. The BDS movement is a people to people attempt to secure human rights for those whom the United States and the global community has ignored. It does not "delegitimize" the State of Israel. It holds the state accountable for its human rights violations. Many Israeli human rights activists support this strategy in the hope that it will bring about relief from their repressive right wing brutal government. Our US government provides over \$3 billion dollars a year of our tax dollars to the Israeli government. with no conditions attached.

The US Constitution protects speech activities from government interference to ensure that those who protest government policies can speak their mind without fear of retribution. Government legislating whether we can boycott violates our rights.

I would hope that those who disagree can engage in dialogue. We need it badly! Imposing punishing legislation will build more barriers between those who need to come together. So please do not follow our governor's disgraceful example. Let this resolution go no further. We all have better work to do.

Alice Sturm Sutter 251 Seaman Ave NY, NY, 10034 alicesut@gmail.com 347 664 3280

I am an Israeli and an American citizen. I've lived in Israel most of my life, and I've been an eye witness. I know of the daily experiences of my Palestinian friends. I was there, in the north and south and in the Jordan valley and I made dear friends, that are demonized by the majority of Jewish Israelis, Jews in the diaspora and non Jews alike. They want to live; they want to be free; they want justice, like you, like me.

BDS is a non violent struggle for freedom and justice and I am a BDS activist in solidarity with my Palestinian friends. How can a non violent struggle be restricted in a democratic country? and in NY city where the statue of liberty stands?

Who in this room wants to live under a military regime? Who in this room is ready to live without drinking water when the settlement next to you has a swimming pool? Who in this room will sit idly as they are denied year after year building permits and their small simple shed or tent demolished time and again, while your oppressors build settlements on land that has been yours for centuries? Who in this room is willing to get up at two o'clock in the morning to cross check points like a herd of cows to get to work or to school on time?

Everyone in this room has the right, and indeed the obligation, to oppose this regime. BDS is the growing democratic grassroots campaign that expresses that will. The Israeli oppression is not in my name! And it shouldn't be in yours!

Tzvia Thier

Cousin Do Not Come

In response to a letter from my cousin in New York, he tells me he is planning a trip to Gaza. Same a teenage girl, replies:

"Cousin, do not come." Do you wonder? LISTEN. LISTEN.

BOOM! BOOM!

The roll of thunder

We are afraid! We are afraid all the time.....not knowing when or where another Israeli drone will follow and target us with its lethal load. There is no safe place.

More will die. We know not when. We are crying....What is happening to us!

There is no future. All our friends are silent.

GONE!

Friends and strangers walk in filthy streets, garbage and dirty water. Children play on mounds of bombed out homes....piles of rubble. The golden seaside a place of memories of children murdered while at play.

What life is there if you should come? Can you learn to be hungry...can you fall asleep with weariness.and.stay awake with open eyes? Can you remember how to scream...can you learn how to drown the sound of the clanging and the hammering of desperate men building doomed tunnels.

We live in prison. Gaza is our prison. Our borders are blockaded.

Gaza is our home: we love our home.....Not this prison.

We want to live! If we remain silent....We die!

A little boy sleeps holding my hand....he will not let me go.....I cry, but then I see he is dead.

A young man, happy to return, sees the despair,,and sets himself on fire beside the encrusted mattress of a moaning woman.

I am glad cousin that you are not here.

You would see the sufferings of people in these days of the Gaza Siege.

There is no future for us! There is no safe place where we can go.

Life is centered about those who are killed for just living here.

We are so lonely.

Children are lonely. Children without parents. Homes destroyed.

Often no lights...no electricity...darkness, cold damp cracked walls dripping filthy water.

A cat walks the aisles of the damaged hospital while water trucks playing tinkling tunes sell fresh water.

Who destroys life in GAZA?

Who is guilty?

Who must answer?

ISRAEL

Cousin do not come!

Lillian Pollak

3 April 2016



WOMEN IN BLACK

For Justice. Against War.

We are Women in Black, Union Square, part of the international movement of Women in Black that began in Israel in January of 1988. Motivated by the first Palestinian Intifada (uprising) to protest Israel's ongoing occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, Israeli women began to hold a vigil once a week, dressed in black, holding signs in English, Hebrew and Arabic that read: "End the Occupation" and "End the Violence".

ISN'T IT TIME FOR A CHANGE?

In light of Israeli Prime Minister, Netanyahu's recent racist and anti-peace behavior, it's time for an entirely new connection between the USA and Israel—one based on the normal ties Washington shares with most other countries.

A normal relationship means reconsidering why US taxpayers send \$3.1 billion to Israel every year when Israel is the 25th wealthiest country in the world.

It means asking why we don't enforce the Leahy Law, which prohibits sending arms to any military unit known to commit human rights violations, when even the State Department's own annual reports document patterns of Israeli violations.

It means a new commitment to reaching a solution between Israelis and Palestinians based on human rights, international law and equality for all. A normal relationship, in short, means ending US complicity in Israel's violations.

Our own progress against racism in the United States remains too recent, too fragile and too incomplete to allow our government to provide support to those relying on racist appeals to win elections abroad—especially when they include the leader of the US-armed, US-funded and US-protected “only democracy” in the Middle East.

This flyer is based on an article from Foreign Policy in Focus by Phyllis Bennis, “The Jim Crow Holy Land”
For more info, check out: www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org, Mondoweiss.net, electronicintifada.org, ichad.org.

Please join us on Thursdays at 14th St & Broadway, 5:30-6:30pm

No Siege! No Settlements! No Occupation!

From Congressman Danny Davis (excerpt of letter)

There are so many tragedies and horrors in this conflict that it is difficult to single out one or even two or three for urgent attention; nevertheless, it is impossible to ignore the fact that this conflict is so costly, so painful, so inhumane for civilians, for non-combatants. The rocket fire, the shelling, the bombs and missiles have stopped for now, but for the people of Gaza, 50 percent of whom are under the age of 18, 70 percent of whom are women and children and 80 percent of whom live below the poverty line according to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, daily life conditions are intolerable due, in the first place, to the ongoing blockade.

There is an urgent need to lift the blockade, to restore free movement of people and goods to and from Gaza through Israel, Egypt and the sea. As a part of the cease-fire Israel did, in fact, agree to an opening of the Gaza crossings and an expansion of the fishing zone.

Call Senators Schumer and Gillibrand. Call Congressman Rangel. 1 202 224-3121 Call President Obama 1 202 456-1414

Stop unconditional military aid to Israel. End the brutal attacks on Palestinian people. End the siege of Gaza.

Stop settlement expansions, house demolitions, detentions, destruction of olive trees and farmland, denial of water rights, attacks on and abuse of non-violent Palestinian and Israeli activists.

End the Israeli Occupation of Palestine.

Give to The Middle East Children's Alliance www.mecaforpeace.org

Work with- The US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation www.endtheoccupation.org

Jewish Voice for Peace www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org

Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions www.icahdusa.org

END THE BLOCKADE OF GAZA

ONE YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE "OPERATION PROTECTIVE EDGE, " ISRAEL'S RUTHLESS 50-DAY ATTACK ON THE PALESTINIAN GAZA STRIP WHICH KILLED MORE THAN 2,200 PALESTINIANS BOMBED HOMES AND DEVASTATED ITS INFRASTRUCTURE.

TODAY GAZA REMAINS UNDER ISRAELI BLOCKADE, UNRECONSTRUCTED AND TEETERING ON THE VERGE OF HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE.

RECENT REPORTS PUBLISHED BY DEFENSE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL PALESTINE AND "BREAKING THE SILENCE"* DOCUMENT HOW ISRAEL USED US WEAPONS ---INCLUDING F-16 FIGHTER JETS, APACHE HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS AND CATERPILLAR D-9 BULLDOZERS ---TO KILL PALESTINIAN CHILDREN AND WANTONLY DESTROY PALESTINIAN HOMES IN APPARENT VIOLATION OF THE US LEAHY LAW.

THE LEAHY LAW IS A U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS LAW THAT PROHIBITS THE U.S. DEPT OF STATE AND DEPT OF DEFENSE FROM PROVIDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN MILITARY UNITS THAT VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS. IT IS NAMED AFTER SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY OF VERMONT.

THEREFORE, WE THE WOMEN IN BLACK UNION SQUARE, CALL UPON THE US GOVERNMENT AND THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO END ITS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION OF THE WEST BANK AND THE SIEGE OF GAZA. ISRAEL MUST ALLOW CEMENT AND OTHER NECESSARY MATERIAL INTO GAZA SO GAZANS CAN BEGIN REBUILDING THEIR DESTROYED HOMES, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, ETC .

ENDING THE BLOCKADE ALSO MEANS ALLOWING GAZANS TO LEAVE GAZA AND TO RETURN THERE, A RIGHT THAT EVERYONE ELSE HAS. IT IS A HUMAN RIGHT.

WE ARE WOMEN IN BLACK UNION SQUARE, PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF WOMEN IN BLACK THE BEGAN IN ISRAEL IN 1988 TO PROTEST ISRAEL'S ONGOING OCCUPATION OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, EAST JERUSALEM AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. WE VIGIL EVERY THURSDAY, 5:30 TO 6:30 AT BROADWAY AND 14TH STREET.

PLEASE JOIN US!

*BREAKING THE SILENCE is an organization of veteran combatans who have served in the Israeli military since the Second Intifada and have taken it upon themselves to expose the Israeli public to the reality of everyday life in the Occupied Territories.

For more information, check out these websites:

www:endtheoccupation.org, www:jewishvoiceforpeace.org, www:Mondoweiss.org

After 48 Years of Israeli Occupation, the Palestinian Territories are Still a Virtual Prison!

Since 1967, through conquest and annexation, Israel has come to control or patrol virtually all of the land granted by the U.N. to Palestinians for their own state. The occupation is illegal by international law and violates basic human rights.

More than 500 checkpoints, roadblocks and a massive wall prevent Palestinians from moving freely between their towns, cities, lands and the world outside.

Since 1967, Israel has literally imprisoned more than 700,000 Palestinians from the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem—about 20% of the total population of the Occupied Territories. Imprisoned children have been subjected to physical violence.

Yearly, over three billion dollars in U.S. military aid to Israel helps keep this entire Palestinian population in a kind of prison. Demand that our government end U.S. military aid to Israel!

Call Senators Schumer and Gillibrand 1 202 224-3121

Call President Obama 1 202 456-1414

Stop unconditional military aid to Israel.

End the brutal attacks on Palestinian people. End the siege of Gaza.

Stop settlement expansions, house demolitions, detentions, destruction of olive trees and farmland, denial of water rights, attacks and abuse of non-violent Palestinian and Israeli activists.

End the Israeli Occupation of Palestine.

Stop provoking Iran. No war on Iran. *SAY "yes" to the U.S./Iran nuclear deal.*

Give to The Middle East Children's Alliance

Work with- The US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

Jewish Voice for Peace

Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

FOR THE RECORD

#LifesavingTogether

Israel's first-responders form kaleidoscope of cultures

Jewish, Muslim, Christian volunteers work side by side for United Hatzalah, Magen David Adom and ZAKA to aid victims of accident and illness.

By Abigail Klein Leichman | SEPTEMBER 1, 2016, 8:30 AM



Arab and Jewish ZAKA volunteers in the Negev prepare to rescue victims together. Photo: courtesy

An unusual hug caused thunderous applause at a recent Knesset ceremony saluting Israel's emergency medical first-responders and search-and-rescue personnel.

Parliamentarian Yehudah Glick, who survived an Arab shooting attack two years ago, spontaneously climbed onto the podium to embrace Kabahah Muawhiya, an Arab-Israeli volunteer EMT with national volunteer emergency medical services organization United Hatzalah of Israel.

“United Hatzalah is not just about emergency first response and medical rescuing, but it is literally uniting people from different walks of life and different religions,” Muawhiya told Israeli lawmakers. “It is a uniting of peoples and a unity of hearts.”



Member of Knesset Yehudah Glick hugging Kabahah Muawhiya, an Arab-Israeli first-responder. Photo by Aharon Crown/United Hatzalah

Many people are surprised to learn that Arab citizens volunteer and work for the Israeli emergency response organizations Magen David Adom (MDA); ZAKA and United Hatzalah.

For the first-responders, it's only natural that representatives of all Israel's population groups would cooperate to save lives.

“I am there to treat people who are hurt, and it doesn't matter if they are Jewish or Arab,” United Hatzalah volunteer medic Khaled Rishek tells ISRAEL21c. “It gives me a feeling of satisfaction.”

Rishek and Muawhiya are among about 300 Muslim, Druze and Christian United Hatzalah volunteer EMTs, paramedics and doctors out of a total of some 3,000 who race to calls in their own neighborhoods.

After 10 years in United Hatzalah, Rishek is friends with many of the Jewish volunteers in Jerusalem. He lives on a street with Arabs on one side and Jews on the other, along the former border between Jordan and Israel. He's a longtime employee of the Jerusalem International YMCA, “a place that is also one of coexistence.”



From left, ultra-Orthodox, secular Jewish and Arab volunteers from United Hatzalah working together. Photo: courtesy

“Khaled is one of our most active volunteers,” says United Hatzalah founder Eli Beer, who shared a \$10,000 peace prize with his Arab coordinator, Murad Alyan, in 2013.

“Our [Arab] volunteers are dealing with saving lives of their neighbors who have heart attacks and car accidents,” Beer tells ISRAEL21c. “They feel comfortable with what they’re doing and they feel privileged to do it. When you’re wearing our jacket, you’re a hero and people look to you for help.”

Like brothers

During a spate of terror attacks last fall, an MDA crew consisting of the ultra-Orthodox men Yisrael Arbus and Haggai Bar-Tov and Fadi Dikdik from Shuafat, an Arab neighborhood of Jerusalem, told a Yedioth Ahronoth reporter, “We are like brothers.”

Dikdik is responsible for the whole East Jerusalem area for MDA and speaks Arabic, Hebrew, English, Yiddish and Russian. He has worked with MDA for 12 years and recruits teens from Shuafat to take MDA’s first-aid course.

In August 2015, MDA senior paramedic Ziad Dawiyat, an Arab-Israeli, went to assist a laboring mother in Jerusalem – the same woman whose fatally injured infant he had transported to the

hospital the previous October following a terror attack.



Magen David Adom senior paramedic Ziad Dawiyat. Photo courtesy of MDA

ZAKA, which retrieves bodily remains following accidents and violent crimes, and mounts search-and-rescue missions in Israel and worldwide, trains Bedouin, Muslim and Druze volunteers to serve their own communities.

“It gives me faith and pride that they depend on me,” Sheikh Jaffal Abu Sabet, leader of ZAKA’s Muslim unit in the Negev, told a Jewish Telegraphic Agency reporter. “In the end we are all people – Jews, Muslims, Christians – and we all must be taken care of the same way.”

Yossi Fraenkel, ZAKA’s deputy commander for greater Jerusalem and operations officer for the ZAKA International Rescue Unit – as well as a volunteer MDA paramedic, volunteer Israel Police officer and former New York City Police chaplain – says it is “an amazing honor to be part of an organization that’s so diverse. We don’t see color or race; we see human beings. We are there for everyone, no matter who and no matter where.”

Last April, ZAKA held a three-day disaster preparedness training course in the Dead Sea region for Israeli and Palestinian volunteers under the auspices of the Ministry for Regional Cooperation, in partnership with the Palestinian volunteer organization Green Land Society for Health Development (GLSHD).

“Natural disasters do not differentiate between peoples; they affect everyone,” said GLSHD Director Dr. Akram Amro. “Therefore, we too, as residents in this region, must unite in order to be able to help each other, regardless of religion or nationality.”



AKA's joint disaster preparedness training with the GLSHD. Photo by Joel Balinko



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

Defining Anti-Semitism

Fact Sheet

SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

Washington, DC

June 8, 2010

FOR THE RECORD

"Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."
 --Working Definition of Anti-Semitism by the European Monitoring Center on Racism and Xenophobia

Contemporary Examples of Anti-Semitism

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews (often in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion).
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective—especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, the state of Israel, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interest of their own nations.

What is Anti-Semitism Relative to Israel?

EXAMPLES of the ways in which anti-Semitism manifests itself with regard to the state of Israel, taking into account the overall context could include:

DEMONIZE ISRAEL:

- Using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism to characterize Israel or Israelis
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis
- Blaming Israel for all inter-religious or political tensions

DOUBLE STANDARD FOR ISRAEL:

- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation
- Multilateral organizations focusing on Israel only for peace or human rights investigations

DELEGITIMIZE ISRAEL:

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, and denying Israel the right to exist

However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic.

COMMITTEES
Housing, Banks, Codes,
Correction and Education

CAUCUSES
Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and
Asian Legislative Caucus
Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force
New York State Caucus of
Environmental Legislators
State Legislators Against
Illegal Guns
Leaders Eradicating All Poverty



OFFICE OF
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN
WALTER T. MOSLEY
57TH DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
Shirley A. Chisholm State Office Building
55 Hanson Place, Room 328
Brooklyn, New York 11217
Phone: 718-596-0100
Fax: 718-596-4992

ALBANY OFFICE
Room 528
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
Phone: 518-455-5325
Fax: 518-455-3684

Testimony

New York City Council
City Council hearing on Condemning Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction Movement
City Hall Chambers
New York, N.Y.
September 8th, 2016

I would like to thank the members of the City Council for allowing me the opportunity to submit my comments on the condemnation of the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) movement against the nation of Israel.

My name is Walter Mosley, New York State Assemblyman from the 57th Assembly District. I represent the neighborhoods of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Prospect Heights and parts of Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights. As a representative of Crown Heights, a community with strong ties to the nation of Israel I am acutely aware of the aims behind this movement to delegitimize our strongest key ally within the Middle East region.

Today is an important day, as you the members of the New York City Council take a stand against a movement that is, at its heart, anti-Semitic. Supporters of BDS say that boycotts historically have been used by aggrieved parties. Likewise, to some BDS is a nonviolent alternative to war. However, as H.L. Mencken – a nationally recognized and renowned German-American journalist, satirist, cultural critic and scholar of American English in the early and mid-1900s so noted: “For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple and wrong,” and I wholeheartedly believe this movement is reflective of this quote by Mr. Mencken.

First, New York benefits immensely from a robust relationship with Israel in bilateral trade annually. Like most countries, the critical operational prerequisites for successfully conducting effective research and development (R&D) are one’s access to growing markets/customer base, talent, intellectual property protection, stable economy/government and information technology infrastructure. Accordingly, many countries are promoting optimization of R&D operations, including relocation as part of their innovation-led economic development strategies. R&D tax incentives are an important component of these strategies. As such, the strengths of Israel’s R&D enhance the lives of New Yorkers and the U.S. on a daily basis.

A prime example of these innovation-led developments is Israel's high-tech hardware and apps that are a part of our community's daily lives. From ATMs, to advanced computers, to cutting-edge software that safeguards us from digital attacks – have any BDS supporters pulled the plug on any of these advances?

Second, New York isn't immune from anti-Semitism. Jewish students on New York State college campuses have faced intimidation and hateful rhetoric from extremist campaigns against the Jewish State. Former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar has warned, "I think BDS is an unfair, discriminatory movement based on a moral double standard that is, in the final analysis, anti-Semitic". Verbal attacks and threats on pro-Israeli professors in incidences at Brooklyn College last fall is but a testament to the nature of the BDS movement.

This is why today I urge the members of this esteemed body to pass this resolution and to send a clear message that anti-Semitism has no place in such a vibrant and diverse city as New York. Going forward, I pledge to the assembled members of the City Council, and more importantly the citizenry of New York to work to ensure that New York City continues to be a tolerant and welcoming city to all.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit my testimony today.



AJC Statement on Resolution 1058-A, New York City Council
Thursday, September 8

-

Good morning. My name is Michael Schmidt, and I serve as Director of AJC NY. For 110 years, AJC has worked to enhance the wellbeing of the Jewish people across the world, by building bridges, forging alliances, and advocating for a more just world. Today I am here representing the thousands of AJC supporters, across every borough in New York, who are concerned with BDS.

New York has spoken out loudly against BDS in recent months, and for that AJC is proud. In June, Governor Cuomo signed on as co-chair of AJC's *Governors United Against BDS* initiative, and also announced his historic executive order opposing BDS. Indeed just a few weeks ago, Mayor de Blasio delivered a speech where he declared that "fighting BDS is consistent with progressive values."

Among the many esteemed leaders across the city with whom AJC has partnered is Guillermo Chacon, President of the Latino Commission on

AIDS, and co-chair of AJC's Latino-Jewish Coalition – a group of Jewish and non-Jewish Latino leaders committed to building bridges between our communities. Guillermo is known to many of you as a passionate advocate, and although he could not be here today in person, he requested that I share the following statement on his behalf:

--

“Addressing the most pressing issues of the Latino community together with the most pressing issues of the Jewish community has been vitally important to me, and in that spirit I wish to add my voice in support of the anti-BDS resolution in front of you today. As a non-Jewish friend of Israel, and someone who has personally visited there twice, I understand the complexities that Israel faces on a daily basis, and unequivocally reject the discriminatory nature of BDS and its sinister intent. Just as we are proud of the multiculturalism of our great city, so too have I witnessed the diversity and commitment to pluralism amongst peoples of different backgrounds, religions, and cultures in Israel. Israel has proven to be a reliable friend of New York, and as with any friend we must stand up for her and never allow her enemies to delegitimize her.”

--

Israel is a thriving, vibrant democracy in a very tough neighborhood of the Middle East. Like the United States and any other democracy, it faces its own challenges and is imperfect. The BDS movement, however, with its singular focus on Israel and *zero* critique of the Palestinian leadership, is intrinsically dishonest and prejudiced and predicated on a false narrative that is belied by an historical record that stretches from ancient times to the present day. The movement's goal is to delegitimize and ultimately eliminate Israel. In seeking to do so, it does not actually help Palestinians as it ostensibly purports to do.

A two-state solution, achieved through direct bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, featuring two states for two peoples, living side by side in peace and security is the best way to advance and support the interests of Israelis and Palestinians. That is why AJC has long supported it. The aim of the BDS movement, however, is not a negotiated peace between Israel and the Palestinians, but to delegitimize the very existence of Israel, our strongest ally in the Middle East and the only true democracy and open society in that region.

As the premier global Jewish advocacy organization, AJC has taken influential global leaders in government, media, academia and faith to Israel through our signature Project Interchange seminars. Returning to their home countries, Project Interchange alumni – including a number of high profile elected officials from New York - often cite the eye-opening experience as one which highlighted the tremendous contributions Israel is making to the international community. We have been witness to this here in New York City, through dynamic exchanges and initiatives in the areas of science, culture, medicine and technology. Project Interchange alum also often recount how the trips, that include meetings with Israeli Arabs and also Palestinian leaders dispel many preconceived notions they had about Israel as a society. Ultimately, many Project Interchange alum have become committed advocates in exposing how disingenuous the BDS movement is at its core and how it must distort reality in an effort to advance its ideology.

Today's resolution illustrates New York's continued commitment to Israel and to the deep relationship with Israel that New York has enjoyed since 1948. It is for this reason that AJC strongly supports Resolution 1058-A.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this vitally important resolution.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Rosalind Petchesky (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 176 W. 87th St

I represent: JVB - NYC

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Tzvia Thich (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1058-A
 in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

Name: Jordan Wouk (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 301 E 87 St 12D 10/28

I represent: Self

Address: - same -

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 09.08.2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CHEIKH AHMED MBARECK

Address: 119 FURNACE WOODS RD.

I represent: Myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LEON GOLDENBERG

Address: 1255 E 27th St BK 11210

I represent: Community org.

Address: 1360 E 11th St BK 11230

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Moshe Belman

Address: 800 Ocean Parkway 36 Brooklyn NY 11230

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Rabbi Jonathan Pearl, Ph.D.

Address: _____

I represent: New York Board of Rabbis

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1058A
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Jacob Adler

Address: 11 Broadway

I represent: Orthodox Council

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ~~1085A~~ Res. No. 1085A
 in favor in opposition

Date: 10/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Charles J. SIREY

Address: 140 Riverside Blvd.

I represent: 15th St. Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Address: Cells Quarters - 15 Rutherford Pl.

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marshall Douglas
Address: 550 Ft Washington Ave
I represent: myself
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1058
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Deborah Taylor
Address: 312 West 87th Street #8B
I represent: Self
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lisa Palacci
Address: 695 Park Ave 137A East
I represent: Hunter College Hill
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DAVID ASHFORD

Address: 621 W 171ST

I represent: Myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: BROOKE GOLDSTEIN

Address: _____

I represent: The LawFace Project

Address: 600 Third Avenue 21st Fl.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1058-A

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Laura Castro

Address: 280 Ocean Parkway Brooklyn

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/18/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lumumba Bandele

Address: 66 Van Buren St. Bklyn

I represent: Malcolm X Grassroots Movmt

Address: Same

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1058A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: Sept. 8, 2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Zenobia KARJI

Address: 315 W. 36th St.

I represent: The Israel Project.

Address: Washington D.C.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Miller

Address: 225 W 34th St NY NY 10002

I represent: Jewish Community Relations Council of New York

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1058A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Linda Sarsour

Address: 47 74th ST

I represent: MPOWER Change.

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1058-n Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: Sept 8, 2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: James McLaughlin

Address: 35-15 84 St Jackson Heights NY

I represent: Unfunded

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Laurence Sulner

Address: 245 E. 80th Street Apt 9F NY NY 10075

I represent: Hunter College Hillel

Address: 695 Park Avenue NY NY 10065

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Cohen

Address: 11 Broadway St. 766 New York NY

I represent: Simon Wiesenthal Center

Address: Same

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1658A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JIM FOURATH

Address: 227 Waverly Pl #60

I represent: self

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ~~1058A~~ Res. No. 1058-A

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Donna Nevel

Address: ~~200~~ 211 W 106th St. 11C NY 10025

I represent: Jewish Voice for Peace

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: **(PLEASE PRINT)** CHARLES BARRON

Address: _____

I represent: NYS. ASSEMBLY

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ~~1058~~ Res. No. 1058-A
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: **(PLEASE PRINT)** JANE HIRSCHMANN

Address: 175 W. 93 rd

I represent: Jews Say No

Address: Same as above

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. N 58
 in favor in opposition

Date: 7/8/16

Name: **(PLEASE PRINT)** MARTY GOODMAN

Address: 731 W. 183 st

I represent: SOCIALIST ACTION

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1058A

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joel Kovel

Address: 175 Claremont Ave, NY 10027

I represent: Comm. for open discussion of Zionism

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hindy Poupko

Address: USA Federation

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rosalind Petchesty

Address: 176 W. 87th St.

I represent: Jewish Voice for Peace -

Address: NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 8/7/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Izvia Thier

Address: 711 Ocean Ave Brooklyn

I represent: JVP

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: Sept 8, 2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Katherine Franke

Address: 429 Greenwich St 4C

I represent: Center for Constitutional Rights

Address: 666 Broadway

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hani Ghazi

Address: 130 Lenox Ave

I represent: Adalah - NY

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Jeffrey Stewart

Address: _____

I represent: Jewish Voice for Peace

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Radhika Sainath

Address: _____

I represent: Palestine Legal

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 10 Res. No. 1058-A

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/2016

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: PAMELA SPORN

Address: 3388 Wayne Ave #A61

I represent: Jewish Voice for Peace

Address: BK, NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 10584

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sagiv Galun

Address: 171 W 123rd St, New York, NY

I represent: JVP-NY

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1058A

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Letwin

Address: _____

I represent: Labor for Palestine + Jews for

Address: Palestinian Right of Return

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9-8-16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alice Storm Sutter

Address: 251 Seaman Ave #1E NY 10034

I represent: Myself - Union Square Women in Black

Address: _____



Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

1058A

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

Name: Imam Abdul Baghi
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 169-12 90th Ave

I represent: Concern Muslims

Address: Jamaica, N.Y. 11432

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1058A

in favor in opposition

Date: 9-8-16

Name: Taher Herzallah
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: American Muslims for Palestine

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1058A

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/2016

Name: Abdus-Salam Muse
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 166-26 89th, Jamaica, NY 11432

I represent: Islamic Circle of North America

Address: 166-26 89th Ave, Jamaica, NY 11432

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Imam Talib Abdur-Rashid

Address: 130 W. 113th St

I represent: Masjid Ashura NY

Address: 130 W. 113th St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Carlos Lajino

Address: 1 School St Glen Cove

I represent: NY Assembly

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: JEFF WIESENFELD

Address: 100 W 66th St

I represent: NYC 10023

Address: WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

NY BOARD OF RABBIS

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1058-A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

Name: Evan R. Bernstein (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 605 3rd Ave. NY 10017

I represent: Anti-Defamation League - ADL

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1058-A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

Name: Avi Posnick (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 165 E 56th Street

I represent: StandWithUS

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Helen Freedman (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 30 W. 69th St.

I represent: Americans for Safe Israel

Address: 1751 2nd Ave. NYC

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 10581A
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Gottlieb

Address: 11 WALES PLACE MT. KERN

I represent: NATIONAL COUNCIL JEWISH WOMEN

Address: 702 STREET, N.Y.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: STEPHEN GREENBERG

Address: 135 E 71ST

I represent: CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS
OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH

Address: GROUPS

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1058 A Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RABBI DOVID FELDMAN

Address: 367 MARCY AV. BROOKLYN

I represent: NETUREI KARTA INTERNATIONAL

Address: 15 OLD NYACK TURNPIKE, MONSEY NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1058-A

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alex Bronzo

Address: 165 E 56th Street

I represent: AJC

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1058 A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: septs

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rebbi Yisroel Lowy

Address: _____

I represent: recture/harta Int.

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: AL JONES

Address: 1761 EAST 29TH STREET

I represent: MYSELF & MY BROTHER

Address: 1761 EAST 29TH STREET

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CHARLES BERNHAUT

Address: 30 W 63rd ST 9-5

I represent: AFSI

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marla Erlien

Address: 118 W 130th St.

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RABBI MORDECHAI W WEBERMAN

Address: 367 MARCY AVE BROOKLYN NY 11206

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ASAF CALDERON

Address: 150 OCEAN AVE, BROOKLYN

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms