

March 13, 2011

Adalah-NY

NGO Monitor March 10, 2011

General Information

- Adalah-NY: The New York Campaign for the Boycott of Israel is a fringe organization that operates in the New York area. It is one of the most vocal proponents of anti-Israel BDS (boycotts, divestment, and sanctions) campaigns in the U.S.
- Not formally associated with the Arab-Israeli NGO Adalah.
- Started activity in August 2006 in “response to the escalation of Israeli attacks” in Gaza and Lebanon. (Adalah-NY website)
- Demands an “immediate, unconditional, and permanent end to U.S. and U.S.- sponsored Israeli aggression in the Middle East.” (Adalah-NY website)
- Supports the Palestinian United Call for BDS against Israel, which demands that the international community “impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives” and “embargoes and sanctions against Israel.” (bdsmovement.net)
- Involved in direct action and street protests against companies with connections to Israel
- No list of officials is available on its website.
- Funding is non-transparent; does not publish a list of donors.
- Solicits donations through WESPAC Foundation. (WESPAC also accuses Israel of “apartheid,” “ethnic cleansing,” and “collective punishment,” calls for financial sanctions on Israel, and supports Palestinian “resistance” against Israel.) (WESPAC website)

Rhetoric

- Claims that Israel was founded “upon the expulsion, and denial of the rights and even the existence of the Palestinian people.” (Press release, “Adalah-NY decries the ugliness of violence and racism at ‘Salute to Israel Parade’”, June 4, 2008, Adalah-NY website)
- Defends Hamas’ firing of rockets from residential areas, saying “But the

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- Gaza Strip, one of the most densely populated areas in the world, is composed entirely of residential neighborhoods. Palestinians in Gaza have no other place from which they can respond to Israeli military attacks.” (“What is really happening in Gaza? January 7, 2009, Adalah-NY website)
- Solely blames Israel for the conflict, stating “Israeli policy has been the root of violence in the region for 60 years, starting no fewer than six major wars.” (“What is really happening in Gaza? January 7, 2009, Adalah-NY website)
 - Accuses Israel of “apartheid,” “ethnic cleansing,” “collective punishment,” and “indiscriminate bombing that targets civilians.” (various statements, Adalah- NY website)
 - Accuses the Jewish National Fund of the “Judaization of Palestine” and “preventing Palestinian] refugees from returning to their land.” (“Letter to Pete Seeger from over 40 orgs, September 10, 2010, Adalah-NY website)
 - Falsely claims that Israeli Arab citizens “are not treated equally to Jewish citizens of the state.” (“Letter to Pete Seeger from over 40 orgs, September 10, 2010, Adalah-NY website)
 - States that Israel uses “tear gas to kill and maim unarmed protesters.” (“Tear gas death triggers mobilization against Israel’s lethal tear gas”, January 23, 2011, Adalah-NY website)
 - Protest slogans include “stop the genocide,” “Israeli defense forces = war criminals,” and “Zionism = racism.” (NYC Gaza actions continue”, January 1, 2009, Adalah-NY website)
 - Claims there exists an “on-going Zionist project to remove the indigenous population of Palestine and create an exclusively Jewish state.” (“March with us in Washington”, February 22, 2007, Adalah-NY website)
 - Misleadingly states that “the large majority of [Gaza residents] are displaced refugees from 1948,” (“End the starvation and siege of Gaza”, November 17, 2008, Adalah-NY website) when more than 60% of Gazans are under the age of 19 (“West Bank and Gaza population census, 2007”, UNRWA, p. 20).
 - Considers an IDF raid on a Gaza tunnel being built to kidnap Israeli soldiers to be “unprovoked.” (“What is really happening in Gaza? January 7, 2009, Adalah-NY website)

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- Praises the use of lawfare and foreign courts to stop companies from engaging in business in Israel and the settlements. (Adalah-NY press release, “US billionaire owns corporations sued by Palestinian villagers”, July 10, 2008, Electronic Intifada website)
- States that Israel’s security barrier is “separating the West Bank into ghettos.” (“March with us in Washington”, February 22, 2007, Adalah-NY website)

Activities

- Publishes open letters to artists, urging them to cancel their planned appearances in Israel. Warns that artists who perform in Israel are helping to “whitewash Israel’s violations of international law and project a false image of normalcy.” (“Letter to Pete Seeger from over 40 orgs, September 10, 2010, Adalah-NY website)
- Urges international audiences to boycott Israeli artists such as the Batsheva Dance Company (“An open letter to Batsheva Dance Company”, September 17, 2010, Adalah-NY website) and the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra, which it accuses of “normalize[ing] the occupation of Palestinian territories and the oppression of Palestinians.” (“Tell the Israeli Philharmonic: Don’t harmonize with Israeli Apartheid”, February 11, 2011, Adalah-NY website)
- Advocates sanctions through “an end to US military and financial aid to Israel.” (“Join Adalah-NY”, October 16, 2006, Adalah-NY website)
- Campaign targeting the US government to stop supplying Israel with tear gas (“Stop sending tear gas to Egypt, Tunisia and Israel”, Adalah-NY website), claiming that Israel “has a long history of inflicting death and injury using tear gas as a lethal weapon.” (“Tear gas death triggers mobilization against Israel’s lethal tear gas”, January 23, 2011, Adalah-NY website)
- Defended student protesters at New York University who violated university rules, barricaded themselves a student center, and damaged property. (Colin Moynahan, “N.Y.U. students continue occupation to press demands”, February 19, 2009, New York Times) Adalah-NY demanded that NYU “grant amnesty to all students involved.” (“Statement in support of

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- the Take Back NYU! coalition”, February 23, 2009, Adalah-NY website)
- Protested FBI subpoenas of individuals suspected of providing material support for foreign terrorist organizations. (“Letter of support to activists facing federal investigation and subpoena”, December 27, 2010, Adalah-NY website)

Affiliated Groups

- Publishes joint letters with International Solidarity Movement, Coalition of Women for Peace, CodePink, American Jews for a Just Peace, International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, Defence for Children International-Palestine Section, ICAHD, and Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee.
- Solicits donations for Middle East Children’s Alliance, which considers terrorist attacks to be “resistance,” and the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, which accuses Israel of engaging in “psychological violence” and is involved in BDS. (“End the siege of Gaza”, August 28, 2007, Adalah-NY website)
- Co-founder Riham Barghouti is also a co-founder of Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI). Adalah-NY refers people to PACBI to “learn more about BDS.” (“End the siege of Gaza”, August 28, 2007, Adalah-NY website)
- Adalah-NY and Barghouti have had articles published on Electronic Intifada. (Adalah-NY, “Celebrities asked to boycott diamonds from settlement builder”, February 20, 2009, and Riham Barghouti, “Palestinian Child Demands Protection for the Palestinian People at the UN”, July 8, 2006, Electronic Intifada website)

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