

Reprisals against Human Rights Defenders



Appeal to the UN about Israel's War of Repression on BDS

We, the undersigned citizens concerned about human rights and democracy, appeal to you to take action as a matter of urgency in order to ensure that individuals, groups, associations, public and private institutions and local governments participating in the boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement can freely express their opinion and act for Palestinian human rights without unlawful interference or repression.

The BDS movement is a Palestinian civil society-led global movement of citizens committed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It carries out and advocates for nonviolent BDS campaigns as a means to overcome the flagrant and persistent Israeli violations of international law that prevent the exercise of UN-recognized rights by the Palestinian people.

We are appalled by the repression adopted by Israel and some western states to undermine the right of human rights defenders to freedom of expression, including the right to boycott. States that subscribe to principles of human rights and democracy have resorted to measures of de-legitimization and intimidation, including undemocratic laws, false allegations of racism and attacks on the safety and integrity of persons.

Specifically, we urge you to:

- 1) Issue a public statement strongly condemning all intimidation and unlawful restrictions on BDS campaigners and affirming that the right of citizens to advocate for and carry out BDS campaigns is a right protected under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders;
- 2) Undertake interventions with governments as necessary to convey this message and ensure that attacks on the human rights defenders of the BDS movement will cease;
- 3) Activate relevant special UN mechanisms, including the UN special rapporteurs on the right to freedom of expression and opinion, and on human rights defenders, to investigate, intervene privately and issue similar public statements;

4) Encourage the office of the OHCHR and the EU to extend protection under human rights defender mechanisms in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel to the human rights defenders of the BDS movement. [SIGN THE APPEAL](#)

