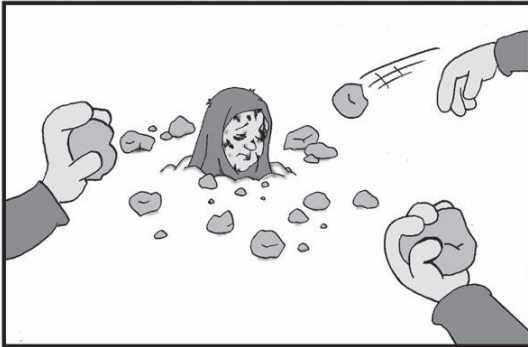


Divest From Terror

Divest From Barbarism



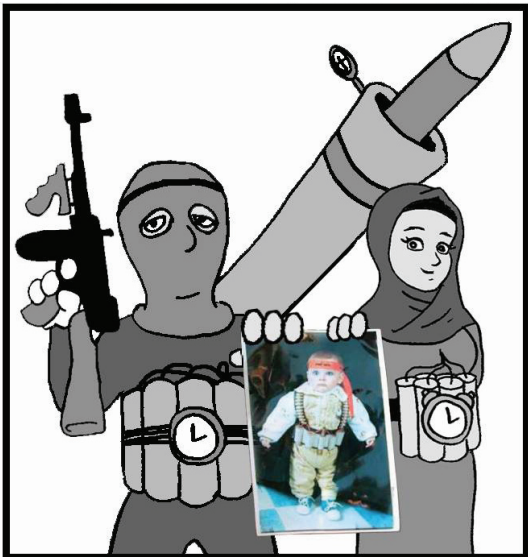
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Divest From Terror



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Divest From Child Abuse



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Anti-Israel activists are spearheading a global boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaign (BDS). Posing as champions of human rights, they try to portray Israel and Israelis as pariahs who should be “punished” with exclusion from all international spheres—economic, academic, social, scientific, and cultural.

But BDS activists make a travesty of the very values they claim to uphold. They hypocritically say they are pro-peace, but they advocate destructive, not constructive, measures. They are anti-coexistence, undermine current peace efforts, and do nothing to help Palestinians improve their lives or begin state building. BDS activists say they stand for humanitarian laws, but they put a microscope on democratic, beleaguered Israel to hunt for violations while stripping away the terrorist context for Israel’s actions. Meanwhile, they ignore blatant human rights violations committed daily by other governments in the region: Ahmadinejad’s Iran; Bashir’s Sudan; Hamas’ Gaza; Lebanon, with its apartheid practices against the Palestinians; Turkey, with its violent repression of its Kurdish minority; Saudi Arabia, with its brutality against women, children, and minority religious groups; and dictatorial regimes with repressive policies throughout the region.

The BDS activists say they are protectors of human rights, but they were deafeningly silent when Israeli civilians’ very right to life was systematically destroyed by a suicide bombing campaign and by thousands of rockets launched from Gaza that targeted Israeli men, women, and children. They don’t protest when Ahmadinejad denies the Holocaust even as he calls for another genocide of Jews, nor do they express outrage at the racist, Judeophobic incitement that pervades the Arab world. They don’t denounce terrorism. Above all, they betray all social, just values because they give cover to—and even lend support to—the agendas of other dictatorial regimes and radical Islamist groups like Hamas that share their hatred of the Jewish state and are the enemies of all humanitarian and liberal values.

BDS activists have hijacked human rights rhetoric to unjustly bludgeon Israel and shift our attention from where it should be—on the wide-scale oppression and human suffering that exists in too many parts of the world. We should put our energy into speaking out against the gender, religious, and sexual apartheid practiced by many Middle Eastern countries, and we should speak out against the terrorism that targets Muslims, Jews, and Christians and indoctrinates children to be suicidal killers instead of contributors to their societies. We should focus on the brutal, criminal punishments used by some governments and the repressive, dictatorial regimes that oppress their own citizens.

It’s time to point to the real violators of social justice and humanitarian values. It’s time that we say no to distractions like BDS and say yes to finding ways to end the real suffering in the Middle East and beyond.

StandWithUs