

BRICUP Newsletter 65

BRICUP

British Committee for the
Universities of Palestine

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Holding Doctors Accountable for involvement in Torture: Part 2.

Periodically we report on developments in the campaign to persuade the relevant professional associations, the Israeli Medical Association (IMA) and the World Medical Association (WMA), and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, to investigate the unassailable body of evidence gathered over many years that Israel indulges in torture as a routine and that doctors are involved on an institutionalised basis, in violation of all medical ethical codes - not least the WMA's anti-torture Declaration of Tokyo.

In the May edition of this Newsletter Dr Derek Summerfield reported on the campaign that he launched in 2009 with the backing of 725 physicians from 43 countries (including 114 professors). The

following is Part 2 of this report which lists specific examples that are drawn from Section C of the report entitled "The bitter pill: on the Actions and Failings of Medical Staff" (See Part 1 of this report), and from the Lancet.

Specific examples of complicity of Israeli Doctors in Torture.

I. Failure to document, see Cases MA (incriminating Drs Laikh Victoria and Rodvan Yelena) and case AR.

In Case MA the injuries inflicted on the detainee included an eye injury which 1 month later was still preventing him from reading because of blurring. Dr Victoria recorded no injuries and merely wrote "overall condition satisfactory, heartbeat regular". The subsequent examination by Dr Yelena also documented no injuries. 2 weeks after the first examination MA was referred to an eye doctor by a court. As the report puts it "if so long after the arrest a judge was convinced of the necessity of treatment, the same should certainly have been expected of a doctor whose job this is".

AR was arrested on 17 June 2010, assaulted, and interrogated for 6 days while handcuffed in a painful position. On 12 October 2010, nearly 4 months later, AR told a visiting PCATI attorney about his treatment and attempted to show the marks still present. His medical file contained no documentation of these injuries.

Access to medical files is often delayed for months following requests by PCATI or PHRI for copies, arrive only partially complete, illegible, or have apparently been lost.

II Silence as Consent. Case JM was of a man from Jenin whose shoulder was dislocated by a soldier during arrest. He was taken to Kishon Detention Centre where **Dr Saliman Fares** recorded that he had pain in his right shoulder, but nothing more specific nor the cause.

In Case TS the detainee was ill-treated both during arrest, including being bitten by a dog brought by the soldiers, and in a military base. He was transferred to the notorious Russian Compound (where interrogations take place). Here his condition prompted the prison doctor to refuse to accept him and he was transferred to hospital. His medical file from “Sha’arei Tzedek” hospital in Jerusalem signed by **Dr Alexander Bergman** records the bite, and a detention centre doctor **Dr Emil Erkin** informed the interrogators of the injury by means of a special form (an unethical practice in itself, as the report notes). “Neither in the medical file nor anywhere else is there any record suggesting that the case was reported to an external body of any kind by any of the doctors who encountered him, not those at the military facility, the Russian Compound, the hospital or Kishon.”

TC was arrested on 1 July 2006 and during the course of interrogation lasting several months was subjected to “hitting, isolation, sleep deprivation, prolonged cuffing to a chair in a position so painful it led to loss of consciousness, threats and curses...his body was so harmed that an attorney who met him several days after the interrogation had ended was able to easily make out the injury marks.” Of the doctors he saw over the course of his interrogation, one told him to co-operate with his interrogators, another refused to check his injured eye when requested to do so by TC, and his medical file revealed only some details (with some doctors reporting nothing of his injuries). PCATI/PHRI subsequently discovered a memorandum dated 5 March 2007 which showed that a Detention Centre doctor had recorded TC’s complaint of an assault 4 days earlier and had noted injury marks. The doctor addressed this to the Commander of the Detention Centre but to no other authority, in clear violation of his ethical duty.

III. Refoulement (returning the victim to the torturers despite evidence of torture). Such action serves to afford the interrogators medical permission to continue with their practices, drawing the doctor into the circle of active participation.

Case BA suffered from severe pain in arm, leg and back following ill-treatment but the doctor ignored

this, took his blood pressure and said “all is well and there is no problem”. There is no documentation covering this clinic visit but in Shikma Prison **Dr Shimon Kaslesi** noted that “the patient had no complaints and that his overall condition was good.” He was returned to the Russian Compound for further interrogation.

Case SA was treated similarly to TC above. At one point he vomited blood. His medical file records several clinic visits after which he was returned to the interrogators. In a report dated 2 May 2010 **Dr Vladimir Gudindescribes** “use of reasonable force”. PCATI/PHRI comments thus: “On what basis did the doctor know that “reasonable force” had been used? SA’s medical file shows that, though a number of doctors were witness to his distress, which itself resulted in part from interrogation conditions, they nevertheless chose to return him to the control of his interrogators and to the very same despicable imprisonment conditions, over and over again”.

KhZ, arrested 13 January 2011, was knocked unconscious during arrest, and at the Russian Compound was further abused as in the cases above. According to his testimony he saw doctors on an almost daily basis, but was always returned to the interrogators. Documents dated 16 January 2011 and 10 February 2011 signed by **Dr Ganady Lesitza** lists complaints of headache and of lack of sleep but nothing more.

IV. Serving the Interrogation over Medical Confidentiality. In Case G.Tz the detainee was held in a series of painful positions, assaulted, handcuffed to the point of bleeding, and members of his family were arrested to apply pressure to him. At Kishon Detention Centre Clinic a form signed **Dr Galina Veinar** recording “pain in the hands due to an injury to a nerve in the hand” was addressed to the Officer in Charge of Special Interrogations Wing. As PCATI/PHRI comment, “plain and unadorned, medical information about the interrogee is passed to an outside body”, moreover a body whose interests are directly opposed to those of the detainee. The injury is likely to have resulted from prolonged tight handcuffing.

Case MJ is similar, incriminating **Dr Vladimir Gudind.**

V. Doctors or Interrogators? Case SD asserts that he was “brought before a doctor many times” (doctor not named) and told he could “get out

of...his military interrogation” (ie. torture) if he were to co-operate with his interrogators.

VI. Behind Bars or Hospital Walls. In Cases SB, the hospital release form read as follows: “Says that 2 days ago was struck in the head, left eye and upper back without losing consciousness. Fully conscious, calm during examination. Haematoma of left eye, abrasion on right upper back”. Thus the doctors had diagnosed SB as a victim of violence whilst in custody, but did not report this to any external body (as the WMA Declaration of Tokyo mandates) and after treatment returned him to custody.

In Case JM (2), a man from Tulkarem, the doctor, and ambulance crew, appear to have colluded with the interrogator who asked them to support an agreed version of events, which was that the detainee’s injuries had been caused by his falling down some stairs rather than through torture sustained during 20 days of intensive interrogation. JM was then taken by ambulance, hands and feet cuffed, to “Laniado” hospital in Netanya. When JM told the examining doctor that it was a lie that he had fallen down stairs, but that he had been beaten, the response was this was not her business, that the cause of injury was of no interest. Several other doctors who saw the detainee in Laniado hospital responded similarly when the detainee tried to tell them what had happened to him. After his head injury was sutured he was discharged, having heard his interrogator tell the doctor to try to avoid keeping him in hospital. The files show that **Dr Alexander Afensayev** examined him on 5 October 2008.

The doctors who saw JM consistently ignored his complaints about violence, did not document his injuries in a way that would allow their origin to be identified, did not report them to an outside authority, and did not hesitate to return JM to the custody of his interrogators despite what had already been inflicted on him by them.

An appeal was subsequently made by PHRI or PCATI to the IMA, the Ministry of Health and the hospital. The IMA response was merely to ask if the police had been approached, and as in all other cases they did nothing, despite their ironclad obligation in terms of the WMA Declaration of Tokyo.

To conclude, PCATI/PHRI devastatingly report that “except for one case (JM, where even here the doctor did not act) our research did not discover a single case where torture and ill-

treatment were reported.” This makes it transparent that the problem is not one of a few rotten apples in the barrel, but of institutionalised practice.

Individual doctors who transgress in these ways carry individual culpability, but major responsibility must lie with their professional bodies, notably the IMA. If challenged such doctors could realistically claim that the IMA had never meaningfully instructed them to behave differently, had never instigated proper investigations when challenged with specific cases (as in this report) and had in effect an implicit policy to endorse the status quo on torture on political grounds- as the evidence shows overwhelmingly. This is why the focus of our campaign has been the IMA, who could halt the practice of torture in 5 minutes by obliging doctors to act ethically whenever their findings suggest torture, or indeed by forbidding doctors to work in units where torture is routine. Nonetheless, we welcome action on specific cases as a start.

In ‘Holding Doctors Accountable: a Glance at the World’ PCATI/PHRI cites the case of South Africa and in particular the precedent set by Dr Wendy Orr in exposing comparable abuses by the Medical Association of South Africa (MASA) and individual doctors during the apartheid era. This led to the exclusion of the MASA from the WMA for a period. “A doctor who refuses to condone torture and is willing to expose its existence can singlehandedly change an entire state’s policy on torture”.

The death of a Palestinian prisoner in disputed circumstances has recently been reported by [Sharmila Devi](#) in the Lancet (March 2013) and that account is reproduced here

“Questions are being raised about the involvement of Israeli doctors in the suspected torture of a young Palestinian detainee who died in custody last month. Sharmila Devi reports [that this] has reignited a longstanding controversy over alleged physician complicity in torture as well as sparking renewed Palestinian anger over the estimated 4600 prisoners held by Israel. The Israeli Medical Association (IMA) denied that medical professionals were involved in torture or abuse and said that as far as it knew, torture was not approved or used by Israeli security forces or prisons. However, human-rights campaigners say Palestinian prisoners have long suffered from beatings, sleep deprivation, prolonged and painful handcuffing, humiliation, and medical

neglect—considered torture under international standards.”

“Arafat Jaradat, a 30-year-old petrol attendant with two children, was arrested on Feb 18 on suspicion of throwing stones and Molotov cocktails during a West Bank demonstration held last November against Israeli military action in the Gaza strip. Palestinians say his arrest, months after the demonstration, and his interrogation was part of a longstanding Israeli policy to coerce prisoners to become informants after their release. Palestinian leaders say some 800,000 Palestinians have been detained by Israeli forces since 1967, and Jaradat was the 203rd prisoner to die. He died after several days of interrogation by Israeli's Shin Bet internal security service on Feb 23 at Israel's Megiddo prison. An autopsy was held the next day at Israel's Institute of Forensic Medicine in the presence of Saber Aloul, the Palestinian Authority's chief pathologist, who said bruising on the body was evidence of torture. Israel's health ministry said on Feb 28, after examining new findings from the autopsy that there was no evidence Jaradat was physically abused or poisoned, nor was it possible to determine his cause of death. Israeli officials had originally attributed his death to a heart attack and said bruising and broken ribs were “characteristic findings of a resuscitation, which the medical crew from the Israel Prison Service and Magen David Adom engaged in for 50 minutes in an effort to save his life”.

“Additional samples taken from the body were still undergoing microscopic and toxicology tests and results were not expected for several weeks. “The signs that appeared during the autopsy show clearly that he was subjected to severe torture that led immediately to his death”, Issa Qaraka, the Palestinian Minister of Prisoner Affairs said at a Ramallah press conference after being briefed by the Palestinian pathologist who attended the autopsy. Kamil Sabbagh, Jaradat's lawyer, told an Israeli military judge a couple of days before his client's death that he was being forced to sit for long periods during interrogation, had complained of back pain, and seemed terrified of returning to the Shin Bet detention centre where he was being held. The judge ordered an examination by a prison doctor. Jaradat died at Megiddo prison and it was not known when he was moved there. Derek Summerfield, an honorary senior lecturer at the University of London's Institute of Psychiatry and campaigner against what he called Israeli physicians' violations of human rights, says he wanted to know what part doctors played in the circumstances of Jaradat's

death. “By Israel's own admission, Jaradat was seen by Israeli doctors 2 days earlier and they found him in good health. The key medical ethical question is what were these doctors examining him for, if not to assess whether he could withstand torture”, he tells *The Lancet*. “This is precisely what the campaign regarding medical collusion with torture in Israel was launched for in 2009 and it continues to run.”

“The IMA said in a statement: “The IMA vociferously objects to the claim that medical professionals are involved in torture or abuse, and we will continue to do everything possible with the tools available to us to inform doctors about their obligation to report and to conduct themselves appropriately.” The IMA and human rights organisations have called for responsibility for prisoners' health to be taken away from the Israel Prison Service (IPS) and given to an outside body, such as health maintenance organisations (HMO) or the health ministry, which a year ago set up a standing committee to which doctors can report suspicions of torture. “It's true that every doctor has a conflict of interest between the patient and the system in the HMOs and also in the army”, Avinoam Reches, who heads the IMA's Ethics Board, told *Ha'aretz* newspaper. “But in the case of the IPS, the problem is severe because the treatment is given to people who have no freedom of choice whatsoever. Palestinians and human-rights groups have demanded an independent investigation into Jaradat's death.”

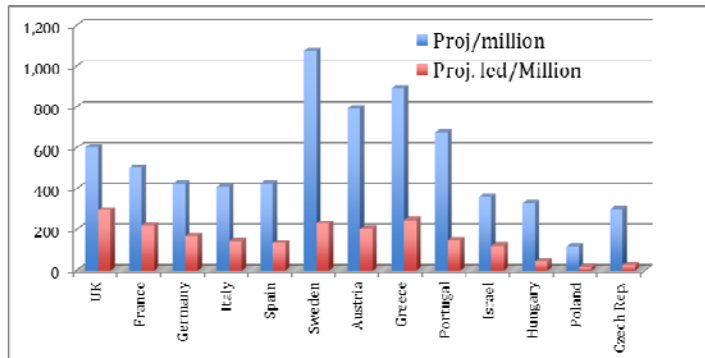
An urgent response to these and other specific cases is required from the Office of the UN Rapporteur on Torture.

Dr Derek Summerfield, Honorary Senior Lecturer, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London.

Campaign to expose Israeli EU research support

Most of us are aware of the Associate Member status Israel has been awarded by the EU. This makes it eligible for all the research support offered to member states, though it is not a member of the EU. The level and types of research support offered to Israel by the EU is staggering. A simple search on the CORDIS EU website reveals that Israel is one of the main beneficiaries of EU research funding, despite it not being a member of the EU. Currently, of the projects listed on CORDIS, Israeli institutions

take part in 2935 projects, and are leading 976 (figures correct for Mid June – new projects are added daily). One understands the enormity of this ‘achievement’ by running a simple comparison, based on population figures:



The blue index measures the number of projects per million of population, and the red index measures projects led per million of population. It can be seen that Israel, a non-member, is similar in its placement to Spain, and well above the ex-communist bloc countries: Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. As this is only a representative selection, it can be understood that Israel is well above over a third of EU countries when these indexes are applied, in terms of participating and leading research programs supported by the EU. Israel is placed well before ALL ex-communist Member countries on both indexes. In that way, it can be argued, the EU is supporting a non-member country well beyond its worth, and to the detriment of other EU members.

The CORDIS files are complex, and a proper analysis is needed in order to also decipher the most important part of the data: the financial size of the support Israel is getting, and the military-related nature of the research on some of the programs. This can only be done by a full analysis of the files. Based on examining a small number of files, it seems that Israel is also much higher on the scale of financial support for its research paid by the EU, if measured as per-capita figure, but that can only be determined by a proper and full analysis of the files.

It is proposed that a project of such analysis should be undertaken by BRICUP and partners in Europe, and especially our Irish Partners, Academics for Palestine. This project stands to discover a number of important factors about EU support for Israeli R&D, and will be important for the BDS struggle, as well as the Academic Boycott campaign.

A full analysis will offer the following benefits:

1. Exposing EU inequitable support for Israeli R&D, in preference to its own member states – information useful for campaigners in member states.

2. Exposing EU funding for military-related programs run or participated by Israeli institutions.
3. Providing information to supportive MEPs.
4. Providing information to UCU members about projects run with the participation or leading of UCU members in their HEI.
5. Providing information to campaign groups across Europe

It takes some 5-15 minutes to enter the details of each project into the spreadsheet. If we calculate on an average of 10 minutes, this means a total of around 30,000 minutes, or 500 hours. It is obviously not possible for 2 or 3 people to do on their own, and requires collaboration across Europe. The project should be run on commonly-edited spreadsheet on Google-Docs, where each participating individual undertakes to scan and input a number of entries, which will be indexed on a master spreadsheet and available to all. This will mean that as the projects advances, the overall picture will continue to be clarified and filled out. The project may last a few months, depending on people’s commitment and energy, but will then be a most useful tool in the struggle of isolating Israeli academia so that they change their tune.

For BRICUP, Mike Cushman and myself will coordinate this project, with Elaine Bradley from AFP Dublin coordinating the Irish part. We then need to find partners in the other European countries to also partake.

We are looking for a number of volunteers who will undertake parts of the database and enter it into the spreadsheet which I designed for collecting the data. People need to be quite familiar with Microsoft Excel and generally computer literate. Having two monitors connected to your Mac or PC is a great help, as I found myself. If you think you could partake in this, please write to me on haim@haimbresheeth.com and I shall send you the instructions, as well as the spreadsheet itself. Once you are into it, you can decide how much you are prepared to do.

I have done the first 100 entries, and it took me a long day to do that, so this is a measure you can relate to, but take into account that I use two screens side-by-side, which speeds things up. We are looking for people to do at least 200 records, as it is not practical below that number. I have undertaken to do 400, and hope to be able to improve on that.

Haim Bresheeth

On Hawking's Decision to Heed the Palestinian call to Boycott Israel

Stephen Hawking's decision to heed the call of Palestinian academics to refuse to lend legitimacy to Israel and its complicit institutions until Palestinian self-determination is realized is having a tremendous impact among Palestinians, especially in the academic community. The principled, direct, and unambiguous decision communicated by Hawkins to the organizers of the high-profile, public relations Israeli conference at which the president of the state is to be honored in June is unprecedented for a global scholar of his stature, and is deeply appreciated by Palestinians.

The Palestinian civil society call for the boycott of Israeli academic institutions because of their multi-faceted complicity in upholding and legitimizing Israel's regime of occupation, colonization and apartheid has caught the imagination of increasing numbers of academics around the world. Hawking's decision is precedent-setting in the sense that it will set an example for many other academics who have, for various reasons, not found it easy to declare their support of the boycott openly. Advocates of any sort of pressure on the Israeli state, inside and outside the academy, have had to face charges of anti-Semitism, stifling academic freedom, and dragging politics into academia. While the efforts of the Israel lobby in the western academy are being daily challenged by more and more academics and students, Hawking's example is bound to further the legitimacy of boycott as a means to achieve justice for Palestinians. We believe the day is coming sooner than we expected when isolating Israel and its complicit institutions through diverse forms of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) becomes more of a mainstream practice. The South African anti-apartheid struggle, in which boycott played a prominent role, inspires Palestinians and gives hope that sustained international solidarity can hasten the end of oppression.

Hawking's outstanding example will also encourage associations of academics to take courageous actions in isolating Israel's complicit academic institutions in the international academy. We are certain that we will see more initiatives such as the boycott resolution approved unanimously just two months ago by the Association for Asian American Studies in the United States. It is worth highlighting the

clarity of the language in this other precedent-setting development (in the USA in particular); the AAAS has resolved to "honor the call of Palestinian civil society for a boycott of Israeli academic institutions," and to support "the protected rights of students and scholars everywhere to engage in research and public speaking about Israel-Palestine and in support of the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement." The latter point highlights the fact that advocating for Palestine and supporting boycott is still not easy given the intimidating atmosphere created in the global academy and the media by the Israel lobby. Yet, it is a matter of time when the determination of conscientious academics to challenge attempts to stifle advocacy for Palestinian rights and boycott in particular will prevail.

In this regard, it will likely be only a matter of time before the premier academic union in the UK, the UCU, resumes its distinguished tradition of fighting oppression in relation to Palestine. The dedicated UCU activists, who have been heartened by the recent legal judgment in favor of the UCU against charges of "institutional anti-Semitism" due to the union's deliberations on BDS at its annual conferences, will now find it easier to argue for holding Israel accountable to universal standards.

Apologists for Israel and detractors of boycott have received a significant setback with Hawking's decision to respect the Palestinian boycott call. The tide is turning.

PACBI

Academia Undermined: Israeli restrictions on foreign academics in Palestinian Higher Education Institutions

In May 2013, the Campaign for the Right to Enter the Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt) issued a comprehensive report of research which demonstrates unequivocally how the quality of Palestinian education, particularly of higher education, has been severely damaged by the prolonged Israeli military occupation.

This research was based on interviews with university officials, faculty members and students at four Palestinian universities, (Birzeit, Al-Quds, Bethlehem and The Islamic University of Gaza). Interviews were also undertaken with Israeli

academics, and some case studies and testimonies were gathered on the actual experiences of foreign academics trying to enter the oPt to work in Palestinian Universities.

The research found that Israeli restrictions of internal movement have been pervasive and arbitrary. Schools and Universities have been closed for extended periods. The report focuses on just one of the many problems produced by this restriction of access, namely the restriction on entry and residency of **foreign** academics wishing to serve at institutes of higher education in the oPt., This will include all individuals without an Israeli-issued identity card, even if they are of Palestinian origin and even if they and/or their parents were born in Palestine.

Effects on Palestinian Academic Life

The report's major finding is that the restrictions imposed by Israel have severely diminished opportunities for the development of faculty, of teaching and of research. As recruitment of foreign academics has shrunk over the last decade, educational and research programs have been cut back, reducing the exposure of students to new ideas, cultural norms, ways of thinking and conceptualization. The shortage of academics in highly specialized and cutting-edge fields, has undermined research capabilities. The acquisition of second languages has diminished. Foreign academics are less willing to consider taking up teaching and research posts in Palestinian institutions.

Denial of Entry- restrictions on internal and external movement

Since Israel has not established clear and transparent policies and procedures for issuing entry visas and residency permits to foreign passport holders, foreign academics have no reasonable guarantee that they will be permitted to travel to the Palestinian Universities that recruited them, or to remain in the oPt throughout their academic contracts, or to return to their universities should they travel abroad - even briefly. The broad discretion exercised by Israeli officials controlling border crossings compounds this uncertainty. There is no accountability: foreign academics have been arbitrarily denied entry; or refused extension of visas in mid-semester; or refused re-entry to complete their contracted work; or have been issued with visas that restrict their internal movement. All this has resulted in a decrease in the number of foreign academics willing and able to teach at Palestinian universities.

For decades, Israel has restricted internal and external movement, impairing access to other vital

Palestinian economic, social and developmental processes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This broad restrictive regime is arbitrary and indiscriminate, disrupting political and civil life. It clearly contravenes international law. The expertise and participation of foreign passport holders, including diaspora Palestinians, is often required to support vital Palestinian development. For this specific reason, the arbitrary and indiscriminate restrictions on entry and presence to which foreign passport holders are subjected, clearly contravene international law.

Israel's Obligations under International Law

A long list of UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, rulings of the International Court of Justice and Israel's own Supreme Court affirm Israel's obligation to exercise its control of the occupied oPt in strict accordance with international humanitarian law, including the Hague Convention of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, as well as applicable international human rights law. As the occupying power, Israel is obliged to protect and facilitate the functioning of Palestinian civil institutions, including Palestinian institutions of higher education. It is therefore also obliged to exercise control over the entry and presence of foreign academics in a manner that causes no unnecessary or unjustifiable harm to Palestinian higher education, and to the Palestinian population's right to education. Israel may not exercise this control politically, to serve what it considers to be its own national interests.

Clearly, the actual restrictive measures applied by Israel do cause harm. In law, they can be justified only if they are necessary to protect the security of the occupying power's own forces: or to enable the occupying power to comply with its obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law; and Israel is obliged to ensure safety and public order - to protect the civilian population in the occupied territory.

The report argues that legitimate grounds of necessity cannot be plausibly invoked to justify the difficulties actually imposed on foreign academics in the oPt. There is no evidence that foreign academics denied entry into the oPt, or denied the visa extensions and renewals needed to complete their teaching commitments, pose any sort of threat to security.

Obligations of the international Community

Third States have important responsibilities with respect to unlawful restrictive measures against

foreign academics. These stem from the customary duties in international law to oppose violations of the law, including the duty of States not to recognise as lawful any serious breach of international law, or an unlawful situation created by that breach. This duty is reaffirmed under the international law of occupation as the duty to 'ensure respect ... in all circumstances' set out in Article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949.

When restrictive measures are imposed on the entry of foreign nationals the first question that should be asked by their own States, as High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, is whether the restrictions and the disruption caused to civil life, or the harm caused to the rights of its protected civilian population, can be justified.

The second question that States should consider asking is whether their own nationals are being targeted wrongfully, in particular on the basis their ethnicity or religion. This report and its appendices provide ample indications that both of these wrongs are indeed being committed widely, persistently and unaccountably. States have clear rights to ask such questions and pursue satisfactory answers from Israel. They have the option to cooperate and seek satisfaction jointly. It is acknowledged that any State has the unquestioned right to limit or deny entry into its own territory as it sees fit but this does not apply to Israel's occupation of Palestine. In this case, repeated failures by third countries to pose the proper questions and pursue satisfactory answers (to which States are entitled) implies, in the case of their own nationals, acquiescence in Israel's breaches of international humanitarian law.

The report concludes with the following call for action:-

1] We call on Palestinian Educational Institutions, Palestinian Education Unions, the Palestinian Authority, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education, the PLO to work together to:-

- a) Establish monitoring mechanisms for entry restrictions for academic staff.
- b) Take collective action against restrictions practiced by the Israeli authorities.
- c) Ensure that the consequences of access restrictions on education are fully understood.
- d) The Ministry of Higher Education to raise the issue with Palestinian diplomats abroad.

2] We call on international academic institutions and civil society worldwide to:-

- a) Call for an immediate halt to Israel's arbitrary and abusive practice of denying entry to foreign nationals traveling to the oPt to promote academic development.
- b) Demand that Israel enable unhindered access to the oPt by foreign nationals who are coming to promote educational and academic development.

3] We call on Israel to:-

- a) No longer make the prohibitive stipulation "NOT ALLOWED TO WORK" on visas issued to academics who are working for Palestinian universities.
- b) Provide multiple entry visas for people who are extending their visas, including family members.
- c) Allow people who have previously been denied entry to re-enter the oPt.
- d) End the practice of issuing permits that restrict exit and re-entry, or restrict the area of the visit.
- e) End the practice of issuing permits of less than three months to those traveling to the oPt.
- f) Cease the collective punishment of those whose relatives may have "overstayed" their original visa duration.

4] We urge Third States that have friendly relations with Israel to:-

- a) Demand Israel's implementation of a clear, documented, and transparent policy enabling unhindered access to the oPt by foreign nationals to promote education.
- b) Provide diplomatic support to their own nationals and citizens who are coming to work as academics in Palestine.
- c) Monitor and facilitate the entry of nationals traveling to oPt for academic reasons.
- d) Monitor and facilitate the issuance of residence permits for the duration of academic work contracts.
- e) Ascertain the legitimacy of entry and residency restrictions and contest restrictions that lack lawful justification.
- f) Ensure that Israel correctly treats its own nationals seeking to enter the oPt via Israeli-controlled borders.

See: <http://www.right2edu.org/>

eMail: Righttoenter@gmail.com

Two open letters to Alicia Keys,

From Alice Walker

Dear Alicia Keys,

I have learned today that you are due to perform in Israel very soon. We have never met, though I believe we are mutually respectful of each other's path and work. It would grieve me to know you are putting yourself in danger (soul danger) by performing in an apartheid country that is being boycotted by many global conscious artists. You were not born when we, your elders who love you, boycotted institutions in the US South to end an American apartheid less lethal than Israel's against the Palestinian people. Google Montgomery Bus Boycott, if you don't know about this civil rights history already. We changed our country fundamentally, and the various boycotts of Israeli institutions and products will do the same there. It is our only nonviolent option and, as we learned from our own struggle in America, nonviolence is the only path to a peaceful future.

If you go to my website and blog alicewalkersgarden.com you can quickly find many articles I have written over the years that explain why a cultural boycott of Israel and Israeli institutions (not individuals) is the only option left to artists who cannot bear the unconscionable harm Israel inflicts every day on the people of Palestine, whose major "crime" is that they exist in their own land, land that Israel wants to control as its own. Under a campaign named 'Brand Israel', Israeli officials have stated specifically their intent to downplay the Palestinian conflict by using culture and arts to showcase Israel as a modern, welcoming place.

This is actually a wonderful opportunity for you to learn about something sorrowful, and amazing: that our government (Obama in particular) supports a system that is cruel, unjust, and unbelievably evil. You can spend months, and years, as I have, pondering this situation. Layer upon layer of lies, misinformation, fear, cowardice and complicity. Greed. It is a vast eye-opener into the causes of much of the affliction in our suffering world.

I have kept you in my awareness as someone of conscience and caring, especially about the children of the world. Please, if you can manage it, go to visit the children in Gaza, and sing to them of our mutual love of all children, and of their right not to be harmed simply because they exist.

With love, younger sister, beloved daughter and friend,

Alice Walker

From Roger Waters

Dear Alicia Keys,

I read today Alice Walker's eloquent and moving [entreaty](#) to you in her open letter. It is hard to add anything except to implore you to follow all the links she has directed you to.

To introduce myself to you, I am a fellow musician, my name is Roger Waters, I used to be in a band called Pink Floyd, and, believe it or not, I still work. I had reason last December to write a letter to Stevie Wonder to encourage him to withdraw from an engagement in LA. It was a Gala to raise funds for the Israeli Defense Force. I wasn't the only one to write, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the great advocate of peace and reconciliation, was among many, many others who wrote as well. To Stevie's great credit he withdrew.

We are all part of the same old story, nothing has changed since the bad old days of apartheid South Africa and Segregated America. We must stand united with all our brothers and sisters against racism, colonialism, segregation and apartheid. Please, Alicia, do not lend your name to give legitimacy to the Israeli government policies of illegal, apartheid, occupation of the homelands of the indigenous people of Palestine.

Others may try to persuade you that by playing in Israel you may magically effect some change; we know that this is not true, appeasement didn't work with South Africa and it has not worked in Israel. I know I tried it ten years ago, things have only got worse. I appeal to you to join the rising tide of resistance. Join the many millions of us in global civil society who stand together on the side of justice and peace for all humanity. "We shall overcome one day."

With love and respect,

Roger Waters

Notices

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

Letters to the Editor

Please note that we do have a “Letters to the Editor” facility. We urge you to use it. It provides an opportunity for valuable input from our supporters and gives you the opportunity to contribute to the debate and development of the campaign. Please send letters to arrive on or before the first day of each month for consideration for that month’s newsletter. Aim not to exceed 250 words if possible. Letters and comments should also be sent to newsletter@bricup.org.uk

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