

# Israelis in "Israeli Apartheid Week"





#### **Background:**

In the last week of February 2016, campuses and cities around the world began to mark the 12<sup>th</sup> annual "Israeli Apartheid Week" in an effort to build support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. This BDS-sponsored initiative is replete with lectures and protests that ostensibly aim to condemn Israel and its policies regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The annual series of events is generally held in February and March.<sup>2</sup>

Despite what some may think, apartheid is not merely a derogatory term used for constructive criticism. Apartheid is a term bearing legal ramification as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which describes apartheid as a "crime against humanity...committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime."<sup>3</sup>

Affixing the word "apartheid" to "Israel" in order to advance the BDS agenda is in essence a call to eliminate the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

Many former and current Israeli citizens, academics, representatives of organizations, and elected officials participate in these events and actively promote the BDS movement and its campaign of slander and delegitimization against Israel throughout the world. The Israelis who partake in "Israeli Apartheid Week" bolster, fuel, and lay the groundwork for the BDS campaign against Israel. This report maps out the activities of Israelis involved in "Israeli Apartheid Week."

The Im Tirtzu movement has asserted for years that the boycott movement against Israel originates from within Israel – starting from academics, lecturers, artists, and organizations that call for a boycott and stretching to individuals and elected officials who partake in "Israeli Apartheid Week." Those who accuse Israel of being an apartheid state do not want a peace or equality. They want the same thing as the heads of the BDS movement – to destroy the Jewish state.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://apartheidweek.org/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli Apartheid Week

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://legal.un.org/icc/statute/99 corr/cstatute.htm



# <u>Films</u>

#### "Zochrot" film festival on the "Nakba."

The "Zochrot Film Festival on Nakba and the Right of Return" was held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> during "Israeli Apartheid Week" at Columbia University.<sup>4</sup>

The event included three movies on the topic of the Nakba and the right of return presented as part of Zochrot's annual Nakba film festival in Israel<sup>5</sup> and throughout the world.<sup>6</sup>

Zochrot has participated in ""Israeli Apartheid Week" in previous years as well. 78



<sup>4</sup> https://www.facebook.com/events/226848304331306/

monitor.com/index.php?type=large\_advic&advice\_id=8396&page\_data%5Bid%5D=178&userid=&cookie\_lang=en%20&BLUEWEBSESSIONSID=cee0d6cfe1c54f361b49534e60d1f8f5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> http://zochrot.org/he/keyword/45345

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.facebook.com/events/949826255106607/

http://www.ngo-monitor.org/reports/ngos and ngo activists collaborate on israel apartheid week/

<sup>8</sup> http://www.israel-academia-



#### **5 Broken Cameras**

The film "5 Broken Cameras" was screened during "Israeli Apartheid Week" at the University of Valencia in Spain, the University of West England, and the University of Sheffield in England.

The film's director Guy Davidi documents the riots of the residents of Bil'in against the Security Barrier and the IDF – riots that have frequently caused injury to IDF soldiers. After the film's first screening, IDF soldiers who served in the region of Bil'in and were involved in the riots came out against the movie. They explained that the film was taken completely out of context and portrayed a partial picture of the situation in order to defame Israel and the IDF.<sup>12</sup>

The film received 200,000 ILS of government funds via the New Fund for Cinema and TV.<sup>13</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>https://www.facebook.com/117324538427908/photos/gm.924330800976123/528041457356212/?type=3 &theater

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://www.facebook.com/events/129404120780179

<sup>11</sup> https://www.facebook.com/events/1688135028122864/

<sup>12</sup> http://news.nana10.co.il/Article/?ArticleID=964100

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>2010 Report, page 96: <a href="https://www.pilat.co.il/%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%A8%D7%9B%D7%96-%D7%9C%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%93%D7%A2-">https://www.pilat.co.il/%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%A8%D7%9B%D7%96-%D7%9C%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%93%D7%A2-</a>

<sup>%</sup>D7%95%D7%9E%D7%97%D7%A7%D7%A8%D7%99-

<sup>%</sup>D7%AA%D7%A8%D7%91%D7%95%D7%AA/



# Roadmap to Apartheid

"Roadmap to Apartheid," a film co-directed by Israeli Eron Davidson that likens Israel to apartheid South Africa, 14 was screened during "Israeli Apartheid Week" in Brussels, 15 Rome, 16 the University of Nottingham, 17 and the University of Exeter. 18

The film has won several international awards. 19



 $<sup>^{14}\, \</sup>underline{\text{https://electronicintifada.net/content/how-detention-without-charge-links-israel-and-apartheid-south-africa/11141}$ 

<sup>15</sup> http://israeliapartheidweek.weebly.com/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> http://bdsitalia.org/index.php/la-campagna-bds/comunicati/1954-iaw2016#Roma

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> https://www.facebook.com/groups/palestiniansocietyuon/permalink/1135275523150923/

<sup>18</sup> https://www.facebook.com/events/1560805990906049

<sup>19</sup> http://roadmaptoapartheid.org/



# **Even Though My Land is Burning**

The film directed by Dror Dayan describes the activities of Israelis and Palestinians against "the daily violence and oppression of Israel's occupation of Palestine." The film was screened during "Israeli Apartheid Week" in Berlin, Germany. <sup>21</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> https://www.facebook.com/mylandisburning/info/?tab=page\_info

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> https://www.facebook.com/bdsberlin.org/posts/929612263781518



#### On the Side of the Road

The film directed by Lia Tarachansky was screened during "Israeli Apartheid Week" at York University, England.<sup>22</sup> The film tells the story of soldiers in the Palmach who during the War of Independence ("Nakba") expelled Arabs and destroyed their homes. The film was also screened in Zochrot's Nakba Film Festival.<sup>23</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> https://www.facebook.com/events/916909678422772/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> http://www.inn.co.il/News/News.aspx/265650



# <u>People</u>

#### Dr. Ilan Pappé

On March 4<sup>th</sup> Pappé presented a lecture at Columbia University titled, "Why Is Palestine Still The Issue in 2016?" The event was organized by Columbia's Students for Justice in Palestine organization during "Israeli Apartheid Week."<sup>24</sup>

Pappé is one of the leading advocates for the academic boycott of Israel, <sup>25</sup> and lectures almost every year at "Israeli Apartheid Week" events. <sup>262728</sup>

Pappé taught at Haifa University for 23 years and amongst other things, defended a false dissertation claiming that IDF soldiers massacred unarmed Arabs during the War of Independence. In recent years, Pappé has been a leading advocate of the BDS movement.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> https://www.facebook.com/events/1693920374197552/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> http://news.walla.co.il/item/712260

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> http://apartheidweek.org/events/uk/oxford/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> https://oxfordisraeliapartheidweek.wordpress.com/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npsh MPYE10



#### Dr. Uri Davis

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Davis was prominently featured at a press conference during South Africa's "Israel Apartheid Week."<sup>29</sup> Davis was born in Israel, joined the Palestinian Arab movement Fatah, converted to Islam, and is now married to a Palestinian Arab in Ramallah. He defines himself as a "Palestinian Hebrew national of Jewish origin, anti-Zionist, registered as Muslim and a citizen of an apartheid state - the State of Israel."<sup>30</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup>https://www.facebook.com/iawsouthafrica/photos/a.291289480931041.67039.146575248735799/1040728969320418/?type=3&theater

<sup>30</sup>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\_east/8203989.stm



MK Haneen Zoabi, MK Jamal Zahalka, Omar Barghouti, Professor Avi Shlaim, author Yitzhak Laor, and other prominent Israelis have participated in "Israeli Apartheid Week" at Oxford University throughout the years.<sup>31</sup>



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https://www.facebook.com/IAWOxford/photos/a.1676527219266969.1073741828.1675812729338418/1677270332525991/?type=3&theater



#### Dr. Simona Sharoni

Dr. Sharoni is an Israeli citizen and former professor at Haifa University. Sharoni is a founding member of the radical anti-Israel NGO "Women in Black,"<sup>32</sup> and had a heavy influence on Rachel Corrie, who after hearing from Sharoni talk about the Israel-Palestinian conflict joined the International Solidarity Movement and was subsequently killed in Gaza.<sup>33</sup> Sharoni worked closely with Rachel before she left to Gaza.<sup>34</sup>

Sharoni was featured in this year's "Israeli Apartheid Week" at Columbia University, and spoke on the topic of "Analyzing Violence, Demanding Accountability: Feminist perspectives on Israeli Apartheid and the Campus sexual Assault Crisis." 35



# **Analyzing Violence, Demanding Accountability**

Feminist perspectives on Israeli Apartheid and the Campus Sexual Assault Crisis with Dr. Simona Sharoni

8-9:30PM · Hamilton 516

Examining the systemic nature and root-causes of violence in both settings, Dr. Sharoni disrupts dominant representations of both the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the campus sexual assault crisis. Her original analysis and call to action originate from her scholarly research on and advocacy efforts on both fronts.

Sponsored By No Red Tape, Students for Justice in Palestine, and Columbia University Apartheid Divest.

<sup>32</sup> http://www.progressivevoices.org/more-speakers-o-z/simona-sharoni

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/features/it-s-a-terrible-thing-living-with-the-knowledge-that-you-crushed-our-daughter-1.11450

<sup>34</sup> http://www.accuracy.org/release/israeli-court-blames-all-but-who-killed-rachel-corrie/

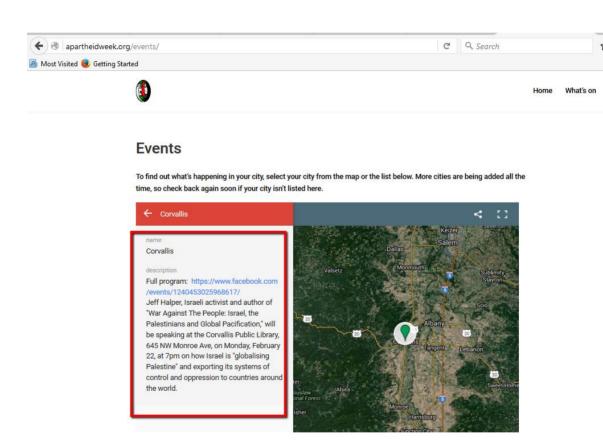
https://www.facebook.com/events/557323084444304/



# **Jeff Halper**

Halper, the founder of the radical NGO "Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions," is speaking during "Israeli Apartheid Week" in Corvallis, Oregon. 3637

Halper is a prominent supporter of the BDS movement, and has stated that Israel serves the capitalist entity of the world that aims to get rid of large populations throughout the world. He was previously arrested for participating in a flotilla to Gaza, together with numerous other anti-Israel activists from around the word. He was the only Israeli on the boat.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> https://www.facebook.com/events/1240453025968617

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> http://apartheidweek.org/events/

<sup>38</sup> http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/889/457.html



#### **Ronnie Barkan**

Barkan is one of the founders of "Boycott from Within," a radical organization of Israelis that support the BDS movement and work to force boycotts on Israel.<sup>39</sup>

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, he spoke during "Israeli Apartheid Week" in Turin, Italy. 4041



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boycott from Within#Ronnie Barkan

<sup>40</sup> https://www.facebook.com/events/1708655376058183/permalink/1712587665664954/

<sup>41</sup> https://www.facebook.com/events/1708655376058183/



#### **Sahar Francis**

Francis is the director of Addameer, a radical NGO that provides legal aid to jailed terrorists and has ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. 4243 Francis lectured during "Israeli Apartheid Week" at an event organized by two anti-Israel groups at the London School of Economics<sup>44</sup> and at Kings College London.<sup>45</sup>



<sup>42</sup> http://www.addameer.org/

<sup>43</sup> https://imti.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Palestinian-Foundation-Located-in-Ramallah-Funds-Planted-Organizations-in-Israeli-Society.pdf

<sup>44</sup> https://www.facebook.com/events/1394316097542598/ https://www.facebook.com/events/941230162640503/



# "Israeli Apartheid Week" in Israel

Conference held in Nazareth titled, "BDS and the 1948 Palestinians: Between International Influences and Local Contexts."

In the context of "Israeli Apartheid Week," Israeli Arabs held a large conference to promote the BDS movement. The conference was organized by Raja Zaatry, former spokesman for MK Ayman Odeh. Dr. Anat Matar of Tel- Aviv University and former MK and current Chairman of the High Follow-Up Committee Muhammad Barakei were also among the speakers. 4647

### Emerging from a 'reign of terror': Palestinians in Israel hold first BDS conference



A panel at the conference "BDS and '48 Palestinians: Between International Influences and Local Contexts." (Photo courtesy of conference organizers)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Likud-MK-Revoke-BDS-founders-permit-to-live-in-Israel-446126

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/emerging-from-a-reign-of-terror-palestinians-in-israel-hold-first-bds-conference/