

South Africans on BDS, Apartheid and Palestine

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"I never tire of speaking about the very deep distress in my visits to the Holy Land; they remind me so much of what happened to us black people in South Africa. I have seen the humiliation of the Palestinians at checkpoints and roadblocks, suffering like we did when young white police officers prevented us from moving about. My heart aches. I say, "Why are our memories so short?" Have our Jewish sisters and brothers forgotten their own previous humiliation? Have they forgotten the collective punishment, the home demolitions, in their own history so soon? Have they turned their backs on their profound and noble religious traditions? Have they forgotten that God cares deeply about all the downtrodden? Together with the peace-loving peoples of this Earth, I condemn any form of violence - but surely we must recognise that people caged in, starved and stripped of their essential material and political rights must resist their Pharaoh? Surely resistance also makes us human? Palestinians have chosen, like we did, the nonviolent tools of **boycott, divestment and sanctions.**" source: "Israeli ties: a chance to do the right thing" tinyurl.com/2vrw6jc and "BBC: Tutu condemns Israeli 'apartheid'" tinyurl.com/ybc82rw

John Dugard

(*South African professor of international law, Judge: International Court of Justice, Special Rapporteur for both the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the International Law Commission.*)

"Israel's policies resemble those of apartheid... It is difficult to resist the conclusion that many of Israel's laws and practices violate the 1966 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination,"

"Can it seriously be denied that the purpose [...] is to establish and maintain domination by one racial group (Jews) over another racial group (Palestinians) and systematically oppressing them? Israel denies that this is its intention or purpose. But such an intention or purpose may be inferred from the actions described in this report....

[The situation in the West Bank is] an apartheid regime ... worse than the one that existed in South Africa." sources: "UN agent: Apartheid regime in territories worse than S. Africa" tinyurl.com/3h54fdf tinyurl.com/3jvrkac and "Occupied Gaza like apartheid South Africa, says UN report" tinyurl.com/3l5o98k

Nelson Mandela

'The temptation in our situation is to speak in muffled tones about an issue such as the right of the people of Palestine to a state of their own. We can easily be enticed to read reconciliation and fairness as meaning parity between justice and injustice. Having achieved our own freedom, we can fall into the trap of washing our hands of difficulties that others face. Yet we would be less than human if we did so. It behoves all South Africans, themselves erstwhile beneficiaries of generous international support, to stand up and be counted among those contributing actively to the cause of freedom and justice.' - Nelson Mandela source: tinyurl.com/2vrw6jc

"When in 1977, the United Nations passed the resolution inaugurating the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, it was asserting the recognition that injustice and gross human rights violations were being perpetrated in Palestine. In the same period, the UN took a strong stand against apartheid; and over the years, an international consensus was built, which helped to bring an end to this iniquitous system. But we know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians; without the resolution of conflicts in East Timor, the Sudan and other parts of the world."

source: "UJ must cut ties with Ben Gurion: Cosatu" <http://tinyurl.com/3q5y9kq>

Prominent S. Africans Who Have Used the Apartheid Analogy

William Henry Bloomberg Visiting Professor at Harvard Divinity School **Farid Esack**, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, anti-apartheid activists **Dennis Goldberg**, politician **Ronnie Kasrils**, human rights lawyer **Fatima Hassan**, and **Arun Ghandhi**. source: tinyurl.com/3bhyjrc

Others Who Have Called Apartheid in Palestine Even Worse than in S. Africa

ANC's international relations Manager **Ribbon Mosholi**, Congress of South African Trade Unions President **Willie Madisha**, former President of South Africa **Kgalema Motlanthe**. source: tinyurl.com/3bhyjrc

In 2009, The **Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa** released a legal study with the findings that Israel is practicing both colonialism and apartheid in the occupied Palestinian territories. According to this study, Israel practices the "three pillars" of apartheid in the occupied territories: The first pillar "derives from Israeli laws and policies that establish Jewish identity for purposes of law and afford a preferential legal status and material benefits to Jews over non-Jews". The second pillar is reflected in "Israel's 'grand' policy to fragment the [occupied territories] OPT [and] ensure that Palestinians remain confined to the reserves designated for them while Israeli Jews are prohibited from entering those reserves but enjoy freedom of movement throughout the rest of the Palestinian territory. This policy is evidenced by Israel's extensive appropriation of Palestinian land, which continues to shrink the territorial space available to Palestinians; the hermetic closure and isolation of the Gaza Strip from the rest of the OPT; the deliberate severing of East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank; and the appropriation and construction policies serving to carve up the West Bank into an intricate and well-serviced network of connected settlements for Jewish-Israelis and an archipelago of besieged and non-contiguous enclaves for Palestinians". The third pillar is "Israel's invocation of 'security' to validate sweeping restrictions on Palestinian freedom of opinion, expression, assembly, association and movement [to] mask a true underlying intent to suppress dissent to its system of domination and thereby maintain control over Palestinians as a group." source: tinyurl.com/3bhyjrc