

# AUFRUF AN DIE BUNDESREGIERUNG VON 240 JÜDISCHEN UND ISRAELISCHEN WISSENSCHAFTLERN: SETZEN SIE „BDS“ NICHT MIT ANTISEMITISMUS GLEICH

3. Juni 2019

Mitte Mai wiesen jüdische und israelische Wissenschaftler, von denen viele in den Bereichen Antisemitismusforschung, jüdische Geschichte und Geschichte des Holocaust spezialisiert sind, auf den alarmierenden und zunehmenden Trend hin, Unterstützer palästinensischer Menschenrechte als antisemitisch abzustempeln. Dies geschah in einem an den Deutschen Bundestag gerichteten [Aufruf](#) zu mehreren Anträgen, die gegen die Bewegung für Boykott-, Desinvestitions- und Sanktionsmaßnahmen (BDS) eingereicht wurden. Viele von uns haben diesen Aufruf unterzeichnet.

Am 17. Mai wurde einer dieser Anträge, eingereicht durch die Bundestagsfraktionen von CDU/CSU, SPD, FDP und Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, angenommen. Wir lehnen diesen [Beschluss](#), der auf dem falschen Vorwurf beruht, dass BDS als solches Antisemitismus gleichkommt, ab. Wir fordern die Bundesregierung auf, diesem Beschluss nicht zu folgen und Antisemitismus zu bekämpfen, während sie die Meinungs- und Vereinigungsfreiheit, die unbestreitbar angegriffen werden, respektiert und schützt.

Wie in der früheren Erklärung zum Ausdruck gebracht, betrachten wir Antisemitismus und alle Formen von Rassismus und Fanatismus als Bedrohungen, die bekämpft werden müssen, und wir ermutigen die deutsche Regierung und den Bundestag, dies zu tun. Der Bundestagsbeschluss unterstützt diesen Kampf jedoch nicht. Im Gegenteil, er untergräbt ihn.

Die Meinungen zu BDS gehen unter den Unterzeichnern dieses Aufrufs erheblich auseinander: Manche mögen BDS unterstützen, während andere es aus verschiedenen Gründen ablehnen. Wir alle lehnen jedoch gleichermaßen die trügerische Behauptung ab, BDS sei als solches antisemitisch, und wir bekräftigen, dass Boykotte ein legitimes und gewaltfreies Mittel des Widerstands sind. Wir, darunter führende Antisemitismusforscher, erklären, dass man nach dem Inhalt und dem Kontext seiner Worte und Taten als Antisemit betrachtet werden sollte – ob sie nun von BDS-Unterstützern stammen oder nicht.

Bedauerlicherweise ignoriert der Beschluss die ausdrückliche [Ablehnung](#) „aller Formen von Rassismus, einschließlich Antisemitismus“ durch die BDS-Bewegung. Die BDS-Bewegung versucht, die Regierungspolitik eines Staates zu beeinflussen, der für die anhaltende Besetzung und Unterdrückung des palästinensischen Volkes verantwortlich ist. Eine solche Politik kann nicht immun gegen Kritik sein. In diesem Zusammenhang ist auch anzumerken, dass viele jüdische und israelische [Einzelpersonen](#) und [Gruppen](#) BDS entweder ausdrücklich unterstützen oder das Recht darauf verteidigen. Wir halten es für unangemessen und beleidigend, wenn deutsche Regierungs- und parlamentarische Institutionen sie als antisemitisch abstempeln.

Darüber hinaus entsprechen die drei Hauptziele des BDS – die Beendigung der Besetzung, die volle Gleichberechtigung der arabischen Bürger Israels und das Recht auf Rückkehr der palästinensischen Flüchtlinge – internationalem Recht, auch wenn das dritte Ziel zweifellos diskussionswürdig ist. Wir sind entsetzt darüber, dass Forderungen nach Gleichberechtigung und der Einhaltung des Völkerrechts als antisemitisch angesehen werden.

Wir kommen zu dem Schluss, dass der Anstieg des Antisemitismus eindeutig nicht die Sorge ist, die den vom Bundestag beschlossenen Antrag inspiriert hat. Im Gegenteil, dieser Antrag ist von den politischen Interessen und der Politik der am stärksten rechtsgerichteten Regierung Israels in der Geschichte des Landes angetrieben.

Seit Jahren bezeichnet die israelische Regierung unter Premierminister Benjamin Netanyahu jede Opposition gegen ihre illegale und friedensschädigende Politik als antisemitisch. Es kann niemanden überraschen, dass Netanyahu den Beschluss des Bundestages sehr [begrüßt](#) hat. Dies veranschaulicht, wie der Kampf gegen den Antisemitismus instrumentalisiert wird, um die Politik der israelischen Regierung abzuschirmen, die schwere Menschenrechtsverletzungen verursacht und die Chancen auf Frieden zerstört. Wir halten es für inakzeptabel und absolut kontraproduktiv, wenn die Unterstützung für „das Existenzrecht des jüdischen und demokratischen Staates Israel“ und der Kampf gegen Antisemitismus diese Politik tatsächlich fördert.

Zu allem Überflus unterscheidet der angenommene Antrag nicht zwischen Israel und den besetzten palästinensischen Gebieten. Er verurteilt kategorisch alle Boykotte israelischer Unternehmen und Waren – einschließlich der Unternehmen und Waren aus illegalen israelischen Siedlungen. Infolgedessen würde er eine Kampagne zum Boykott von Produkten eines an Menschenrechtsverletzungen beteiligten Unternehmens in einer Siedlung als antisemitisch einstufen. Dies stellt einen bedauerlichen Rückzug von der eindeutigen und konsequenten Ablehnung durch die Bundesregierung und die EU der israelischen Siedlungspolitik dar.

Darüber hinaus ignoriert der Antrag, dass Erklärungen im Zusammenhang mit BDS durch die Meinungsfreiheit geschützt sind, wie auch von der EU [bestätigt](#), die „fest entschlossen ist, die Meinungs- und Vereinigungsfreiheit im Einklang mit der Charta der Grundrechte der Europäischen Union zu schützen, die auf dem Hoheitsgebiet der EU-Mitgliedstaaten anwendbar ist, einschließlich in Bezug auf BDS-Aktionen, die in diesem Gebiet durchgeführt werden“. Gerade auf Grund seiner Geschichte sollte Deutschland bezüglich eines Rückzugs von diesen demokratischen Grundnormen sehr vorsichtig sein.

Abschließend ist festzustellen, dass die Vermischung von BDS und Antisemitismus den dringenden Kampf gegen Antisemitismus nicht fördert. Die antisemitische Bedrohung geht nicht von palästinensischen Menschenrechtsaktivisten aus, sondern vor allem von der extremen Rechten und von dschihadistischen Gruppen. Die Leugnung dieser Tatsache könnte Muslime und Araber dem bedeutenden Kampf gegen Antisemitismus entfremden und behindert die Herausbildung echter Solidarität zwischen Juden, Israelis, Muslimen und Arabern im Kampf gegen Antisemitismus und andere Formen von Rassismus. Sie sendet auch eine falsche Botschaft an diejenigen, die sich der Unterdrückung des palästinensischen Volkes mit gewaltfreien Mitteln widersetzen.

**Aus all diesen Gründen lehnen wir, jüdische und israelische Wissenschaftler, den Antrag von CDU/CSU, SPD, FDP und Bündnis 90/Die Grünen ab. Nach dem Bundestagsbeschluss fordern wir nun die Bundesregierung auf, diesem Antrag nicht zu folgen und BDS nicht mit Antisemitismus gleichzusetzen. Vielmehr muss die Bundesregierung ihrer positiven Verantwortung zur Förderung und zum Schutz der Meinungs- und Vereinigungsfreiheit nachkommen.**

**Darüber hinaus rufen wir die Bundesregierung dazu auf, ihre direkte und indirekte Finanzierung israelischer und palästinensischer Nichtregierungsorganisationen aufrechtzuerhalten, die der israelischen Besatzung friedlich entgegenwirken, schwere Verstöße gegen das Völkerrecht aufdecken und die Zivilgesellschaft stärken. Diese Organisationen verteidigen die Prinzipien und Werte, die das Herzstück der liberalen Demokratie und Rechtsstaatlichkeit in Deutschland und andernorts bilden. Sie brauchen mehr denn je finanzielle und politische Unterstützung.**

*Unterzeichnet von 240 jüdischen und israelischen Wissenschaftlern (institutionelle Zugehörigkeiten sind nur zu Identifikationszwecken genannt):*

**Prof. Aaron J. Hahn Tapper**, Mae and Benjamin Swig Professor of Jewish Studies, Director of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice, Department of Theology & Religious Studies  
University of San Francisco

**Adam Hochschild**, Author and journalist, Lecturer at the Graduate School of Journalism. University of California at Berkeley, winner of the Theodore Roosevelt-Woodrow Wilson Award (2008)

**Dr. Adam Kossoff**, Reader at the School of Art, University of Wolverhampton, specializes in the context of Israel-Palestine

**Prof. Adam Sutcliffe**, Department of History, King's College London, specializes in Jewish History

**Prof. (emerita) Alice Shalvi**, English Departments, Hebrew University Jerusalem and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, former Rector Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, winner of the Israel Prize (2007), co-winner of the Leibowitz Prize (2009), winner of the Bonei Zion Prize (2017)

**Prof. Alon Confino**, Pen Tishkach Chair of Holocaust Studies, Director of The Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies, Department of History, University of Massachusetts

**Dr. Alon Liel**, International MA in Security and Diplomacy, Tel Aviv University, former Ambassador to South Africa, Consul General in the south-east of the USA and Head of Diplomatic Mission in Turkey, former Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Economy and Planning and of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Dr. Amir Minsky**, Assistant Teaching Professor of History, New York University, Abu Dhabi

**Prof. (emeritus) Amiram Goldblum**, School of Pharmacy- Institute for Drug Research, the Faculty of Medicine, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, one of the founders of the Israeli NGP "Peace Now" and its former spokesperson

**Prof. Amos Goldberg**, Former Chair of the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, specializes in Holocaust History

**Dr. Anat Matar**, Philosophy Department, Tel Aviv University

**Dr. Andre Levy**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, specializes in the concepts of diaspora and ethnicity

**Prof. Andrew Stuart Bergerson**, History Department, University of Missouri-Kansas City, specializes in history of modern Germany

**Prof. Aner Preminger**, Filmmaker and professor at the Department of Communication, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem and Sapir Academic College

**Dr. Annie Pfingst**, Independent Scholar, specializes in the context of Israel-Palestine

**Dr. Anya Topolski**, Associate Professor of Ethics and Political Philosophy, Radboud University Nijmegen, specializes in racism in Europe

**Dr. Ariel Salzmann**, Associate Professor, Islamic and World History, Department of History, Queen's University

**Assaf Gavron**, Writer, winner of the Israeli Prime Minister Award for authors (2011) and the Bernstein Prize (2013)

**Prof. Audrey Macklin**, Director of the Centre for Criminology and Sociological Studies, Professor of Law and Chair in Human Rights, University of Toronto

**Prof. (emeritus) Avi Shlaim**, The Department of Politics and International Relations, St Antony's College and The University of Oxford, Fellow of the British Academy, specializes in Zionism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

**Prof. Avner Ben-Amos**, Department of History, Tel Aviv University, specializes in nationalism and collective memory in Israel

**Avraham Burg**, Former Member of the Israeli Knesset, Speaker of the Knesset and Chairman of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization

**Dr. Ayelet Ben-Yishai**, Department of English Language, University of Haifa

**Prof. b.h. Yael**, Filmmaker, Professor and former chair of Integrated Media at the Ontario College of Art and Design, specializes in the context of Israel-Palestine

**Dr. Barak Kalir**, Assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Amsterdam, specializes in migration in the Jewish-Israeli context

**Prof. Barry Trachtenberg**, Michael R. and Deborah K. Rubin Presidential Chair of Jewish History, Department of History, Wake Forest University

**Dr. Ben Silverstein**, School of History, Australian National University, specializes in indigenous histories and settler colonialism

**Prof. (emerita) Benita Parry**, English and Comparative Literary Studies, Warwick University

**Prof. (emeritus) Ben-Tzion Munitz**, Department of Theatre Arts, Tel Aviv University

**Prof. (emerita) Bilha Mannheim**, Professor of Sociology, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, winner of the Israel Prize (2003)

**Dr. Brian Klug**, Senior Research Fellow & Tutor in Philosophy, University of Oxford, honorary fellow of the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations, University of Southampton

**Alex Levac**, Photographer, winner of the Israel Prize (2005)

**Prof. Bruce Rosenstock**, Department of Religion College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Administration, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Prof. Catherine Rottenberg**, Foreign Literature and Linguistics, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

**Prof. (emeritus) Chaim Gans**, The Buchmann Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University, specializes in political and legal theory of nationalism and Zionism

**Prof. Noy Chaim**, School of Communication, Bar-Ilan University, specializes in the context of Israel-Palestine

**Prof. Chana Kronfeld**, Hebrew, Yiddish and Comparative Literature, UC Berkeley

**Prof. (emeritus) Christiane Schomblond**, Department of Mathematics, Université Libre de Bruxelles

**Prof. Colin Dayan**, Robert Penn Warren Professor in the Humanities, English Department and Professor at the Law School, Vanderbilt University

**Dr. Cynthia Franklin**, Department of English, University of Hawai'i, specializes in race and ethnicity

**Prof. (emeritus) Dan Jacobson**, the Department of Labor Studies, Tel Aviv University

**Dr. Dana Kaplan**, Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication, The Open University of Israel

**Dr. Dana Mills**, Department of History, Philosophy and Religion, Oxford Brookes University

**Prof. Dana Ron**, Computer Science, Tel Aviv University

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**Prof. Menachem Klein**, Department of Political Studies, Bar-Ilan University, former advisor for Israeli officials regarding negotiations with Palestinian counterparts and participant in several Israeli-Palestinian peace talks

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**Prof. (emeritus) Micah Leshem**, The Department of Psychology, University of Haifa

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**Prof. (emeritus) Mordechai Shechter**, The Department of Economics and The Department of Natural Resource & Environmental Management, University of Haifa, former Rector of the University of Haifa, former President of Tel-Hai Academic College, former head of Israel's National Parks and Nature Reserves Authority Council

**Prof. (emeritus) Moshe Zimmermann**, Former director of the Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, specializes in the German Jewry during the Second World War and anti-Semitism

**Prof. (emeritus) Moshe Zuckermann**, The Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas, Tel Aviv University, son of Holocaust survivors, specializes in Zionism and anti-Semitism

**Prof. (emeritus) Moshé Machover**, Professor of Philosophy, University of London

**Dr. Na'ama Rokem**, Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature & Comparative Literature, University of Chicago, specializes in Zionist and Israeli literature, and German-Jewish relations

**Dr. Nadia Valman**, Reader in English Literature Co-director, of the Raphael Samuel History Centre, Queen Mary, University of London, specializes in Jewish History

**Dr. Naor Ben-Yehoyada**, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University

**Prof. Neve Gordon**, Department of Politics and Government, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, specializes in human rights and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

**Prof. Nicholas Stargardt**, History Department, Magdalen College, specializes in the history of Nazi Germany

**Dr. Nina Caputo**, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Florida

**Prof. Nir Gov**, Department of Chemical and Biological Physics, Weizmann Institute of Science

**Prof. (emeritus) Nira Yuval-Davis**, Honorary Director Centre for Migration, Refugees & Belonging, The University of East London

**Dr. Noa Roei**, Literary and Cultural Analysis, University of Amsterdam, specializes in the context of Israel-Palestine

**Prof. (emeritus) Noam Chomsky**, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Laureate Professor, The Department of Linguistics, University of Arizona

**Prof. (emerita), Nomi Erteschik-Shir**, Department of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

**Prof. Nurit Peled-Elhanan**, The School of Education, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and The David Yellin Academic College of Education, co-winner of the Sakharov Prize (2001)

**Prof. Oded Goldreich**, Computer Science, Weizmann Institute of Science

**Dr. Oded Na'aman**, Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Prof. Ofer Aharony**, Faculty of Physics, Weizmann Institute of Science

**Dr. Ofri Ilany**, Post-doctoral fellow, The Polonsky Academy The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, specializes in German history and in German-Jewish relations

**D.Arch Olivier Tric**, Honorary teacher at School of Architecture of Nantes

**Prof. Oren Yiftachel**, Department of Geography and Environmental Development, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

**Dr. Orian Zakai**, The Department of Classical and Near Eastern Languages, The George Washington University

**Prof. Pascal Lederer**, Honorary research director at The French National Centre for Scientific Research

**Dr. Patricia Schor**, Department of Social Sciences, Amsterdam University College, specializes in nationalism, race and racism

**Prof. (emeritus) Paul Mendes-Flohr**, Dorothy Grant Maclear Professor Emeritus of Modern Jewish History and Thought, Associate Faculty in the Department of History, The University of Chicago Divinity School

**Dr. Peter Cosyns**, Post-doctoral researcher, Art History and Archeology, Free University Brussels

**Pierre Getzler**, Artist, "Pupille de la Nation", his father died in July 1940 fighting with the French Foreign Legion against Nazi Germany and received The Cross of War decoration, his mother was deported to Auschwitz where she died in 1943

**Dr. R. Ruth Linden**, UCSF School of Medicine, founder of the Holocaust Media Project

**Prof. Rachel Giora**, Department of Linguistics, Tel Aviv University

**Dr. Ran Greenstein**, Associate professor, Department of Sociology, University of the Witwatersrand, specializes in the context of Israel-Palestine

**Dr. Ran HaCohen**, Department of Literature, Tel Aviv University, specializes in German-Jewish literature

**Dr. Raya Cohen**, Department of History, Tel Aviv University and The University of Naples Federico II, specializes in the history of the Holocaust and in the context of Israel-Palestine

**Rela Mazali**, Independent scholar, writer and peace activist

**Revital Madar**, PhD candidate, The Cultural Studies Program, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, specializes in the context of Israel-Palestine

**Prof. (emeritus) Richard Falk**, Milbank Professor of International Law, Princeton University and former UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Occupied Palestine (2008-14)



**Prof. Robert C. Rosen**, Department of English, William Paterson University  
**Dr. Roi Livne**, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan  
**Prof. (emeritus) Rolf Verleger**, Psychologist, Member of the Central Council of Jews in Germany 2005-2009  
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