

ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK

Palestine -> Canada -> U.S -> Mexico -> Europe -> U.K -> South Africa
www.apartheidweek.org

IAW has continued to thrive in the past five years and we, the organizers, intend to make 2010 an even stronger year that will feature IAW events in more cities around the world, and facilitate communication and coordination between a growing network of activists committed to bolstering the international BDS campaign, building links with other movements, and ending Israeli Apartheid.

How to Participate in Israeli Apartheid Week

Israeli Apartheid Week currently operates internationally as a network of organizations from Canada, the U.S, U.K, Palestine, and South Africa and is expanding beyond that. These organizations have committed themselves to a basic set of political principles and basis of unity for being involved with Israeli Apartheid Week.

The international network is important for the purposes of building and coordinating our movements, for mutual support, and for sharing skills, information, and resources.

For new organizations looking to join the Israeli Apartheid Week network, we ask that you first agree to this Basis of Unity. After this we can add you to the international list serve that has one representative from each area that is doing Israeli Apartheid Week. This list serve will be used for coordination between the different cities and countries, to share ideas, and to build resources that can be accessible to all the participants.

One of our important shared resources is the website: www.apartheidweek.org, where each area has a page in order to post events and information. You can also find resources and schedules on the website from the last two years of IAW.

To get in contact with the IAW International Network:

Palestine: info@badil.org and global@stopthewall.org

Canada: Students Against Israeli Apartheid: saia@riseup.net

U.S: apartheidweeknyc@gmail.com

U.K: palsoc@herald.ox.ac.uk and palsoc@saos.ac.uk

South Africa: witspsc@gmail.com

Basis of Unity for Israeli Apartheid Week International Coordination

Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) was initiated by student activists at the University of Toronto in 2005 and has since spread to 25 cities across the world, including cities in Palestine and South Africa. We are a global network of student, youth, and community organizations working to build Israeli Apartheid Week as part of worldwide actions in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The aim of IAW is to educate people about the nature of Israel as an apartheid system and to build Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaigns as part of a growing global BDS movement.

We push forward an understanding of Israel an apartheid state. Palestinian citizens of Israel are barred from controlling and developing over 90% of the land, and discriminated against in most aspects of life, particularly in education, health care, public services and employment; simply because they are Palestinians. Palestinians expelled in 1948 and 1967 are denied the right to return to their homes and lands, while the fact that anyone of Jewish background - from anywhere in the world - has the automatic right to become an Israeli citizen and live in Palestine. In the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians live under separate and discriminatory military law, in isolated Bantustans surrounded by the Wall.

We work to end all international complicity with this apartheid state. Governments provide extensive political and economic support to the Israeli apartheid regime. Corporations profit through investments and joint operations with Israeli companies. Institutions, organizations and unions provide economic and moral backing by maintaining investments in and relations with Israel. Artists, intellectuals and sports teams legitimize Israeli apartheid by continuing business as usual. It is this type of support and cooperation, which allows apartheid to continue to exist, and this is why ending international complicity is so important.

We understand Israeli apartheid as one element of a global system of economic and military domination. To this end, we stand in solidarity with all oppressed groups around the world, in particular, indigenous communities suffering under settler colonialism, exploitation and displacement.

We are against the racist ideology of Zionism, which is the impetus for Israeli colonialism, because it inherently discriminates against those who are not Jewish. We are against all forms of discrimination, and believe that there can never be justice without the restoration of full rights for everyone, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or nationality. Our demands are based upon the Palestinian Civil Society Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel, issued on 9 July 2005 by over 170 Palestinian organizations, which states that:

Boycott, divestment and sanctions should be imposed and maintained until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with the precepts of international law by:

1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands, dismantling the Wall and freeing all Palestinian and Arab political prisoners;
2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality;
3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN General Assembly resolution 194.

To be part of the Israeli Apartheid Week International Network, organizations should commit to:

- a) the basis of unity above
- b) coordination with the international network
- c) building, as part of Israeli Apartheid Week activities, local BDS awareness and campaigns.

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Resources for Getting Started

- 1) **Media:** For Israeli Apartheid Week 2008, the network coordinated a joint media release with contacts for the press in different countries involved in Israeli Apartheid Week. We will be doing this again for 2009, and also can provide any tips for you on writing a media release for your area. Attached here is the Media release from last year which you may want to refer to as a template.
- 2) **Fundraising and Sponsorship:** Raising funds for your events is up to each local area to coordinate depending on your needs. Similar to Fundraising, gathering sponsorship and endorsements is up to each local area to coordinate. In past years we have gathered a long list of supporting organizations. Attached here is a sample sponsorship and fundraising request letter that you may want to use as a template for your area.
- 3) **Themes and Events:** Attached here are examples of past themes and events that have been held during Israeli Apartheid Week.

International Media Release for Israeli Apartheid Week: February 3 – 19, 2008

****For Immediate Release**

THE 4th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK IS LAUNCHED

Israeli Apartheid Week 2008 was officially launched on Sunday, February 3rd in Soweto, South Africa. Exiled Palestinian member of the Israeli Knesset, Azmi Bishara, addressed his lecture on the 60th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba, when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were displaced from their land to become what remains one of the world's largest refugee populations. Bishara spoke under the banner 'Silenced in Apartheid Israel - Welcomed in Soweto' alongside prominent South Africans such as Eddie Maque, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches.

Speaking in South Africa, Bishara states, "Reconciliation happened in South Africa after apartheid was dismantled, not instead. The message sent to the Palestinians is that you have to make peace and reconcile. We can reconcile after racism and occupation is dismantled." Dr. Bishara's lecture will be screened during the week in participating cities