ANC’S SUPPORT FOR THE HEROIC PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

“I reaffirm the principled solidarity of the African National Congress and the people of South Africa with the struggle of the Palestinian people”

President Oliver Tambo, 1992

“We identify with them [the Palestinians] because we do not believe it is right for the Israeli government to suppress basic human rights [of the Palestinians]”

President Nelson Mandela, 1990

“We the people of South Africa must engage this matter by heeding the call to boycott Israeli goods and divesting from Israeli companies...we need to mobilise so that indeed Israel pays a price for the position that it is taking. I think that we should go out and mobilise for the boycott of Israeli goods.”

President Thabo Mbeki, 2014

“Conditions for Palestinians under Israeli occupation are far worse than conditions were for Blacks under the Apartheid regime”.

President Kgalema Motlante, 2008

"Israel is continuing to kill Palestinians [but] nothing is said about Israel"

President Jacob Zuma, 2015
ANC International Solidarity Conference Declaration (25–28 October 2012, Tshwane)

Condemns the continued occupation of Palestinian territories by the Israeli government and called for a free Palestine along the 1967 borders with (East) Jerusalem as its capital:

■ Re-iterates its support for Palestinian aspirations for an independent state including the full membership of the UN; and called on the UN Security Council to show leadership in halting the expansion of Israeli settlements and the harassment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails;

■ Conference supports the call of civil society’s BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) campaign [against Israel].

"I sincerely believe that there are many similarities between our struggle and that of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)." - Nelson Mandela, 1990

“The PLO in Palestine...and the ANC in South Africa represent a future that is not anti-colonial merely but anti-imperialist as well. These liberation movements are the midwives of a future which will be characterised by the transfer of all power to the people” – Oliver Tambo, 1979

"I intensely feel myself being at home amongst compatriots [the Palestinians]" - Nelson Mandela, 1999

"The rulers of Israel are repeating the costly mistakes made by the captains of apartheid in our country" - Thabo Mbeki, 2002

“If one has to refer to any of the parties as a terrorist state, one might refer to the Israeli government, because they are the people who are slaughtering defenseless and innocent Arabs in the occupied [Palestinian] territories, and we don’t regard that as acceptable.” - Nelson Mandela, 1990

"Why are they [the USA] not seeking to confiscate weapons of mass destruction from their ally Israel?” - Nelson Mandela, 2003

2007 POLOKWANE ANC 52ND NATIONAL ELECTIVE CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON PALESTINE

Notes

1. The 60th Anniversary of the Palestinian catastrophe, known as the Nakba, which resulted in the dispossession of Palestinian lands and their birthright through a systematic policy of colonial expansion, ethnic cleansing and military occupation of the most brutal kind, which as South Africans we readily recognise from our own experience of apartheid.

2. Our support for the numerous United Nations (UN) resolutions as well as submissions of our government to the International Court of Justice which recognized the illegality of the Israel occupation, the illegal settlements, the building of the apartheid wall, the system of road blocks, seizure of land, detentions without trial, extra-judicial killings and the imprisonment of over 10,000 Palestinians including women and children;

3. That given our own experience in our liberation struggle, we South Africans know the force of an international solidarity campaign in bringing to bear on an oppressive regime to force it into real negotiations and a just solution.

ANC International Solidarity Conference Declaration (25–28 October 2012, Tshwane)

Condemns the continued occupation of Palestinian territories by the Israeli government and called for a free Palestine along the 1967 borders with (East) Jerusalem as its capital:

■ Re-iterates its support for Palestinian aspirations for an independent state including the full membership of the UN; and called on the UN Security Council to show leadership in halting the expansion of Israeli settlements and the harassment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails;

■ Conference supports the call of civil society’s BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) campaign [against Israel].

“We stand with the people of Palestine as they strive to turn a new leaf in their struggle for their right to self-determination...the expansion of Israeli settlements into Palestinian territories is a serious stumbling block to the resolution of the conflict.” - President Jacob Zuma, 2012
a. The ANC re-affirms the resolution of its 52nd National Conference in Polokwane on the on Palestinian question.

b. The ANC is unequivocal in its support for the Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination, and unapologetic in its view that the Palestinians are the victims and the oppressed in the conflict with Israel.

c. The ANC will continue its solidarity efforts supporting a just solution including the strengthening of a sovereign independent state of Palestine, which will help to bring peace to the region and end conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

d. The ANC calls on the Israeli government to release all political prisoners, to immediately cease the expansion of settlements in the West Bank and to stop the wanton and consistent attacks on Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

e. The ANC calls on all organisations in support of the people of Palestine to form a united solidarity campaign in a view of strengthening the South African solidarity forum.

f. The ANC calls on all South Africans to support the programmes and campaigns of the Palestinian civil society which seek to put pressure on Israel to engage with the Palestinian people to reach a just solution.

g. The ANC abhors the recent Israeli state-sponsored xenophobic attacks and deportation of people of African origin and request that this matter should be escalated to the AU.

ANC ENDORSEMENT OF ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK (IAW)
01 March 2014

In delivering democracy to South Africa, the ANC did this with the help of others, particularly through the ANC-led international anti-apartheid solidarity movement and successful international isolation of Apartheid South Africa.

The ANC recognises that the international anti-Apartheid movement and sanctions campaign was shouldered, taken on and defended by thousands of ordinary citizens from numerous countries around the world. These ordinary citizens, made our struggle, their life. We are forever indebted to them. Today we humbly continue the internationalism of our movement in lending our solidarity to the people of Cuba, Western Sahara, Swaziland, Palestine and other struggling people.

The ANC is proud to join the over 75 South African organisations, trade unions, civil society groups, schools, universities, religious communities, NGOs and other formations in participating in the international Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW). The vast array of participating organisations is an indication of our vibrant democracy. The ANC’s participation is in line with our long standing international positions.
ANC STATEMENT: “The Situation in Gaza” [10 July 2014]

The African National Congress (ANC) condemns in the strongest terms, the barbaric attacks on the defenceless Palestinian people of Gaza. Israeli attacks on the besieged Gaza strip have resulted in the deaths (and injuries).

As we move towards the month of August and are reminded of the atrocities of Nazi Germany, surely we must ask the people of Israel has the term “lest we forget” lost its meaning.

The state of Israel has turned the occupied territories of Palestine into permanent death camps. Of course the killing of any child irrespective of race color or creed must be condemned and the death of two Israeli young people is surely as senseless as any other death. But for the State of Israel, the notion of an eye for an eye has become perpetual massacre with merciless revenge which has lasted for more than 60 years. It is time to stop the killing now.

The recent attacks must cease as well as the ongoing and illegal Israeli occupation and collective Israeli punishment of the Palestinians. Gaza is the world’s largest open air prison with over 1.5 million Palestinians caged in and cut off from the rest of the world. The Gaza Strip is the world’s most densely populated piece of land on this earth making the Israeli bombing of the Palestinian Gaza Strip all the more horrendous. The collective punishment and illegal siege of the Palestinian people of Gaza must immediately end.

In line with our 2012 policy resolutions, that called on “all South Africans to support the programmes and campaigns of the Palestinian civil society which seek to put pressure on Israel”, branches and structures of the ANC across the country will be joining the Palestine solidarity and boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement in organizing protests and pickets calling for the immediate end of Israeli violence against the Palestinian people. We call on all South Africans, Black, White, Jewish, Muslim, Christian and all others to join us in expressing our solidarity. Solidarity will brings us together as different South Africans just as how the international anti-apartheid movement brought people together.

The Israeli regime must realise that its acts of violence like these attacks on Gaza will only lead to its international isolation. After its 2009 attacks on Gaza which resulted in over 1400 Palestinians being killed, more than 400 of them children, the BDS and international isolation of Israel increased exponentially. Apartheid South Africa’s wanton killing of our people during the 1980s lead to its isolation, it would seem that Israel is taking a similar path of isolation by embarking on these attacks.

ANC PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS STATEMENT ON ISRAELI ATTACKS ON GAZA [Extracts]

18 July 2014

The African National Congress in Parliament is extremely outraged by the wanton and unjustifiable bombardment and killings of innocent civilians, including children, in Palestinian territory of Gaza by Israeli military forces.

We echo the widespread condemnation of these senseless attacks on defenceless Palestinians and call on the government of Israel to immediately cease with this blatant act of criminality.

It is unacceptable that as the Israeli military is flagrantly violating the territorial integrity of Gaza, claiming hundreds of lives and injuring thousands, the United Nations Security Council fails to intervene decisively in line with its powers.

The office of the UN Secretary General issues statements which have not effect. The UN Security Council must stand up and act to support vulnerable Palestinian people at the time when they need their protection. The situation involving Palestine and Israel is an undeclared war, in which the aggressor, Israel, has destroyed the Palestinian economy, robbed people of their land, unilaterally changed borders, and unilaterally built a wall of exclusion to keep Palestinians out of their land. When it feels provoked, it unleashes the most sophisticated military hardware on a defenceless people. Palestinians have been reduced to cheap labour for the Israel economy. This relentless destruction of the Palestinian territory and its people by Israel must be stopped. The international community needs to act in unison on this matter.

As the ANC in Parliament, we stand unapologetically with the people of Palestine and pro-Palestinian campaigners in an endeavour to exert pressure on Israel’s government to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions and stop its killings and gross persecution of Palestinian people...

The ANC in Parliament will mobilise other political formations in this institution to take a principled stand against the criminal acts of Israel and further to ensure that Parliament as an institution formally condemns the deadly violence visited upon the people of Palestine. We will also invite other parties to the lunchtime picketing outside Parliament in support of the people of Palestine and in calling for peace in the Middle East region.

As one of the measures to put pressure on Israel, we are of a firm view that our government must recall our ambassador to Israel and also ask the Israel ambassador to South African to leave with immediate effect. During this International Nelson Mandela Day in which South Africans and the world are called upon to engage in noble acts in emulation of the world icon, we align ourselves with his profound statement that “our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians”. 
ANC NEC 22 September 2014

- Joining the call for a cultural, academic and education boycott of Israel including travel bans for members and leaders of the ANC, the Alliance, Members of Cabinet, Members of Parliament and Government Officials.

- Companies that do business in the occupied [Palestinian] territory, such as Capegate, G4Security and Caterpillar must not be allowed to do business with [the South African] state.

- [Israeli] goods manufactured in the occupied territory should be boycotted.

ANC 2015 NGC RECOMMANDATION:

- The ANC pursue peace and democracy in the Middle East, including the liberation of the people of Palestine. In this regard, we must continually review South Africa’s relations with the State of Israel...[and] encourage disengagement on programmes and activities that may impact on our solidarity with the people of Palestine. Travel to Israel will be discouraged, and we shall make a concerted effort to conscientise our young people, leaders and public representatives, unless it [the trip] promotes solidarity and assists in resolving the conflict."

"[T]o support the isolation of the UN List of businesses that operate in the [Israeli] occupied territories in Palestine."

ANC National Executive Committee
July 2015, Lekgotla [Extracts]

6.3 On Palestine:

- South Africa supports the Palestinian cause both bilaterally and in various multilateral forums. South Africa is proud to be among the co-sponsors of an UNGA Resolution that granted Palestine the status of an Observer state.

- We further note the continued mobilisation of support for the Palestinian cause by various organisations in the Palestinian Solidarity Alliance, BDS and the ANC-led Alliance.

- The Lekgotla however notes with concern efforts and campaigns by Israeli Agencies to thwart the efforts of the ANC and the Alliance on their stance on Palestine. These include sponsoring our Progressive Youth Alliance (PYA) member organisations on trips to Israel. The ANC has distanced itself from these visits and calls on all members in the Alliance, MDM structures and our Youth Formations not to undertake such trips organised by agencies or groupings that are sympathetic to Israel as this undermines our solidarity and support for a free Palestine.

- The Lekgotla noted and commends the South African Institutions such as universities etc., that have refused to get into agreements with Israel in support of the Palestinian cause.

- We also emphasise the fact that the ANC is not anti-Semitic.

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

- The July 2015 Lekgotla urges the ANC Caucus to pass a motion in Parliament in recognition of Palestinian Statehood, as was adopted by our Government in the United Nations together with other Governments and their Parliaments in the world.

- The Lekgotla further recommends that we educate our members in the ANC led Alliance at all levels of our organisation, and those who are deployed as representatives in Government, Parliament, Legislatures and Councils; and Civil society groups to be mindful of our policy towards the Israeli Government and the need not to engage in any activities that can be seen as undermining the Palestinian cause.

- The Lekgotla noted with concern that there is a growing number of young Jewish South Africans who go to Israel for national service and as such there should be a campaign to discourage this practise. There is a need for us to strengthen our legislation in this regard. The Lekgotla recommends that a discussion and review of dual citizenship be tabled before the NGC.

- We need to review of our economic engagements and stance on Israel taking into account the posture of our allies in South-South cooperation fora who are themselves engaging with Israel economically; and further recommend to the NGC to discuss this matter fully and make recommendations.

- Continue to engage and discourage companies whose operations are in opposition to the Palestinian cause as well as those who source goods from occupied territories of Palestine with the view to isolating them if they ignore the call.

- Encourage Provinces and Municipalities to enter into and implement agreements guided by South African, Government and the Palestinian Authority foreign policies as part of strengthening our support and consolidating development.

- We encourage all leaders of the ANC-led Alliance to speak boldly on solidarity platforms on the issue of Palestine including participating in the Anti-Israel Apartheid Week. The ANC should continue on party-to-party engagements with organisations such as FATAH, PLO and HAMAS on the issue of Palestine, including also engaging other organisations which can be persuaded in the region to pledge their support for a free Palestine.
For centuries there was no conflict in the Historic land of Palestine (pre 1948). Before 1948 the land of Palestine was inhabited by a multicultural population – approximately 86 percent Muslim, 10 percent Christian, and 4 percent Jewish – living in peace and all considering themselves, regardless of religion, as “Palestinians”.

The Modern State of Israel (different to the Biblical Land of Israel) was created in 1948 in Palestine.

Zionists, an extremist minority of the Jewish population, have had as their goal to create a Jewish homeland. The Zionists considered locations in Africa, South America and Palestine to create this homeland. They eventually decided to create this Jewish-only homeland in the land of Palestine (which was already inhabited by an indigenous population, the Palestinians).

The Modern Apartheid State of Israel was created at the expense of the indigenous Palestinian and this colonization has led to the current Israeli-Palestinian issue.

Importantly, there is a group of Jews opposed to the ideology of “Zionism” for example Comrades Denis Goldberg, Joe Slovo, Ruth First etc. Not all Jews consider themselves Zionists or supporters of Israel.

See the maps below on how Israel is increasing its occupation of Palestine by colonizing more and more land...

“Israel desires to conceal the Christian dimension of the Palestinian issue. Israel attempts to present this conflict as a Jewish-Muslim religious conflict, and it also attempts to neutralize the Christian position, and therefore it is irritated by the growing Christian voices raised on the Palestinian issue. We [Palestinian Christian clergy] have always asserted that the Church in Palestine is there to serve all Palestinians for it is a church for the people. It is also a church that is deeply rooted in this land and the Arab Palestinian Christians and Muslims who live in it.”

- PALESTINIAN ARCHBISHOP THEODOSIOS ATALLAH HANNAH
“We need to see a sincere effort exerted from the international community and the free people of the world to boycott Israel and to impose sanctions on the Israeli Apartheid occupation."

"We encourage the global BDS [boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel] movement."

"As we witnessed historically from what we saw in South Africa, with the inspiring struggle where sanctions against the apartheid regime were an important factor towards ending this regime once and for all. We call upon all free people of the world, nations, individuals, organizations and states to cooperate together with us until we manage to isolate and impose the boycotts and sanctions that will end the [Israeli] occupation."

- KHALED MESHAL OF HAMAS AT ANC PRESS CONFERENCE, 19 OCTOBER 2015

In 2005, with Israel’s occupation, discrimination, human rights abuses, violations of International Law and illegal Israeli settlement activity increasing, Palestinians (inspired by the successful boycott and isolation of Apartheid South Africa) called on the international community to support a non-violent campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until Israel complies with international law and respects human rights.

The Palestinians laid out three demands that Israel needs to respect for the boycott to be called-off:
1. Ending its illegal Occupation and dismantling its separation Wall;
2. Providing full equality to the Palestinian citizens of Israel; and
3. Respecting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes.

The international isolation of Israel is hoped will lead to the necessary conditions for a just peace to be negotiated - similar to what occurred in South Africa and brought about a democratic country for all our people.

The call for BDS has been endorsed by the overwhelming majority of Palestinian civil society, and political parties including Fatah and Hamas. The BDS movement is increasingly supported by (progressive) Israelis and Jews as well.

Hundreds of organizations worldwide have adopted the BDS call and boycott of Israel as part of their solidarity with the Palestinian people. In some countries such as South Africa, in addition to organizations endorsing and advancing the BDS call, there also exist specific BDS organizations to advance the campaign.

BDS South Africa (a registered South African NPO and PBO with tax exemption status) is a local South African office (together with other Palestine solidarity groups, trade unions, political formations and human rights organizations) advancing, in South Africa, the international BDS campaign against Israel. BDS South Africa facilitates and runs BDS campaigns (such as #BoycottWoolworths or StopG4S campaigns), however, BDS campaigns can be initiated by any individual or organization.

- DR NABEEL SHAATH, FATAH’S HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
THE ANNUAL “ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK” CAMPAIGN AND PROGRAM

Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) is an annual international series of self-organized events (including rallies, protests, lectures, cultural performances, concerts, films & workshops) held in over 250 cities, communities and campuses across the globe.

It is endorsed in South Africa by more than 75 organizations, trade unions, political parties and other groups (see below for list of IAW endorsers).

In 2016 IAW takes place between 7 & 13 March. Organize a protest, rally, lecture, movie screening etc. with your branch in the week of the 7th of March and remember communicate with the IAW team: southafrica.iaw@gmail.com / @iawsouthafrica / www.iawsouthafrica.com

The aim of IAW is to raise awareness of Israel’s apartheid policies towards the indigenous Palestinians and serves to garner support for the non-violent Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel campaign, which seeks to bring an end to Israel’s apartheid policies and violations of international law.

For South Africans and our liberation, people of the world mobilized in their hundreds of thousands - if not millions - during the 1980s: they held protests, rallies, concerts, free Mandela events, lectures, film screenings and a host of other events and campaigns to raise awareness of Apartheid South Africa’s racist policies and to build support for the boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign against Apartheid SA.

Today we have the opportunity to “give-back” by joining the international movement in solidarity with the indigenous Palestinian people (and their progressive Israeli allies) who are struggling against Israeli Apartheid - participating in Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) is one such form of solidarity.

1969 Photo of Palestinian Icon Leila Khaled wearing a Palestinian Keffiyeh and holding an AK-47

The Palestinian scarf, most commonly known as the “Keffiyeh”, but also called the “Hatta” or the “Yashmagh”, this pattern and style of scarf derives its origins from the traditional headdress of Arab men.

However, by the 1960s, with Palestinians beginning to increasingly resist Israeli oppression, the Keffiyeh also became a symbol of Palestinian nationalism and resistance – it has been made most famous by the late Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat.

Within Palestine, the colours of the stitching have sometimes been associated with different sympathies. The black and white thread is more generally associated with Palestinian national liberation, whilst red stitching onto the characteristic white wool or cotton has, for example, been related to the Bedouin, rural and poorer backgrounds and used by Palestinian worker and left movements.

The “spider-web” zigzag threading has been described as indicating the obstacles faced in the Palestinian struggle toward liberation from Israeli occupation.

THE PALESTINIAN SCARF/KEFFIYAH

\[\text{THE PAL}^{\text{E}}\text{STINIAN SCARF/KEFFIYAH}\]