

BDS Movement in Support of Palestine Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

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Its vital work warrants high honors. In July 2005, a coalition of 171 Palestinian Civil Society organizations created the Global BDS movement against Israel until it complies with international law, including universal principles of human rights – for Occupied Palestinians, Israeli Arabs, and diaspora Palestinian refugees.

Since 1948, countless Security Council and General Assembly resolutions condemned Israel's international law violations, its repressive occupation and Gaza blockade, apartheid ruthlessness, decades of discriminatory policies, illegal land seizures and settlements on stolen Palestinian land.

Liberation of its people is long overdue. So is accountability for decades of Israeli ruthlessness.



On Wednesday, Norwegian parliamentarian **Bjornar Moxnes** (image on the right) nominated the Global BDS movement for Nobel Peace Prize recognition – supported by his Rodt Party.

Noted activist/humanitarian Norwegian trauma surgeon **Dr. Mads Gilbert** endorsed the nomination.

In 2009, he treated countless injured Gazans during Israel's Cast Lead aggression, many with horrific wounds he never saw before, including from chemical, biological and radiological weapons, along with other banned ones.

Commenting on the horror, he said the following:

“The ‘ground invasion’ of Gaza resulted in scores and carloads with (the) maimed, torn apart, bleeding, shivering, dying – all sorts of injured Palestinians, all ages, all civilians, all innocent.”

“The heroes in the ambulances and in all of Gaza’s hospitals are working 12-24 hour shifts, grey from fatigue and inhuman workloads (without payment (at) all in Shifa (hospital) for the last four months).”

“They care, triage, try to understand the incomprehensible chaos of bodies, sizes, limbs, walking, not walking, breathing, not breathing, bleeding, not bleeding humans.”

“HUMANS! Now, once more treated like animals by ‘the most moral army in the world (sic).’ ”

“My respect for the wounded is endless, in their contained determination in the midst of pain, agony and shock; my admiration for the staff and volunteers is endless.”

“My closeness to the Palestinian sumud (steadfastness) gives me strength, although in (some of the) glimpses I just want to scream, hold someone tight, cry, smell the skin and hair of the warm child, covered in blood, protect ourselves in an endless embrace - but we cannot afford that. Nor can they.”

“Ashy grey faces - oh NO! Not one more load of tens of maimed and bleeding: We still have lakes of blood on the floor in the ER, piles of dripping, blood-soaked bandages to clear out.”

“The cleaners (are) everywhere, swiftly shoveling the blood and discarded tissues, hair, clothes, cannulas - the leftovers from death - all taken away...(only) to be prepared again, to be repeated all over.”

Gilbert had much more to say in his noted book, titled “Gaza War, Eyes on Gaza.” He worked pro bono, trying to save as many Palestinian lives as possible.

Below is Bjornar Moxnes’ statement in nominating the BDS movement for Nobel Peace Prize recognition:

“As a member of the Norwegian parliament, I proudly use my authority as an elected official to nominate the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement for Palestinian rights for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Nominating the BDS movement for this recognition is perfectly in line with the principles I and my party hold very dear.

Like the BDS movement, we are fully committed to stopping an ascendent, racist and right-wing politics sweeping too much of our world, and securing freedom, justice and equality for all people.

Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement and the American Civil Rights movement, the grassroots, Palestinian-led BDS movement is a peaceful, global human rights movement that urges the use of economic and cultural boycotts to end Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights and international law.

The BDS movement seeks to end Israel’s half-century of military rule over 4.5 million Palestinians, including the devastating ten-year illegal siege collectively punishing and suffocating nearly 2 million Palestinians in Gaza, the ongoing forcible eviction of Palestinians from their homes, and the theft of Palestinian land through the construction of illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank.

It seeks equal rights for Palestinian citizens of Israel, currently discriminated

against by dozens of racist laws, and to secure the internationally-recognized legal right of Palestinian refugees to return to homes and lands from which they were expelled. Palestinian refugees constitute nearly 50 percent of all Palestinians, and they are being denied their right to return, guaranteed by law to all refugees, simply because of their ethnicity.

The BDS movement's aims and aspirations for basic human rights are irreproachable. They should be supported without reservation by all democratically-minded people and states.

The international community has a longstanding history of supporting peaceful measures such as boycotts and disinvestment against companies that profit from human rights violations.

International support for such measures was critical in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and the racist colonial regime in former Rhodesia.

If the international community commits to supporting BDS to end the occupation of Palestinian territory and the oppression of the Palestinian people, new hope will be lit for a just peace for Palestinians, Israelis and all people across the Middle East.

The BDS movement has been endorsed by prominent figures, including the former Nobel Peace Prize winners Desmond Tutu and Mairead Maguire.

It is gaining support from unions, academic associations, churches, and grassroots movements for the rights of refugees, immigrants, workers, women, indigenous peoples and the LGBTQI community.

It is increasingly embraced by progressive Jewish groups and anti-racist movements across the world.

Eleven years since BDS' launch, it's high time for us to commit to doing no harm, and for all states to withdraw their complicity in Israel's military occupation, racist apartheid rule, ongoing theft of Palestinian land, and other egregious human rights violations.

Awarding a Nobel Peace Prize to the BDS movement would be a powerful sign demonstrating that the international community is committed to supporting a just peace in the Middle East and using peaceful means to end military rule and broader violations of international law.

My hope is that this nomination can be one humble but necessary step towards bringing forth a more dignified and beautiful future for all peoples of the region."

The Nobel Committee most often chooses warmakers, other disreputable figures or establishment ones, peace advocates rejected. Rare Exceptions proved the rule.

The Global BDS movement won't likely become one of its honorees. Wanting Israel held accountable for decades of Palestinian repression rules it out for consideration.

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