

'Gross Attack on Democratic Freedoms': Israel Lobby Influences UK Foreign and Domestic Policies

By [Anthony Bellchambers](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)
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Boycotting of Israeli goods to be a criminal offence as 'severe penalties' threatened against local councils, universities and student unions, in Britain, who refuse to buy goods originating from illegal settlements in Israeli-occupied West Bank: UK Cabinet Office minister Matt Hancock will formally announce when he visits Israel this week. As Philip Giraldi writes:

'It is a global phenomenon. Wherever one goes - Western Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States - there is a well-organized and funded lobby ready, willing and able to go to war to protect Israel. Their goal is to spread propaganda and influence the public in their respective countries of residence to either hew to the line coming out of Tel Aviv or to confuse the narrative and stifle debate when potential Israeli crimes are being discussed.'

'Recent Israel Lobby activity in the United States has included legislation at state levels to make illegal divestment from Israel or to promote boycott of Israeli products. A trade pact with Europe will reportedly include language requiring the United States to take retaliatory action if any European country tries to boycott Israel, to include the West Bank settlements, which the empowering legislation regards as part of Israel proper.'

'Many prominent critics of the American Israel Political Action Committee (AIPAC) are unaware that AIPAC exists in various forms in a number of other countries. [BICOM](#), the Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre, is located in London. The French equivalent is the Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France ([CRIF](#)). In Canada there is a Center for Israel and Jewish Affairs ([CIJA](#)), in Australia a [Zionist Federation of Australia](#) and in New Zealand a [Zionist Federation of New Zealand](#).'

'Prime Minister David Cameron's government, which is responsive to a Conservative Friends of Israel lobbying group ... is proposing legislation that will enable it to overrule decisions by local government councils that seek to cut business or investment ties with Israel and, more particularly, Israeli settlements, under the pretext that such action interferes with the conduct of foreign affairs.'

Read Giraldi's entire article [here](#).

eunewsdesk@gmx.com

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