

# BRICUP Newsletter 50

March 2012

BRICUP

British Committee for the  
Universities of Palestine

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**18/Opinion**

**Letters to the editor**

**Pollution peril for Olympic athletes**

Your article on air pollution strikes a chord with me ("Polluted air" puts Olympic athletes at risk", 16 January). As a Putney resident I was dismayed to learn that Putney High Street exceeded its annual nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) allowance within four days of the new year, the first road in the UK to do so.

The political will to address acute air pollution problems across the capital has been sadly lacking, a recent flurry of activity notwithstanding. London's Low Emission Zone limits need to be tightened further and faster, and we need an Inner Zone with yet tighter limits to cover all central areas, including the Olympic site (and Putney).

Every UK city needs an LEZ and we need a national policy to address air pollution, which is overwhelmingly caused by vehicle emissions. A government report has estimated there were 29,000 premature deaths in the UK in 2008 due to particulate pollutants in the air. There is no evidence this is falling. How long are we going to tolerate this?

**JONATHAN CALLAWAY**  
London SW15

**Museum must drop West Bank link**

It is extraordinary, but true, that one of our great national museums is co-ordinating an activity that breaks international law. That museum is the Natural History Museum, which is collaborating in research with an Israeli commercial firm located in an illegal settlement in the Palestinian West Bank.

The firm is Ahava/Dead Sea Laboratories, whose business is manufacturing cosmetics out of mud, which it excavates from the banks of the Dead Sea. Ahava/DSL is located at Mitzpe Shalem, a settlement 10km beyond the Green Line. The collaboration with the Museum is through an EU-funded project called Nanoretex, in which Kings College London, Imperial College and a number of foreign institutions are also involved. The museum is the coordinating partner for this project.

Ahava/DSL is based on occupied territory. It extracts, processes and exports Palestinian resources to generate profits that fund an illegal settlement. Israel's settlement project has been held by the International Court of Justice to break international law. Organisations which aid and abet this process may well themselves be found to be in violation. We find it almost inconceivable that a national institution of the status of the Natural History Museum should have put itself in this position.

We call on the museum to take immediate steps to terminate its involvement in Nanoretex and to establish safeguards that protect against any comparable entanglement.

**PROFESSOR SIR PATRICK BATESON FRS**  
University of Cambridge

**PROFESSOR MALCOLM LEVITT FRS**  
University of Southampton

**PROFESSOR TIM SHALICE FRS**  
SISSA, Trieste

**MIKE LEIGH**  
**KEN LOACH**  
**JONATHAN MILLER**

**VICTORIA BRITAIN**  
**BARONESS TONGE**  
**DR GILLIAN YUDKIN**  
**PROFESSOR LAURENCE DREYFUS FBA**  
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**PROFESSOR JACQUELINE ROSE FBA**  
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London School of Economics

**PROFESSOR JOHN ARMITAGE**  
University of Bristol

**PROFESSOR HAIM BRESHEETH**  
University of East London

**PROFESSOR BARRY FULLER**  
University College London

**PROFESSOR COLIN GREEN**  
University College, London

**Dr GHADA KARMI**  
University of Exeter

**PROFESSOR ADAH KAY**  
City University

**PROFESSOR DAVID PEGG**  
University of York

**PROFESSOR STEVEN ROSE**  
Open University

**PROFESSOR LYNNE SEGAL**  
Birkbeck College

**THE INDEPENDENT**  
TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2012

**In brief...**

**Too far to go for lifejackets**

It puzzles me that passengers on the *Costa Concordia* had to return to their cabins for their lifejackets. Most were in the restaurant or the theatre. Maritime safety law should stipulate that there be sufficient lifejackets available for all on the upper decks of every ship with passenger accommodation, as well as lifejackets in cabins. This would eliminate the need to descend several decks to a cabin and then return to the upper decks for evacuation.

**MIKE CONDER**  
Southampton

**Who pays?**

Much that has been written about the financial situation is based on fallacies. One is that only tax-payers pay for cleaning up the financial mess. The people who really pay will be those like Baby Peter and Victoria Climbié who would benefit from improved social services, and the soldiers sent into combat without adequate body armour or helicopter support; and of course, the victims of people who would otherwise have been treated and helped out of a

The letters page of the Independent, January 17<sup>th</sup> 2012 - see the article on page 2

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## **Protest to the Natural History Museum against collaboration with Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories.**

Readers of this Newsletter will be aware that BRICUP is playing an active part in the campaign to prevent EU funding for Israeli research in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. (See Newsletter 45, October 2011). The specific case is a research project called 'Nanorettox' which is investigating the possibility that very small particles can have damaging effects on health and the environment. Twelve research centres are involved and the project is administered by the Natural History Museum. The other partners include Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories (Ahava DSL), Kings College London and Imperial College. Ahava DSL has an official address in Israel proper but works in the occupied Palestinian Territories, 10 Km inside the Green Line where, in addition to carrying out research, it prepares cosmetics from minerals and mud that are illegally mined in the Occupied West Bank.

BRICUP found it extraordinary that a national institution such as the Natural History Museum should be involved in breaking international law. We put our argument in a letter that was published by the Independent on January 17<sup>th</sup>. It appeared centre-page in bold type with an impressive list of signatories that included three Fellows of the Royal Society. The letter is reproduced on page 1. The Independent also printed [a supporting article in the same issue](#), and the letter was reported in [Haaretz](#), in [Nature](#) and in [Science Magazine](#). It aroused widespread international attention.

Representatives of BRICUP who signed the letter have now met with the Director of the Natural History Museum, Dr Michael Dixon and the Director of Science, Dr Ian Owens to discuss the situation and to explore ways to correct the present situation and prevent recurrences in the future. Clearly these discussions will have to involve the Commission and Parliament of the EU.

## **Watch this space for future developments!**

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## **The award of the 2010 Wolf Prize**

*An open letter to Placido Domingo*

*14 February 2012*

The award of the 2010 Wolf Foundation prize for the arts places you in most distinguished company, which we are sure is as gratifying as it is deserved. But as you must know, there are implications in accepting such an honour from a prominent Israeli foundation, indeed from the hands of the President of the State of Israel in the Israeli Knesset, since this is in effect an Israeli award.

Israel's troubled and problematic situation puts it in an almost unique category, as an occupying power over territory and people in violation of many United Nations resolutions and the settled opinion of the international community. For more detail on this background we can provide [further information].

In 2005 practically every element of Palestinian civil society issued [a call for boycott, divestment and sanctions to be applied to Israel](#). The previous year representative Palestinian organisations made a similar call specifically for the boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions. We hope you will give thought to ways in which you can respond to this appeal for non-violent pressure to be put on Israel to end the occupation and the grave human rights abuses which have accompied it.

We realise that for you to respond to this appeal may put you in an embarrassing situation – for example with those to whom you have made commitments. But consider whether you would have accepted the award of a similar prize from a South African foundation in the days of Apartheid. Yet that is a regime recognisably similar to present-day Israel, as [many South Africans including Archbishop Desmond Tutu have acknowledged](#).

We hope that you will wish to decline this award and make public your reasons for doing so. If however you should decide to accept the prize, we urge you to consider the opportunity you have to distance yourself from the political context of the award ceremony.

Yehudi Menuhin, who received the Wolf Foundation prize for the Arts in 1991, used his acceptance speech in the Knesset to denounce Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territories. Here are his words:

"This wasteful governing by fear, by contempt for the basic dignities of life, this steady asphyxiation of a dependent people,

should be the very last means to be adopted by those who themselves know too well the awful significance, the unforgettable suffering of such an existence. It is unworthy of my great people, the Jews, who have striven to abide by a code of moral rectitude for some 5,000 years, who can create and achieve a society for themselves such as we see around us but can yet deny the sharing of its great qualities and benefits to those dwelling amongst them." (*Jerusalem Post*, 6 May 1991)

Daniel Barenboim, who received the Wolf Foundation Prize for the Arts in 2004, issued a similar protest in his acceptance speech:

"Can a situation of occupation and control of another people be reconciled with (Israel's) Declaration of Independence?" he asked. "Is there logic to the independence of one people at the cost of a blow to the basic human rights of another people?"

"Can the Jewish people whose history is a record of continued suffering and relentless persecution, allow themselves to be indifferent to the rights and suffering of a neighboring people?" (<http://www.Israelforum.com>, 5 December 2004)

Barenboim devoted the prize money to support music education for Israeli and Palestinian youth.

David Mumford, co-winner of the Wolf Foundation prize for Mathematics in 2009, announced at the ceremony that he would donate the prize money to Bir Zeit University in the Occupied West Bank, and to Gisha, an Israeli organization dedicated to promoting the freedom of movement of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. He said:

"I decided to donate my share of the Wolf Prize to enable the academic community in occupied Palestine to survive and thrive. I am very grateful for the prize, but I believe that Palestinian students should have an opportunity to go elsewhere to acquire an education. Students in the West Bank and Gaza today do not have an opportunity to do that." (<http://www.Haaretz.com>, 23 June 2009)

The Israeli government hopes to burnish Israel's image as a bastion of culture and scientific progress by associating itself with you through the Wolf Foundation prize. The award, however, offers you the opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to

justice and human rights including the rights of Palestinians denied to them by Israel. The signatories of this letter along with many other academics, scholars and artists earnestly count on you to do so.

With our best regards

*Signed on behalf of*

*Association des Universitaires pour le Respect du Droit International en Palestine*

*Campagna Diritto allo Studio e Libertà Accademica in Palestina*

*Comissió Universitària Catalana per Palestina*

*British Committee for the Universities of Palestine*

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## **Two practical examples of the academic boycott in action.**

Below we print two letters that provide practical examples of the academic boycott.

The first is by the Professor of Human Rights Law at King's College London and was written to the Israel Science Foundation last year in response to a request to review a grant proposal.

### ***The letter of reply ran thus:-***

I fully support an academic, cultural, sport and trade boycott of Israel, similar to the boycott of South Africa before 1994. My own version of this boycott is that I do not assist institutions located in 1949-67 Israel (or Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem or the West Bank), or individuals affiliated with these institutions, unless my assistance will help to protect the human rights of the 4,000,000 stateless Palestinians of Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

The Israel Science Foundation is an institution located in 1949-67 Israel. This means that my conscience does not permit me to review the research proposal that you have asked me to review. If I should apply my exception, perhaps because the Israel Science Foundation provides substantial funding to stateless Palestinian researchers at universities in Gaza, East Jerusalem or the West Bank, please let me know.

Best wishes,  
Prof. Robert Wintemute  
(RW did not receive a reply).



**The second letter is in response to a similar request from the Israel Science Fund (ISF).**

***The US scientist responded thus:-***

Thank you very much for contacting me regarding this ISF proposal.

By chance I was recently asked by a colleague here who is an Israeli citizen whether I could assist in helping education in territory that I understand the current Education Minister (Gideon Sa'ar) frequently refers to as being part of Israel (though not recognized as such by International Law). Specifically, my colleague asked me to petition Mr Sa'ar and other members of the Israeli government to request that they do not demolish the elementary school in Susiya.

See <http://www.haaretz.co.il/opinions/1.1628955>

Given the limited time I have at my disposal I am afraid that it seems to me that the cause of Principal Muhammad Jaber Hamed A-Nawwajeh is somewhat more deserving of my effort than the review of the grant that you requested. However, if you are willing to formally petition Mr Sa'ar, requesting this demolition be permanently rescinded and explaining that the actions of Mr Sa'ar's colleagues (specifically, the Minister of Defense and the misleadingly named "Civil Administration") are undermining the cause of Israeli Science, then the time that I will thereby save, will permit me to review this grant. Do please cc me on your correspondence with Mr Sa'ar.

**ISF's terse and insolent response was:- “I received your message. ISF policy is a complete separation of science from politics”. (Apparently, the right to education is a political issue.)**

Note: This is current, [read the background](#).

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**Cambridge University Chamber Choir.**

**Proposed tour of Israel.**

In keeping with the call by Palestinian NGOs for the academic and cultural boycott of Israel, we activists in Cambridge are urging the Cambridge University Chamber Choir under the direction of Tim Brown to cancel their tour of Israel performing Bach's St [Matthew Passion from 20-27 March](#), followed by [a tour](#) Lacking the names of the Choir members, we

sent the following letter to its director, administrator and secretary, as well as to officials of the Cambridge University Musical Society. To our knowledge they have not fulfilled our request to forward it to the individual members. Thus we are glad to be able to post it here and [on the BRICUP website](#) - the more so as we are seeking dialogue with Choir members. For some reason the Israeli Camerata site (above) names the singers as the 'Academy of English Voices', but the CU Musical Society has confirmed to us that (many? some?) members of the CU Chamber Choir will indeed be touring.

**The open letter to the members of the Cambridge University Chamber Choir** 6 February 2012

We urge you to *cancel* your concert tour of Israel with the Israel Camerata and the Academy of English Voices from 20-27 March 2012 – as announced on your website as accessed today. Our peaceful path to justice for the Palestinians, who are dispossessed and oppressed by the Israeli state, is that of full material and cultural *boycott* of Israel. We believe Israel can be brought to respect human rights only when all sectors of Israeli society, including artists and academics, feel international pressure. Such a boycott of the South African regime was successful.

The Israeli state systematically denies justice and human rights to approximately half the people living within the areas it controls. An abbreviated list of grievances includes the blockade of Gaza, Operation Cast Lead, occupation of and daily humiliation within the occupied territories, discrimination against ethnic groups within Israel, and the Apartheid Wall within the occupied West Bank. House demolitions, land confiscation, destruction of fruit and olive trees, mass imprisonment, killings, assassinations, racist settlement laws, movement restriction, curfews, child prisoners, and ethnic cleansing have now been perpetrated *for 64 years*.

Approximate, reliable numbers for 2011: The state of Israel killed about 180 Palestinians, including 21 children; detained 3,300 Palestinians; approved the construction of 266,837 settlement units, including 1,664 in Occupied Jerusalem; confiscated almost 4,000 acres of Palestinian land; demolished 495 houses and 18,764 olive and fruit trees. We see protest as a moral obligation.

The Israeli Camerata receives funding from the state of Israel; Israel itself uses the arts politically to enhance its image; Palestinians will not be able to attend your concerts; in autumn 2011 Israel tried to block Palestine's joining the United Nations Educational, Scientific and *Cultural* Organisation, UNESCO. In our view politics and the arts are thus already mixed, and as

in the fight against South African Apartheid, artistic non-participation does not contradict any of the beauty, indeed purity, of art itself.

Since 2005, 171 Palestinian civil society organisations are calling for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel. Visit the [Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel](#), the [British Committee for the Universities of Palestine](#) and the [Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement](#).

Touring Israel as you plan is tantamount to crossing this picket line, and you are urged to join people boycotting Israel such as John Eliot Gardner, Eduardo Galeano, Arundhati Roy, Reem Kelani, John Berger, Victoria Brittain, Elvis Costello, Denise Jannah, Pete Seeger, Ken Loach and many, many others.

We welcome dialogue with you in this matter, and hope you get in touch.

*Yours sincerely in the name of the Cambridge Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the Cambridge University Palestine Society,*

Averil Parkinson, Chair, Cambridge Palestine Solidarity Campaign

[http://www.campalsoc.org/?page\\_id=41](http://www.campalsoc.org/?page_id=41)

Ghadir Siyam, President, Cambridge University Palestine Society – on Facebook, through [palestine@cusu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:palestine@cusu.cam.ac.uk) or, for earlier events, see <http://cu-palestinesociety.blogspot.com>

contact: Blake Alcott, 33 Albert Street, Cambridge CB4 3BE 079 20 437 644 [blakeley@bluewin.ch](mailto:blakeley@bluewin.ch)

Methods of ‘interrogating’ jailed Palestinian children have been documented as of 22 January by the *Guardian*:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jan/22/palestinian-children-detained-jail-israel?INTCMP=SRCH>

Further documentation: [Palestine Solidarity Campaign UK](#) and the [Electronic Intifada](#).

Send your own messages to:

CUCC director [Tim Brown](#)

CUCC administrator: [Nick Mogg](#)

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### *The PACBI Column*

## **An Appeal for Action: End Cornell University Collaboration with Technion**

The Palestinian academic community was deeply disturbed by the recently revealed plan of collaboration between Cornell University and Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. The two

institutions have won a multi-billion-dollar competition held by the City of New York to establish “a 2 million square foot engineering and applied sciences university campus” on Roosevelt Island, NY [1]. Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) at Cornell University have petitioned the City of New York and Cornell University to end this collaboration with an Israeli institution that is “directly implicated in war crimes [2].” Similarly, the US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (USACBI) has launched an appeal calling on students and faculty to put pressure on their university to withdraw from this troubling partnership [3].

The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) would like to join these groups in deploring the collaboration between US higher institutions of learning and Israeli Academic institutions complicit in Israel’s violations of international law and the rights of Palestinians. In view of our focus this year on academic boycott, we call on US civil society to bring the injustices of this venture to light. In the first instance, all New York City residents should, rightfully, be outraged that their tax dollars are being apportioned in the service of such an endeavor, and we appeal to them to pressure the City of New York administration to end this collaboration. Moreover, we ask students, staff, and faculty at institutions around the country, including student groups such as SJP, as well as workers, labor unions, and other civil society organizations in New York City, to mobilize against the administration of Cornell University to end its partnership with Technion. More importantly, we call on people of conscience to mobilize on the issue of the Cornell-Technion partnership, and academic boycott more broadly, through street protests, educational venues, media presence and other such mobilizations.

### **Technion Complicity**

Technion's record of complicity in Israel’s violations of international law and Palestinian rights is too long to reproduce here, but here are some highlights:

- It has a partnership with Elbit Systems, which is one of Israel’s largest private weapons manufacturers. Elbit manufactured the drones that Israel used in its crimes against civilians in Lebanon 2006 and Gaza 2008-09. This partnership has played a leading role not only in the construction and surveillance of the apartheid wall in Palestine, but also along the U.S.-Mexico border through its subsidiary, Kollsman.

- Technion trains its engineering students to work with companies dealing “directly in the development of complex weapons in the process of researching their academic theses” [4]. In one example with Elbit Systems, the reward has been the funding of research grants in upwards of half a million dollars to Technion’s students conducting research [5].

- One of the institute’s most notorious projects resulted in the development of a remote-control function on the Caterpillar’s ‘D9’ bulldozer “used by the Israeli army to demolish Palestinian houses and farms and the development of a method for detecting underground tunnels, specifically developed in order to assist the Israeli army in its continued siege on the Gaza Strip” [6]

- Technion has deep relations with Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, one of Israel’s largest government-sponsored weapons manufacturers famous for its “advanced hybrid armor protection system” used in Israel’s Merkava tanks [7]. The institute has developed an “MBA program tailored specifically for Rafael managers” which further solidifies its relationship between academia and Israel’s military-industrial complex [8].

- Technion rewards its students who perform their compulsory military service. It also granted Israeli army reservists who participated in the Israeli massacre of Gaza in 2008-2009 “academic benefits in addition to the usual benefits for reservists” [9].

### **Why Academic Boycott?**

In 2004, Palestinian civil society called for an academic boycott in the spirit of the South African anti-apartheid movement. In our statement, we have maintained that a boycott of Israeli academic institutions is necessary due to the complicity of these institutions in the system of oppression that has denied Palestinians their basic rights guaranteed by international law.

In our 2004 call we stated that the academic boycott

is in line with the authoritative call by the Palestinian Council for Higher Education (CHE) for "non-cooperation in the scientific and technical fields between Palestinian and Israeli universities." Academic institutions in particular are part of the ideological and institutional scaffolding of the Zionist settler-colonial project in Palestine, and as such are deeply implicated in maintaining the

structures of domination and oppression over the Palestinian people. Since its founding, the Israeli academy has cast its lot with the hegemonic political-military establishment in Israel, and notwithstanding the efforts of a handful of principled academics, is deeply implicated in supporting and perpetuating the status quo. [10]

While it is common to think of universities as ivory towers separate from society, this view ignores the deep roots of the academy in society, and in shaping our knowledge of the world. Universities influence political power, shape future generations, and structure the moral and ideological underpinnings of our societies. In the case of Israel, the academy gives the state a veneer of being liberal, tolerant, and just. This is an image that serves to combat and whitewash the state’s ongoing occupation, colonialism and apartheid.

### **Why Israeli Institutions?**

In response to a call for academic boycott of Israel, one might respond that US academic institutions collaborate with other academic institutions around the world, as well as with their own government that is involved in human rights abuses, war and occupation. This argument is often used as a red herring to distract activists, and as an attempt to delegitimize the movement. However, it is critical for us to recognize this as a legitimate concern when it comes from truly conscientious activists and observers, and from people who are invested in advancing ethical forms of resistance against all kinds of oppression.

The above argument can be broken into three parts. First, we must recognize the voice of Palestinians who suffer under Israel’s intricate multi-tiered system of oppression. In this sense, an important element is the call by an overwhelming majority of Palestinian civil society for an international boycott of Israel that is embodied in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. In the 70s and 80s, no ethically minded person would have screamed that the anti-apartheid movement was hypocritical for asking for the boycott of South Africa and not, say, Israel, the U.S. or the Soviet Union. Thus, it rings hollow and suspicious when people question Palestinians and international solidarity activists for applying the boycott to Israel but not other places. The BDS movement is explicit in its solidarity with oppressed people around the world fighting against all forms of oppression. It similarly calls on others to stand with Palestinians in their time of resistance.

Second, we are keenly aware that US academic institutions partner with other foreign academic institutions. To the extent that these foreign institutions are complicit in their governments' abuses of international law and human rights, in ways similar to the complicity of Israeli academic institutions, then we also condemn such partnerships. We doubt, however, that there are, as of yet, any joint ventures within US borders between Saudi Arabian academic institutions, for example, and a US institution. It is no coincidence that Israeli institutions enjoy greater access to US academic networks, including the funding that these networks enable. This is what makes the tactic of boycott crucial, effective, and urgent when applied to Israel. We also stress again that Israel's atrocious violations of international law remain violations even if there are other countries that commit the same.

This leads to our third argument, where it should not be denied that academic institutions in the US collaborate with their own government, arguably the world's leading and most violent violator of human rights, if we take Iraq and Afghanistan as case studies. We believe these partnerships should end, and a campaign against Cornell-Technion should strive to raise awareness on US academic complicity, inviting various sectors of local communities to share their experiences and build mutual solidarities. However, this should not prevent a serious and legitimate call to boycott collaborations with Israeli institutions. The herculean task of disengaging US academia from the US military industrial complex should not deter or demobilize activists from a call to boycott Israel and its complicit institutions. Did any morally conscientious person call on US academia to boycott its government before boycotting the apartheid South African regime? Could American university administrations, morally speaking, argue against the boycott of apartheid South Africa, simply because their own institutions were developing technology for the US government? We hardly think so. We cannot defer the rights of people around the world as we wait for the US superpower to clean its house. However, we must also not hold back from our collective struggles against the abuses of the US government.

In this way, we, at PACBI, along with our coalition partners in Palestinian civil society wish to express our solidarity with oppressed segments of US civil society, and ask that you hear our call and put pressure on your academic institutions and city councils to boycott apartheid Israel. This is what we ask for in our struggle for freedom, justice and

equality.

Notes:

- [1] <http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/new-york-host-israels-top-drone-lab>
- [2] <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/in-opposition-to-cornell-university/>
- [3] <http://www.usacbi.org/2011/12/open-letter-to-cornell-university-dont-collaborate-with-apartheid/>
- [4] Uri Yacobi Keller, *The Economy of the Occupation: A Socioeconomic Bulletin*. (Jerusalem: Alternative Information Center, 2009), 10. [http://usacbi.files.wordpress.com/2009/11/economy\\_of\\_the\\_occupation\\_23-24.pdf](http://usacbi.files.wordpress.com/2009/11/economy_of_the_occupation_23-24.pdf).
- [5] *ibid*, 10-11
- [6] *ibid*, 9
- [7] "Structures of Oppression: Why McGill and Concordia Universities Must Sever their Links with the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology," 4. <http://www.tadamon.ca/wp-content/uploads/Technion-English.pdf>
- [8] *Ibid.*, 3-4
- [9] Keller, 12-13 (see link above)
- [10] <http://www.pacbi.org/etemplate.php?id=1108>

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### **Cassandra Wilson boycotts Israel**

The jazz singer Cassandra Wilson has cancelled her scheduled concert in Holon after receiving requests from supporters of the Palestinians to join the artistic boycott of Israel.

Apparently the artist had signed a contract months ago but stated unequivocally "that her decision stemmed from a desire to support Palestinians' civil rights" According to Haaretz she would not disclose the names of the groups that had approached her. The Theatre Director said that "the damage done to the festival is much greater than just her appearance fee and the damage to the theatre's reputation; there is also the matter of compensating the public and other large expenses related to the appearance".

Haaretz has provided an interesting catalogue of cancellations by artists. They report:-

"Wilson joins a host of performers who have cancelled appearances in Israel for for political reasons. The Pains of Being Pure at Heart, Cat Power and Tune-Yards have all canceled concerts recently. Two years ago, a BDS organization signed up 500 artists who stated they would not perform in Israel". Singer-songwriter Chan Marshall (Cat Power) "cancelled a show in Israel this month, tweeting that, due to "much confusion in her soul" over "such unrest between Israel and Palestine," she



could not perform. She added, "I feel sick in my spirit." The Pains of Being Pure at Heart canceled a performance in Israel in recent months, citing political reasons"

The Knesset Education, Culture and Sports Committee is reported to have discussed the boycott and has "set up a special subcommittee to look into how to compensate Israeli promoters in the cases of politically motivated cancellations". Promoters are now [reported to be] introducing clauses to protect against such cancellations."

***So BDS is working!***

[More information](#)

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## **There will be no prosecutions following the protest at the Proms.**

Readers of this Newsletter will be familiar with the protest action at the Royal Albert Hall on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2011(See Newsletter # 44 and the subsequent debate in Newsletter # 47). Well, at least one aspect of this event is now closed: a police spokesperson

was quoted by the Jewish Chronicle (JC) on February 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 C as having said that after police officers had considered complaints received after the incident they had "concluded that no offences had taken place. The matter is therefore now closed." The Royal Albert Hall declined to make any further comment to the JC beyond the statement they made immediately after the event, which was that "however much we regret that the disturbances that took place within the hall, rather than outside, we have no intention of pursuing any further course of action."

It appears that lawyers acting for Israel had "argued that charges of aggravated trespass could have been brought against some of those who took part in the protest". But Jonathan Turner, chairman of the lawyers group, said that the police had said that they did not intend to act because the management of the hall would not assist them." Mr. Turner commented: "We consider this regrettable since we think that [...] the police could have secured convictions even without the co-operation of the Royal Albert Hall". Mr Turner said the possibility of a private prosecution had been considered but they "decided in the end not to pursue it"

Compiled with some material from a JC article by Simon Rucker

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## **Financial support for BRICUP**

BRICUP needs your financial support.

Arranging meetings and lobbying activities are expensive. We need funds to support visiting speakers, book rooms for public meetings, print leaflets and pay the whole range of expenses that a busy campaign demands.

Please do consider making a donation .

One-off donations may be made by sending a cheque to the Treasurer, at BRICUP, BM BRICUP, London, WC1N 3XX, UK or by making a bank transfer to BRICUP at  
Sort Code 08-92-99  
Account Number 65156591  
IBAN = GB20 CPBK 0892 9965 1565 91  
BIC = CPBK GB22

Like all organisations, while we welcome one-off donations, we can plan our work much better if people pledge regular payments by standing order.

You can [download a standing order form](#).here. More details can be obtained from [treasurer@bricup.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bricup.org.uk)

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## **You can follow BRICUP on twitter!**

See [twitter.com/bricup](https://twitter.com/bricup)

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## **BRICUP is the British Committee for the Universities of Palestine.**

We are always willing to help provide speakers for meetings. All such requests and any comments or suggestions concerning this Newsletter are welcome.

Email them to: [newsletter@bricup.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bricup.org.uk)