STOP THE BOYCOTT





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By Arlene Bridges Samuels



THE CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK
977 CENTERVILLE TURNPIKE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23463
CRNIsrael com

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INTRODUCTION

In ancient times, the prophet Isaiah described a troubling phenomenon in words that are still applicable: Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness (verse 5:20 NIV). Isaiah's message is especially relevant for us today as we see a rising tide of global anti-Semitism and hostility toward the Jewish State of Israel. As Bible-believing Christians, we must stay informed about the various forms this hatred and discrimination takes in our world today. One consequential example is the "BDS" movement.

Have you heard the acronym "BDS" and wondered what it stands for? The simple definition is "economic warfare against Israel." The target of BDS—Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions—is Israel, the world's only Jewish nation. This global movement is made up of churches, labor unions, academic associations, and grassroots groups. All encourage multiple countries and businesses to inflict financial havoc on Israel by refusing to buy their products.

Its inspiration was the international sanctions on South Africa that helped end the practice of apartheid in that nation. The creators of BDS would like you to believe that, as with non-white South Africans, the Palestinians in Gaza and in the West Bank are being denied their fundamental human rights of freedom, equality, and self-governance. Even the United Nations is complicit in maintaining this fiction. But there is no truth to this BDS claim. Simply put, BDS is anti-Semitism in another guise.

CBN has created this guide to help you understand the BDS threat to Israel, the nation that God calls His own. Our goal at CBN is to give you a toolbox of facts and action steps to use in your sphere of influence, whether large or small. Knowledge put into action will make you part of the solution as you use truth-telling tools to stand beside Israel—the birthplace of our Bible, our Christian faith, and our Jewish Savior.

THE BDS MOVEMENT IS NOT NEW

The modern BDS movement holds a disturbing connection to history. In 1932, when Germans elected Adolf Hitler, that nation was still reeling from their shattering losses during World War I. Germans were ripe for a leader who promised to restore their prominence and their pride.

On April 1, 1933, the Third Reich launched its first torrent of anti-Semitic policies in a strategy to dupe first Germans, then German Jews, then the world. They did this by instigating a boycott that targeted Jewish-owned businesses and professional offices. Their sham excuse was that it was a payback for Jews spreading "atrocity propaganda" meant to damage Germany's reputation—a lie, but ultimately effective. The Nazi slogan, "Germans, defend yourselves. Do not buy from Jews!" signaled Hitler's policy of economic warfare. This proved to be just the first step in Hitler turning the world upside down—calling evil, good—by blaming Germany's woes on innocent, upstanding Jewish Germans. Among them were

professors, scientists, musicians, and business leaders.

The April 1 boycott lasted only one day, but it marked the start of a national campaign against German Jews that grew into multiple layers of anti-Semitism. Nazis slowly turned up the heat, until in a few years trains were rumbling through the German countryside and depositing their passengers into vast killing camps. Most Germans turned a blind eye when further losses of freedom crept into the Jewish community—policies that restricted employment; confiscated homes, businesses, and property; enabled jack-booted arrests; spewed media propaganda; conducted deportations; and burned books, among other policies. Ultimately, in the span of the Third Reich, there would be more than 400 laws and decrees targeting Jews alone.

Today, the problem goes far beyond the borders of Hitler's Germany. As anti-Semitism again stalks the Jewish community, most nations in the world are engaged in either passive denial or aggressive demonizing. Whether you think of anti-Semitism as a weapon of mass denial or mass demonizing, it's destructive either way.

Thankfully, in the face of recent anti-Semitism, mass denial and inaction among Christians is no longer the norm. Instead, millions of Christians in the U.S. and worldwide are supporting Israel and the Jewish community. It's as if God has given Christians a second chance to be proactive on behalf of our Jewish friends and their ancestral homeland.

In the Flossenburg concentration camp, the Nazis imprisoned and then hanged the highly regarded German theologian, Reverend Dietrich Bonhoeffer, due to his sermons and actions to overthrow Hitler. Bonhoeffer

once said, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

We must take heed of his words, asking God to fill us with strength and courage in our everyday lives to stand for what is right.

FAST FORWARD TO 1945, THEN 2005

From the founding of the United Nations in 1945, the newly established Arab League set boycotts of Jewish businesses in motion, even before the modern state of Israel burst onto the world stage on May 14, 1948. The goal was not only to prevent Arab states from boosting the economy of Jewish communities, but also to recruit the non-Arab world into their anti-Semitic boycott agenda.

The Arab League's efforts took a big leap forward in 2005 when Palestinian leader Omar Barghouti cofounded—with 146 Palestinian organizations—the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. BDS began its operations toward the end of the Arabs' Second Intifada (uprising in 2000–2005), which had a goal of waging a war of terror on Israel's civilians. More than a thousand Israelis were murdered—some stabbed while they slept, others killed by suicidal terrorists wearing bomb vests that were detonated on buses and in restaurants.

The BDS movement has three primary goals:

1. Boycott Israeli goods, institutions, and companies

- **2. Divest** from outside companies that manufacture Israeli military equipment
- 3. Sanction Israel wherever possible

Barghouti was arrested by Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in 2002, then tried, convicted on charges of murder, and received five life sentences. Already imprisoned for 20 years, he is a popular Palestinian leader who opposes a Jewish state "in any part of Palestine." Against all historical and archaeological evidence, he views Israel as the Palestinian ancestral homeland. However, "Palestine" is not a country. It's the name Great Britain used when Israel was under the British Mandate until its independence in 1948. On that occasion, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion announced "Israel" as the modern state's name. Since the rebirth of the modern Jewish state, anti-Semitism has lashed out not only against Jewish individuals but against the Jewish state itself.

Barghouti and others like him are highly educated and respected in many circles, including some misguided Christian groups. His slanderous accusations of Israel as an "apartheid state" are false, yet many have swallowed the lie. Palestinians in the West Bank call Israel's security barrier there a racial segregation wall—hence "apartheid." Unfortunately, such lies resonate in the hierarchy of U.S. mainline churches, the National Council of Churches, student governments, universities, academic associations, and so-called social justice groups.

Israel is not a perfect nation. None exists among 193 nations in the world. Yet detractors assume that Israel is totally at fault in the Arab-Israeli conflict. They hold

Israel responsible for Palestinian problems instead of assigning blame to oppressive Palestinian leaders who are often running a kleptocracy—pocketing the world's donations for themselves rather than ensuring that aid is delivered to the people who need it. It's another manifestation of Isaiah 5:20, calling darkness "light."

While some churches are marching to the cadence of BDS accusations or apathy to anti-Semitism, millions of Christians must stay alert to the fact that "Never Again" is "Now Again" as anti-Semitism resurfaces worldwide.

THE REAL MOTIVES BEHIND THE BDS MOVEMENT

It's estimated that Israeli companies employ some 35,000 Palestinians in the biblical heartland, which amounts to more than \$300 million in Palestinian salaries annually. Although the BDS movement claims to promote policies that help the Palestinians, some of those policies have had a boomerang effect on Palestinian jobs. So, instead of helping the Palestinians, these policies actually end up making their situation much worse.

For example, in 2015 a BDS uproar drove the SodaStream sparkling water company out of the West Bank—the biblical heartland, Judea and Samaria. Palestinians working at the plant were earning good salaries; they wanted to continue working there, alongside Jews. But when SodaStream had to relocate to another part of Israel due to BDS efforts, the Palestinian workers lost their jobs.

BDS especially targets the biblical heartland, calling these areas "occupied" and belonging to Palestinians. The bottom-line motive behind the BDS movement is not peace or even a Palestinian state. Its goal is to take over Israel. The real engine driving it is hatred toward Israel and the Jewish people. This hatred drove Israel's enemies to use military means in the past, which have all failed. So, instead they attempt to weaken Israel through economic warfare and stain her global reputation in the hope of turning the world against the Jewish state.

Supporters of the BDS movement go far beyond disagreeing with Israeli policies. It's one thing to disagree with the policies of a nation or government, which is legitimate; however, it's another thing entirely to single out Israel for condemnation, boycott, divestment, and sanctions. There is a serious problem when one of the best nations is demonized and labeled as one of the worst nations.

At some point, we must ask why Israel is being singled out when there are so many other nations with far worse records, including many of the nations who are making accusations against Israel. The answer is that BDS supporters are either abysmally ignorant of the facts, blindly following a phony movement claiming to promote social justice, or their motivations reflect a much deeper and darker anti-Semitic agenda.

The BDS movement's slogan makes their intentions abundantly clear: "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" The real agenda is the elimination of a Jewish state. Whether through military warfare or economic warfare, the motive of these extremist groups has always been the complete eradication of Israel.

BDS IGNORES ISRAELI INNOVATIONS

In many ways, it's astonishing that BDS targets Israel, the "startup nation" and one of the most innovative countries in the whole world. After all, supporters of the BDS movement benefit from Israeli technology and medical breakthroughs. Attempts to isolate and demonize Israel don't make sense in light of Israel's numerous contributions to humankind in the Middle East and on nearly every continent.

Israel's pioneering spirit has led to innovations in technology, agriculture, humanitarian aid, water, medicine, research, and education that make Israel a blessing to so many nations worldwide. Despite decades of terrorism, genocidal threats, and more recently the BDS propaganda, Israel generates incredible achievements. What's more, Israeli society flourishes as a result of a cultural ethos that celebrates human life and well-being.

Yet Iranians continue to plot military attacks from Syria, Hezbollah builds invasion tunnels along the Israeli-Lebanese border, and Hamas repeatedly fires rockets on Israel from the Gaza Strip. All of these attempts are designed to strike fear into the hearts of Israelis and provoke them to overreact, so that their countermeasures can be exploited by the global mainstream media to present a villainous portrayal of Israel to the world.

The people of Israel have had to endure more than seven decades of unrelenting threats of war and violence from surrounding nations and extremist terror organizations. Despite these continual dangers, Israelis do not dwell in victimhood. With a total population of only 9 million (75% Jewish) and a land mass the size of New Jersey, Israel has shown the world how to thrive despite adversity.

Here are a few of many thousands of examples:

- Netafim's micro-irrigation has boosted crop production worldwide, with 13 factories in 112 countries.
- Mobileye invented driver assistance navigation.
- ReWalk is making it possible for paraplegics to walk.
- WoundClot bandages save lives around the world.
- Only the U.S. and Canada have more companies on the NASDAQ than Israel.
- IsraAID, Israel's global relief agency, is often the first on the ground in disaster situations and the last to leave.

To learn more about how Israel is changing the world through innovation and technology, or to see how Israeli volunteers are making a difference across the globe, go to CBNIsrael.com/Films.

Despite all of the efforts to destroy the Jewish state, Israel still thrives, prospers, endures, and hopes. Israel and her people are still a light to the rest of the world!

SINGLING OUT ISRAEL IS ANTI-SEMITIC

Although boycotts against Israel historically grew out of the United Nations' Arab League, today most Arab states do not push boycotts against Israel, with the exception of Syria, Lebanon, and Iran. The successful Abraham Accords are mending fences. Some of Israel's supporters use a "Three Ds" formula to determine anti-Semitism:

- 1. Does the criticism **delegitimize** Israel?
- 2. Is a **double standard** applied?
- 3. Is Israel demonized?

The BDS movement meets all three of these criteria. Proponents challenge Israel's right to its land and its capital. They are demonizing only Israel for its treatment of Palestinian Arabs when a nation like Syria is killing millions of its Arabs, forcing those under siege to flee their country. BDS sanctions only Israel; it doesn't demand sanctions against Hamas, which holds Gazan Arabs hostage, or against Lebanon, which restricts Palestinians to refugee camps and refuses to let them work.

If the United Nations, BDS, or others focus only on Israel, it's anti-Semitic to call Israel the most repressive nation in the world, as some have done. In fact, the respected nonpartisan organization, Freedom House, keeps a reliable list of the world's most oppressive countries—and Israel is nowhere on that list or any other. Israel is surely not Cuba, Somalia, Syria, or Venezuela, with their abysmal human rights records. And although Israel is a parliamentary democracy—the only democracy in the Middle East—BDS proponents label Israel as practicing apartheid. The opposite is true: Israel is a multiethnic nation of Jews (75%), followed by Arabs (20%), and smaller populations of Bedouin, Druze, and Ethiopians.

WHY CHRISTIANS MUST STAND AGAINST BDS

As Christians, we must first and foremost look to the Scriptures, which make it abundantly clear that the land of Israel belongs to the Jewish people. The Bible enshrines God's irrevocable real estate deed to His chosen people, the Jews. God codified this irrevocable promise concerning the Jewish ancestral homeland thousands of years ago. It far outweighs the opinions of Israel's detractors. Israel is the land God chose for His dwelling place.

He made this pronouncement in Leviticus: "The land is Mine" (verse 25:23 NASB). He instituted a foundational covenant with Abraham that is unbroken to this day. In Genesis God promises, "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you" (verse 17:7 NKJV).

God swore an oath 40 times restating His promise to the Jewish people for their ancestral homeland, Israel. Not BDS nor the mainline National Council of Churches nor Iranian threats against Israel—which Iran has derogatorily dubbed "the little Satan"—overrides the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Christians!

Furthermore, as Christians, we support Israel because we believe that the words of Moses and the ancient prophets of Israel were inspired by God. We believe the emergence of a Jewish state in the land promised by God to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was ordained by God. We believe that God has a plan for this nation and that He

still intends for them to be a blessing to all the nations of the earth.

The same God who spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai is our God. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are our spiritual patriarchs. Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel are our prophets. King David, a man after God's own heart, is our hero. The Holy City of Jerusalem is our spiritual capital. And the continuation of Jewish sovereignty over Israel is further evidence to us that the God of the Bible exists and that His Word is true.

We should also take note that, as Christians, we serve a Jew that we believe was the divine Messiah of Israel, spoken of by the ancient prophets, who entrusted the worldwide dissemination of His message to 12 Jewish apostles. Christians understand the great heritage that we share when we are grafted into Abraham's family by faith.

When we support Israel today, we are taking part in the redemptive story God is telling through His chosen people.

THE IMPACT OF BDS ON ISRAEL

All is not gloomy, though, despite BDS and its supporters. BDS economic warfare has not yet made a significant impact on Israel's overall economy. The European Union has enacted several BDS policies yet still remains one of Israel's largest trading partners, due in part to pressure from the U.S. Congress. In fact, despite political complexities, Israel's exports to Europe are growing.

More good news has unfolded in the last 10 to 15 years

in the United States. Proactive state governments along with citizen advocacy have passed anti-BDS laws. While they vary from state to state, all have value. More than half of state houses across America have passed anti-BDS legislation, including California and New York. The U.S. Congress is active on both sides of the aisle, with anti-BDS legislation to formulate laws and make resolutions to reverse the effects of BDS. The Combating BDS Act of 2019 is among them. It's similar to Congress' Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, which gave protection to states against federal interference in local laws that authorized divestment from companies doing business in Iran.

However, the unpleasant news is that BDS and other anti-Israel organizations, including the United Nations, have made inroads into media, universities, and other academic institutions to demonize Israel.

BDS USES KEY STRATEGIES FROM HITLER AND GOEBBELS

BDS is skilled in propaganda. It's disturbingly similar to those of Joseph Goebbels, Germany's Reich Minister of Propaganda. Goebbels was a media mastermind who implemented Hitler's scheme of disinformation. Hitler's strategies in *Mein Kampf* wielded the "big lie," which Hitler described as being so "colossal" that no one would believe it.

"His [Hitler's] primary rules were: Never allow the

public to cool off; never admit a fault or wrong; never concede that there may be some good in your enemy; never leave room for alternatives; never accept blame; concentrate on one enemy at a time and blame him for everything that goes wrong," said Walter C. Langer in a 1943 psychological study of Hitler for the U.S. Office of Strategic Services.

Hitler and Goebbels used the following strategies to shape a whole generation of anti-Semitic Nazis in Germany:

- If you repeat a lie often enough, people will believe it, and you will even come to believe it yourself.
- Brilliant propaganda must "confine itself to a few points and repeat them over and over."
- "Jews are our ruination," said Goebbels, who
 believed the Jewish people were responsible for
 World War I and that their motives were to destroy
 the German culture.

BDS has adopted these rules to harness social and other media with distorted commentary. Unlike promoters of Nazi violence, BDS claims to be a non-violent organization, yet intimidation is a favored weapon. Its ultimate goal is to be a spear of anti-Semitism that is aimed into the heart of Israel—a spear designed to either disable the power of Israel and its supporters or wipe it off the map. BDS utilizes propaganda and intimidation to target unions, stores that sell Israeli products, and celebrities who have booked concerts in Israel. Some do fall in line with BDS propaganda. Some don't.

After reviewing Hitler-Goebbels playbook, let's take a

look at a sampling of the "colossal" lies in modern times:

- Israel is occupying Gaza (No Jew has lived there since 2005).
- Israel is not the Jewish homeland (God says differently).
- Israel is attacking the Al-Aqsa Mosque (Israeli police protect the Temple Mount, including the mosques).
- Only Jews can hold office in Israel (Arabs hold office in both the Knesset and the Supreme Court).
- The United Nations says, "Israel is the worst human rights violator" (as opposed to Syria and North Korea?).
- Jerusalem is the capital of "Palestine" (King David declared Jerusalem the Jewish capital 3,000 years ago).

HOW CHRISTIANS CAN STAND WITH ISRAEL AND STOP BDS

Taking the meaning of the current acronym for "BDS"—Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions—Christians can redefine and repurpose it as follows:

- Bless Israel
- · Discover Israel
- Support Israel

Here are some suggestions on how we can accomplish this together:

Bless Israel

Bless Israel by helping her people in need through charity and humanitarian aid as well as by helping Israeli businesses through the purchase of Israeli goods

and products:

- Become a monthly partner of CBN Israel. Your support can provide urgent relief to thousands of Holocaust survivors, victims of terrorism, new immigrants, and other Israelis who desperately need our help. Go to CBNIsrael.com/Donate.
- Buy Israeli goods and products online:
 - » BuyIsraelGoods.org
 - » Israel-Catalog.com
 - » BlessedBuyIsrael.com

Discover Israel

Discover Israel firsthand and experience the people, places, and culture:

- You can walk in the footsteps of Jesus and visit the biblical places, including Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and much more.
- You can tour must-see museums like Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, and the Israel Museum, where many of the Dead Sea Scrolls are on display as well as other fascinating artifacts.
- You can pray at the Western Wall, the holiest site in Judaism, and walk on the Temple Mount, where the Holy Temple once stood.
- You can experience modern Israel in Tel Aviv and Haifa through monuments to Israeli creativity, tourism, dining, and innovation.
- You can relive the story of Israel's independence in 1948 at Tel Aviv's Independence Hall and celebrate

- the rebirth of the Jewish nation.
- Here is a list of recommended tour companies for Christian groups:
 - » SarelTours.com
 - » PassagesIsrael.org
 - » NoseworthyTravel.com
 - » Biblical-Expeditions.com

Support Israel

Support Israel as a strong advocate politically as well as in your local church and community:

- Advocate for Israel politically by following the role models of biblical leaders like Moses and Esther who lobbied a pharaoh and king. Contact your members of Congress to let them know the importance of supporting Israel and opposing anti-Israel policies. Over the years, Christians have made a significant difference in the U.S. Congress through the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and Christians United for Israel (CUFI). In other parts of the world, Christians also advocate for Israel through their parliaments and governments, which has an extraordinary impact.
- Host an Israel movie night at your church or in your home, inviting others to watch one of CBN's critically acclaimed films about Israel. Go to CBNIsrael.com/Films to get DVD copies of these groundbreaking films.
- Post videos and articles on your social media pages that

- report the true story of what's happening in Israel and the Middle East. Go to CBN.com/CBNNews/Israel.
- Help educate your local church or community by inviting an expert on Israel to speak at your church, school, or university.
- Make friends within the local Jewish community with no agenda other than to simply show solidarity, love, and respect for your Jewish brothers and sisters.

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MEET THE AUTHOR



Arlene Bridges Samuels is a pro-Israel, pro-Life advocate, and author on The Blogs with *The Times* of *Israel* and weekly columnist for CBN Israel. A consultant and speaker, she formerly served as a missionary

with Mercy Ships and in Romania. Traveling to Israel since 1990, Arlene is considered an expert on Israel and the Middle East, holding positions with Israel Always, American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), and International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) USA.

AIPAC hired Arlene as their first Christian Outreach Director where, for nine years, she pioneered the program and mentored Christian leaders in bipartisan advocacy with the U.S. Congress. By invitation, she has attended Israel's Government Press Office Christian Media Summit twice.

Her blog and devotional posts are available on her website (arlenebridgessamuels.com) and Facebook page, The Eclectic Evangelical. She serves on the board of Violins of Hope South Carolina and co-edited The Auschwitz Album Revisited. Her devotional books, *Praying with the Patriarchs* and *Sunrises by the Shore with Jesus* will be published in 2022. A daughter of the South, Arlene attended Winthrop University in South Carolina and graduate school at the University of Alabama. She and her husband, Paul, live in Atlanta, Georgia.

ABOUT CBN ISRAEL

A new wave of anti-Semitism is sweeping the world today.

We are seeing attacks on Jewish lives, communities, and synagogues. The Jewish state is singled out for condemnation, boycott, divestment, and sanctions. Israel faces hostility on university campuses and within the chambers of the United Nations as well as unfair press by the global mainstream media. The people of Israel also endure threats of war and terrorism along their dangerous borders.

Now is the time for Bible-believing Christians to take a stand against the viral poison of anti-Semitism, which only decades ago led to the genocide of 6 million Jews. Today, it threatens the very existence of the Jewish state and poses a very real danger to Jewish people everywhere.

We established CBN Israel to enable Christians to stand with Israel and bless her people in need. Together, we can combat the rising tide of global anti-Semitism and build bridges of hope and healing with the Jewish community around the world. You can send a clear message to the world—declaring that Christians will stand with Israel.

Find out on the next page how you can make a difference through CBN Israel.

YOUR IMPACT

HUMANITARIAN WORK

Your support provides food, assistance, education, economic development, and hope to Israelis in need. You are blessing Holocaust survivors, victims of terrorism, single mothers, immigrant families, and others who desperately need our help.

BREAKING NEWS

Your gift enables us to produce unbiased, independent journalism through broadcasts, podcasts, and online media dedicated to informing the world about what is happening in Israel and the Middle East through our news bureau in Jerusalem.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

Your support makes it possible to produce educational documentary films that tell the true history of Israel, its right to exist in the face of growing anti-Semitism worldwide, its innovative and entrepreneurial culture, and its commitment to helping others—even its enemies.

Visit CBNIsrael.com to learn more.



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