NGO MONITOR

Making NGOs Accountable

NGO Monitor provides information and analysis, promotes accountability, and supports discussion on the reports and activities of NGOs claiming to advance human rights and humanitarian agendas.

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Organization in Special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 2013.
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Dear Friends,

For NGO Monitor, 2013 marked a very significant increase in impact and visibility, across a wide range of priorities. These successes demonstrated the critical importance of our central strategy of challenging the NGOs and their funder-enablers that exploit the rhetoric and symbols of human rights and humanitarian assistance to demonize and wage political war, particularly against Israel. In many major frameworks, NGO Monitor’s highly credible and systematic research reports have led to major policy changes. Our efforts to “name and shame” governments and foundations have directly resulted in funding cut-offs for some of the worst NGOs. Other funders (including U.S. Government and European Union frameworks) and major NGOs have changed procedures based on NGO Monitor findings, providing new models of accountability for other NGOs and their supporters.

**Widening Impacts:** In the past year, the radius of our impact has expanded significantly, demonstrating the degree to which NGO Monitor is eroding the “halo effect” that previously protected NGOs from any investigation or criticism. Our reports and articles are discussed in parliamentary sessions, and appear frequently in the media (both traditional and social), academic venues, churches, and related charities. In addition to the concrete policy changes that we triggered, the volume and intensity of attacks against NGO Monitor by leaders of BDS campaigns and others, multiplied greatly, reflecting our impact. In Israel and in other frameworks that focus on Israeli issues, NGO Monitor has changed the perception of political advocacy NGOs and their foreign government funders, as reflected in our receiving the prestigious Menachem Begin Prize.

**Cooperating with Allies:** We continue to develop ties and cooperate with other groups working on issues related to “soft power” warfare. NGO Monitor provides the essential research and information to allied groups that lead the counter-attacks on university campuses, in labor federations, and in communities under attack from BDS campaigns and other forms of demonization. Much of this activity is not publicized – indeed some of our most effective work, including with NGO funding sources, is the result of “quiet diplomacy.”

**Goals for 2014:** In considering our future agenda and priorities, we see the upcoming year as particularly crucial in building on the recent successes and expanding the radius and intensity of our impacts among NGOs and their donors, as well as in perceptions among political decision-makers, journalists, and academics. In 2014, we plan to hold our first events as a UN-recognized organization, including launching our “Second Class Rights” report at a session in parallel to the UN Human Rights Council meeting in March. We will increase our European focus on promoting further NGO funding reductions, as reflected in recent research reports (including on Germany, Holland, and France) that lift funding secrecy and highlight the moral hypocrisy. And following the launch of our “BDS in the Pews” project, we expect to see major changes in church-based NGO political campaigns and funding, particularly in North America and Europe.

This continuous expanding impact is made possible by the tireless and pioneering work of our dedicated staff, the insights of our board members, and generous support from our donors. By working together, NGO Monitor is making a fundamental difference in defeating the “soft power” political war against Israel, and in restoring the universal moral values of human rights.

Professor Steinberg
NGO Monitor is the leading organization defending the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

-Natan Sharansky, chairman of the Jewish Agency
NGO MONITOR AWARDED MENACHEM BEGIN PRIZE

At a ceremony on December 4, NGO Monitor was awarded the Menachem Begin Heritage Center’s prestigious Begin Prize in recognition of its “efforts exposing the political agenda and ideological bias of humanitarian organizations that use the discourse of human rights to discredit Israel and to undermine its position among the nations of the world.”

Founder and President Professor Steinberg received the award in the presence of Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, Minister of Agriculture Yair Shamir, Begin Prize Committee Chairman and former MK Moshe Nissim, and other distinguished leaders.

In a video shown at the ceremony, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated NGO Monitor: “I was pleased to hear that the prize this year was awarded to NGO Monitor, headed by Professor Steinberg. You are doing important work in Israel and the world against the campaign of deliberate delegitimization against the foundations that underpin the State of Israel.”

The Prime Minister lauded NGO Monitor’s “continuing and unending efforts to combat anti-Semitism that has never disappeared from the world [and] the phenomena of anti-Zionism and racism that are being revived...”

The Prime Minister also congratulated Abe Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and actor Chaim Topol, who were also honored by the Begin Center.

Upon receiving the award, Professor Steinberg said, “we are profoundly honored to receive the Menachem Begin Prize. The Jewish, Zionist and democratic values that we promote are the same values that were central to Begin’s heritage. Begin insisted on speaking truth to power, beginning in his days as a prisoner in the Soviet gulag...through his days in the underground and culminating in his service as Prime Minister...in the spirit of Hanukkah, we, at NGO Monitor, are here to ‘banish the darkness’, and promote transparency and moral accountability among these NGOs.”

Professor Steinberg concluded by thanking the Menachem Begin Heritage Center, past and present employees of NGO Monitor, and NGO Monitor’s board members and donors.
A primary NGO Monitor objective in Europe is to significantly reduce the massive government funding to radical NGOs, directly from the EU, its 28 member states, Norway, and Switzerland, as well as indirect channels through European Christian aid frameworks. In 2013, we made significant progress in a number of key areas, following a strategy based on “naming and shaming.” Our systematic research reports and follow-up activities have produced important results, including the discontinuation of European funding for a number of politicized NGOs active in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Building on our previous impacts in Italy, the UK, and elsewhere in Europe, NGO Monitor’s activities in 2013 had major results in Spain and the Netherlands, and our report on German NGO funding initiated an important debate that will expand in the coming months. In addition, our activities triggered widespread criticism in Israel and Europe regarding anti-democratic European policies, creating the conditions necessary for future cuts in funding.

Impact in Europe: Challenging NGO Funding at the European Parliament

At the end of 2012, the EU Court of Justice ruled on our Freedom of Information lawsuit concerning the lack of transparency in EU funding of NGOs. The court’s ruling, issued without a hearing or written inquiry, simplistically upheld the right of the European Commission to withhold documents on NGO funding. However, the court stated that documents were not provided to NGO Monitor in a timely manner and that crucial details were censored by EU officials. This was an important acknowledgement regarding the anti-democratic secrecy of the EU’s NGO funding practices.

On this basis, in March 2013, NGO Monitor circulated a Memorandum to Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), “Ending Secrecy in European Union Funding to Political Advocacy NGOs Operating in the Arab-Israeli Conflict.” The Memorandum emphasized the degree to which massive European Commission funding for political advocacy NGOs is characterized by an alarming lack of
transparency. We also demonstrated that the European Commission’s stated justifications for the secrecy reflect a policy seeking to prevent public debate on politicized NGO funding practices.

As a result of this memo, eight MEPs posed official parliamentary questions to the European Commission. The questions focused on the lack of transparency in EU funding for organizations that act in contrast to EU policy and principles.

MEPs Fiorello Provera and Charles Tannock asked: “What steps is the Commission taking to guarantee transparency in the award of grants to end the use of funds by NGOs dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict?”

MEP Sari Essayah asked, “What urgent steps will the Commission take to ensure that funding from EU sources for non-governmental Israeli and Palestinian organizations active in third countries, decisions taken in connection with it and an evaluation of the results, are in the public domain in line with the EU’s principles of transparency and accountability?”

Through continued pressure on the European Commission, in the form of parliamentary questions and other forms of critique, NGO Monitor succeeded in making the EU’s lack of transparency and accountability part of the public discussion, setting the stage for a parliamentary committee hearing focused on this issue in 2014.

Beyond exposing funding secrecy, NGO Monitor’s research identified the stark contrast between the declared objectives of the European Commission – promoting democracy, a “two-state” framework, and human rights – and the radical anti-Israel, anti-peace activities of its NGO grantees. Ironically, the EU’s Partnership for Peace (PfP) program has been particularly problematic in this regard.

In April, NGO Monitor published a report titled “Lack of Due Diligence and Transparency in European Union Funding for Radical NGOs, EIDHR and PfP grants for Coalition of Women for Peace (CWP).” This report highlighted CWP activities that are inconsistent with EU funding and policy objectives, including leadership in international BDS campaigns and sponsorship of “Nakba Day” events that repeat Palestinian narratives.
Our report noted that CWP was receiving a PfP grant alongside the Palestinian Popular Struggle Coordination Committee (PSCC) and Nova, a radical Spanish political NGO, for a project aimed at "strengthening the nonviolent alternative." However, no evidence exists of these groups’ expertise, experience, and capacity to achieve the objectives stated in the grant description. On the contrary, the available evidence suggests that the funds will be used to promote hatred and demonization that fuel the conflict. Our research documented PSCC’s role as a facilitator for protests that often turned violent, demonstrating that CWP’s and Nova’s BDS campaigns are incompatible with a peaceful “alternative” to resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This report was widely covered in the Israeli media, and subsequently discussed in the European Parliament and the Dutch Parliament (see pages 6 and 10). In June, MEP Philip Claeys addressed the European Commission: “There are serious doubts as to whether the activities of CWP tally with its official objectives. In practice CWP campaigns for sanctions and boycotts against Israel, and there are many indications that it collaborates with all kind of violent groups.”

Commissioner Fule responded that “according to monitoring and evaluation carried out to date, there are no grounds for cancelling either of the contracts referred to.”

However, the EU did change its policies as a result. The PfP call for proposals of December 2013 included new guidelines repeatedly emphasizing non-violence: “All actions must take into account the principles which the EU has promoted in the context of its policy towards the Middle East Peace Process, including non-violence. To that end, actions must assess whether or not they may directly or indirectly lead to violence, even if they have been established for non-violent purposes” (emphasis added). On the basis of this document and other indicators, as well as increased due diligence in the EU Parliament in response to NGO Monitor reports, we expect to see far-reaching changes regarding NGO funding from the EU.

Spanish Gov’t Slashes NGO Funding in Wake of NGO Monitor’s Report

In 2011, NGO Monitor issued a preliminary report on extensive Spanish government funding to over 40 NGOs involved in anti-Israel demonization. This led to responses from Spanish political figures and the initiation of a wider research project. The final report was published in early 2013.

On this basis, in July, Professor Steinberg was invited to Madrid to address a group of Spanish MPs from different parties across the political spectrum, as well as government officials. The presentation examined the federal funding for NGOs from 2009 to 2011 and recent changes, including increased transparency and the reduction from an average of €5 million annually for 40 NGOs to €1.6 million total for 3 political NGOs.
Europe

"NGO Monitor had persuaded one German funder, the EVZ Foundation, to withdraw its money last year."

Zochrot official, October 7, 2013

Exposing NGO Blood Libel and European Funding for MIFTAH

Following the publication on MIFTAH's website of an article repeating the medieval antisemitic blood libel, NGO Monitor highlighted the role of MIFTAH's funders in enabling such activities.

On March 27, MIFTAH, a Palestinian NGO founded in 1998 by Hanan Ashrawi, published an Arabic-language article in response to U.S. President Obama's support for Israel and his celebration of the Passover Seder. The author repeated the antisemitic blood libel: “Does Obama in fact know the relationship, for example, between ‘Passover’ and ‘Christian blood’...?! Or ‘Passover’ and ‘Jewish blood rituals’...?! Much of the historical stories and tales about Jewish blood rituals in Europe are based on real rituals and are not false as they claim; the Jews used the blood of Christians in the Jewish Passover...” (translated from the original Arabic by NGO Monitor).

NGO Monitor described how MIFTAH's funders give the NGO visibility and impact, and thus bear considerable responsibility for the publication of antisemitic material. The most recent available information showed that MIFTAH's funders in 2012 included NGO Development Center (joint funding from Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (German government funding), Ireland, Norway,
various UN bodies, OPEC Fund for International Development, and indirect U.S. government funding via the National Endowment for Democracy and the International Republican Institute.

The central role of MIFTAH’s funders was featured in a Jerusalem Post article, which utilized our analysis extensively and quoted Professor Steinberg’s criticism of funders such as the U.S.-based National Endowment for Democracy. (NED funding for MIFTAH was not renewed in 2013.)

After significant public criticism, MIFTAH removed the article, but attacked the blogger who exposed the article for “smearing” the organization, and downplayed the centrality of the blood libel in the article.

On April 1, five days after the original publication of the article and following further condemnations, MIFTAH issued an apology, stating that the article was “accidentally and incorrectly published by a junior staff member” and “[W]e express our sincerest regret for offense caused by the oversight that resulted in said publication.” However, this statement was posted only in English, not on the Arabic website that contained the article.

NGO Monitor also corresponded directly with MIFTAH’s institutional funders, resulting in condemnations of the antisemitic incident and attempts to distance themselves from MIFTAH’s activities.

Dutch Government Discusses NGO Monitor’s Research on Funding

Among European countries, the Netherlands has long been a major source of both direct and indirect funding for some of the most radical anti-Israel NGOs, and NGO Monitor has focused increasing resources towards changing this policy. In February, the Dutch government released a report, “Evaluation of Dutch support to human rights projects.” The document analyzes the extent to which Dutch foreign policy is effectively carried out in the development and cooperation sectors.

In the section concerning Dutch aid to the Middle East, the report references NGO Monitor’s research on Dutch funding for the Electronic Intifada, an anti-Israel website that leads boycott and other public campaigns against Israel.

On June 12, members of the Dutch Parliament reviewed a civil initiative called “Demolish the Wall.” A Dutch MP criticized the initiative, asserting that it is part of the global BDS campaign aimed at delegitimizing the Jewish state. In response to the initiative, the Dutch MP urged the Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Timmermans, to curtail European Commission funding for organizations involved in BDS activities. The MP also requested that the foreign minister provide a detailed response and assessment of NGO Monitor’s report, “Lack of Due Diligence and Transparency in European Union Funding of Radical NGOs.”

Comprehensive Report on German Funding

In October, NGO Monitor issued the first comprehensive report on German government funding for NGOs that engage in delegitimization campaigns targeting Israel. The funding for these political advocacy NGOs is channeled through the German federal government, German political foundations (Stiftungen), church aid organizations, and German NGOs.

This report was covered in a number of media platforms, and elicited responses from German NGO officials and MPs. Some of these were hostile, but NGO Monitor replied that “a substantive dialogue on these very important questions” was necessary, and asked the foundations to “provide the missing funding data as part of the transparency involving public funds that is central for democratic processes.” Further impact is expected in 2014.
NGO Monitor Challenges Methodist Church of Britain’s Consultation on BDS

The Methodist Church of Britain is considering support for BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions), and decided to issue a questionnaire “to gather a range of perspectives on this topic and is open to all.” NGO Monitor provided our own submission to this consultation.

The questionnaire and Church’s website revealed an institutional bias against Israel. The process and the questionnaire are based on a presumption of exclusive Israeli blame for the origins and perpetuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Rather than answer the Church’s loaded questions, we opted to identify the Church’s flawed premises and challenged the Church to answer this question: would endorsement of BDS be a moral choice?

Our response to the UK Methodist Church is part of our larger “BDS in the Pews” project. Our research has uncovered very close relationships between governments (mostly European but also North American), Christian aid societies (Protestant and Catholic), anti-Israel NGOs, and Palestinian Christian advocacy NGOs, which feed this engine with the ideological and theological fuel it needs to function and grow.

See page 33 for more details about our BDS in the Pews project.

“After 16 years of existence, we have exhausted many of our funding sources. We have also been the target of...NGO Monitor [which is] able to influence Israeli government officials to lobby the EU and other governments not to renew our funding.”

November 22, 2013
U.S. Government Funding for Political NGOs: NGO Monitor’s Impact in Washington, D.C.

In May, Professor Steinberg travelled to Washington, D.C. to discuss with members of Congress our research on U.S. government funding. He presented a report, “The Negative Impact of U.S. Government Funding for Mideast Political NGOs,” which outlined direct and indirect funding for political advocacy NGOs and demonization. It contained an appendix of extensive correspondence with U.S. government agencies and officials.

The report revealed that U.S. government funding of several political Palestinian and Israeli NGOs contradicts U.S. policy, has a negative impact on the peace process, and lacks the independent oversight necessary to prevent abuses. Recommendations focused on the need for pre-notification of proposed grants to Congress, and for detailed, professional, and independent evaluations of NGO activity before grant allocation, during implementation, and at the conclusion of the grant cycle.

In Washington, the report was presented to Senator John Boozman (R-Arkansas), a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and over 15 key staff members from both the Senate and House of Representatives who deal with U.S. government funding. In addition, Professor Steinberg briefed a wide range of Israel-related groups.

As a result of the report, meetings, and correspondence, U.S. officials have taken important steps to increase transparency and accountability, including the statement that “We have put in place
greater policy oversight of grant-making decisions over the past few years.” Indeed, preliminary evidence shows that this new policy is being implemented, resulting in some major improvements in NGO funding procedures and supervision.

Most importantly, the House Appropriations Committee draft bill on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations for 2014 includes language emphasizing the importance of “rigorous vetting and evaluation” in the funding process: “The Committee expects the Department of State and USAID to ensure that funds provided for reconciliation programs in the Middle East include a rigorous vetting and evaluation process and are consistent with United States foreign policy objectives in the region.”

USAID Funding for Politicized NGOs via Catholic Relief Services

In November, as part of our “BDS in the Pews” project, we published a report highlighting U.S. government funding of Sadaka Reut, a highly politicized NGO engaged in demonization and delegitimization of Israel. Catholic Relief Services, the “overseas relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (UCCB) and the Catholic community in the United States,” allocated almost two-thirds of a $1,000,000 United States Agency for International Development (USAID) grant to Sadaka Reut, which claims to implement projects aimed at educating Israeli youth – Arab and Jewish.

Sadaka Reut is another example of funding for peace and cooperation being used to pursue narrow and extreme political goals. Sadaka Reut’s educational programs focus exclusively on the Palestinian perspective and train participants in the skills of political protest and activism. The coordinators of Sadaka Reut’s CRS-funded Gemini Project belong to politicized Facebook groups such as “Love in the Time of Apartheid” and “Third Palestinian Intifada,” the latter of which uses graphically antisemitic imagery. Sadaka Reut also maintains partnerships with organizations on the extreme fringes of Israeli society.

NGO Monitor is working with members of Congress to address USAID funding to these types of NGO projects. Further, given the cooperative long-term relationships between American Jewish and American Catholic institutions, we are partnering with major national Jewish groups to constructively reach out to the Catholic Church in the U.S. over this issue.
NGO Monitor Exposes “Wedge” Strategy of Jewish Voice for Peace

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) is a leading proponent of anti-Israel BDS in the United States, acting (in the words of its national executive director) “as the Jewish wing of the [Palestinian solidarity] movement.” JVP has been visible in a wide range of BDS campaigns, including the academic boycott by the American Studies Association, as well as divestment campaigns on U.S. campuses, in mainline churches, and in corporate stockholder meetings.

In July, we released a report, “Driving a Wedge - JVP’s Strategy to Weaken U.S. Support for Israel by Dividing the Jewish Community,” detailing JVP’s lack of fiscal transparency and its commitment to creating a “wedge” in the Jewish community towards weakening U.S. support for Israel.

Our report described JVP’s promotion of the central dimensions of the political warfare strategy against Israel adopted at the 2001 Durban NGO Forum.

JVP works closely with other organizations that promote the “Durban Strategy,” such as Electronic Intifada, American Muslims for Palestine, Adalah-NY, Code Pink, Sabeel, International Solidarity Movement, and the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation.

One example is JVP’s partnership with the Quakers’ American Friends Service Committee in organizing an anti-Israel summer retreat aimed at indoctrinating and training student activists to push for BDS campaigns against Israel on their campuses.

The report also details JVP’s partnership with the group “Open Hillel,” which seeks to overturn Hillel International guidelines proscribing Hillel chapters from “partnering with, housing or hosting organizations, groups, or speakers that deny the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish and democratic state with secure and recognized borders” or support BDS against Israel.

In response to our report, JVP issued a statement that failed to address any of our findings. Opting for smear over substance, JVP attacked NGO Monitor as “an extreme right-wing group” and declared its support for BDS campaigns: “[W]e are proud to support student and church efforts to divest from companies that profit from the occupation.”

NGO Monitor’s Evaluations and Impacts on Student Programs in Israel

For a number of years, NGO Monitor has been providing independent evaluations of The Olive Tree Initiative (OTI), a California-based campus program that sends students on experiential trips to Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan.

In the past few years, the program has improved significantly. Initially, OTI programs featured many sessions with NGOs that were strongly biased against Israel. In contrast, OTI’s policies now include requirements such as “Balance of speakers,” “No political activism during the trip,” “Balance of group,” and “Respectful behavior.”

In 2013, NGO Monitor addressed the OTI participants during their Israel visit.

Our work on OTI follows previous reports on the internship program at George Mason University. We also published analyses of similar programs, including the Advocacy Project based in Washington, D.C. and the Rene Cassin Fellowship Program.
Helping Defeat BDS at the American Public Health Association

In November, the American Public Health Association (APHA) overwhelmingly voted against a pro-boycott resolution, despite strong pressure from BDS activists.

NGO Monitor prepared a detailed analysis of the proposed APHA resolution and sent it to organizations working to defeat the resolution, including doctors and Jewish professionals who were coordinating strategic responses.

Our analysis addressed the anti-Israel resolution’s shortcomings in the following areas:

Evidence: the resolution’s “evidence” failed to meet rigorous scientific and academic standards, and was not carefully examined or presented.

Selective narrative: The resolution adopted a distorted narrative from the very beginning, reflecting a political agenda inconsistent with universal human rights or public health.

Support for BDS: The resolution included a lengthy commendation of BDS, without referring to the explicit goals of the BDS movement — political warfare against Israel and the dismantling of Israel as the Jewish national homeland.

This resolution is representative of how anti-Israel activists are perpetually seeking to expand the arenas for amplifying the “Durban Strategy.” We have already seen these efforts at work in trade unions, on campuses, at city halls, and in the churches.

NGO Monitor is continuously pursuing ways to confront these challenges by providing vital and timely research materials to those groups and individuals positioned to fight the “Durban Strategy” in their specific arenas.
In 2013, NGO Monitor’s impact and profile in Israel expanded significantly. Our interaction with decision makers in the Israeli government, media, and academia grew tremendously with the addition of a new communications team. This contributed to a major increase in the frequency of NGO Monitor’s presentations, briefings, and updates involving Israeli government officials. NGO Monitor further impacted the political sphere through its 2013 publication of Hebrew-language digests for Israeli decision makers, politicians, and the wider Israeli public. Over 90 Members of Knesset (MKs) and high-ranking government officials received print copies of the publication, prompting significant response and debate.

In December, NGO Monitor was awarded the prestigious Menachem Begin Prize, which generated further media impact.

Briefing the Israeli Government and Knesset

NGO Monitor’s staff held over twenty meetings at the Knesset in 2013. We briefed MKs from a broad spectrum of political parties, including government ministers, deputy ministers, and their aides. Additionally, we actively participated in many Knesset committees regarding our research on NGO funding. NGO Monitor is in constant contact with MKs and their staffs.

Our report on distortions and biased attacks of political advocacy NGOs relating to the Israeli Bedouin, “NGOs and the Negev Bedouin Issue in the Context of Political Warfare,” had significant impact in Israel. NGO Monitor twice briefed the Knesset Interior Affairs Committee on our findings. In his presentations, Professor Steinberg summarized our report, noting examples in which NGOs such as Adalah, Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality, and Rabbis for Human Rights conflate Bedouin issues with the broader Arab-Israeli conflict and demonize Israel with false accusations of
A July 15 protest in northern Israel against the Prawer plan. The protest included stone throwing and the blocking of roads. Photo: Israel Police, North District Spokesperson

“racial discrimination,” “disinheritance,” and “human rights violations” against the “indigenous” citizens of the Negev. Professor Steinberg emphasized the foreign government funding that enables the NGO campaigns.

During the sessions, Knesset members from Meretz and Hadash attempted to prevent our detailed research from being heard, and NGO officials also lashed out against us in response to our appearance.

Additionally, as reported in Ma’ariv, our report was also circulated to all Israeli embassies around the world.

This year, NGO Monitor also developed cooperative relationships with the Israeli Russian-speaking media sector in Israel. For example, NGO Monitor was featured in Evreiskiy Kaleidoskop, an Israeli Google group that includes influential journalists, activists, and academics.

Foreign Funding Transparency Law

Two years ago, NGO Monitor was instrumental in developing the “NGO Foreign Funding Transparency Law,” which mandates that all NGOs must report funding from foreign governments on a quarterly basis. These reports are posted on the Registrar of Non-Profits website, allowing the Israeli public to view up-to-date data on foreign governmental funding for Israeli NGOs.

In 2013, we published an analysis and summary of the reports submitted by NGOs in accordance with the law, which was accompanied by broad media discussion. B’Tselem attacked NGO Monitor, claiming that our report was inaccurate. However, it became clear that they were mistaken, and the credibility of our research was reinforced.

In 2013, NGO Monitor realized a major increase in our presence in the Israeli media. This included over 50 appearances in leading newspapers and on news websites, and radio and television channels: Channel 2 News, Haaretz, Yedioth Ahronot, Ynet, Israel Hayom, Ma’kor Rishon, NRG-Ma’ariv, Walla News, Reshet Bet, Galey Tzahal, Galey Israel, and more. In the last 6 months, NGO Monitor appeared 12 times (out of 30 major appearances) on the front pages of the main Hebrew speaking Israeli media. Also, direct outreach to Israeli reporters familiarized them with our work.

Israeli Media Impact

Poster used in BDS and delegitimization campaigns against Israel, conflating the Bedouin issue with the broader Arab-Israeli conflict.

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Most importantly, in the immediate aftermath of our report, the Registrar’s website was updated with many additional NGO reports, and NGOs that had not previously submitted quarterly reports began doing so in 2013.

Subsequently, we published an updated analysis revealing that 16 political NGOs reported foreign government funding of more than 35 million NIS during 2012. In the first three-quarters of 2013, 12 political NGOs reported received sums totaling more than 15 million NIS from foreign governments.

There have also been important developments in the government’s oversight of the NGO Transparency Law. A parliamentary inquiry on enforcement of the law and NGO non-compliance was submitted to Minister of Justice Tzipi Livni. The Ministry of Justice replied that eight NGOs that apparently did not comply with the law would be investigated.

“An amazing Israeli organization NGO Monitor (yes, enter their website and share it—in Hebrew, English and French), follows with precision the income and the activities of ‘human rights’ organizations in Israel and the PA...NGO Monitor did detective work, going to the Registrar for Non-Profits and more...”

Dr. Guy Bechor, Head of Middle East Division at the Lauder School of Government, IDC Herzliya
Anti-Democratic Blacklisting of Dr. Einat Wilf Generates Positive PR for NGO Monitor

Dr. Einat Wilf is a member of NGO Monitor’s International Advisory Board and a former MK. Due to her affiliation with NGO Monitor, she was asked by leaders of the Israeli NGO “Peace Now” not to participate in their annual conference.

Although some Peace Now supporters attempted to justify the blacklisting of Dr. Wilf, including through defamatory attacks against NGO Monitor, this incident resulted in excellent, positive media coverage for us.

On her Facebook page, Dr. Wilf wrote, “Defending Israel and Zionism can and should be part of supporting peace and a two state solution. Israel is under attack for its very legitimacy and the human-rights discourse serves various groups to undermine the foundational idea of Zionism that the Jewish People have a right to a sovereign state in their ancestral homeland. If people, whose work for human rights is indisputable such as Elie Wiesel and Alan Dershowitz [also members of NGO Monitor’s advisory board], find it proper to fight against the demonization of Israel, then I am proud to wage this battle with them.”

This issue was discussed widely in both Hebrew and English media, with an emphasis on the importance of democratic debate and criticism. Prominent columnist Dan Margalit wrote in Israel Hayom, “NGO Monitor checks whether human rights groups around the world stray from their proper roles in order to encourage the isolation of Israel. The activities of both Oppenheimer and Wilf are acceptable in any democracy.”

Professor Steinberg also wrote a number of columns on this issue, emphasizing that such simplistic and ideological campaigns are a response to NGO Monitor’s independent analysis, and reflect the growing impact of our research.

“What NGO Monitor does do is report on how certain foreign governments and private foundations funnel millions of dollars to organizations that are, in the Israeli political context, pretty marginal. And what irks NGO Monitor’s critics is its exposure of the simple fact that a cluster of NGOs, some of whom endorse boycotts of Israel, are sustained not by donations from fellow Israelis, but by outsiders with a clear anti-Israel—and sometimes even anti-Zionist—agenda.”

Ben Cohen, December 12, 2013
UN Accreditation

In a major step forward in increasing the impact and visibility of our work at the UN, The Amutah for NGO Responsibility, of which NGO Monitor is a project, was granted Special Consultative status by ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council, United Nations) at the July 2013 session.

This is crucial for two reasons:

1. NGOs have close links and inside relationships with officials at EU institutions and UN bodies, such as the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. NGO, EU, and UN employees often move back and forth between the various organizations, intensifying the ties and influence.

2. NGO pronouncements on international law are embraced uncritically by media, academics, diplomats, and UN functionaries.

UN accreditation offers many advantages and benefits. It will allow our staff to actively engage at the UN, including attendance at UN sessions and meetings. It allows for consultation with Member States and UN officials. We will also be able to file submissions and make oral presentations at the Geneva-based Human Rights Council, among other UN bodies.

NGO Monitor will be able to hold conferences and other events at the UN. Consultative Status will allow us to suggest items for the provisional agenda of ECOSOC meetings. In addition, our researchers will have access to the UN press documentation services and UN libraries.
Human Rights Council and UPR

In 2013, NGO Monitor also continued its engagement with the UN’s Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process.

On January 31, the UNHRC Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli Settlements published a report accusing Israel of gross “violations of human rights law.” The publication includes a scenario in which the Palestinians would ratify the Rome Statute and bring Israel to the International Criminal Court over settlement building. A number of European government-funded NGOs, including Al Haq and Badil, played central roles in creating the framework for this publication and the accompanying campaign.

NGO Monitor issued a report, highlighting the significant role played by the NGOs and the reliance by the Mission on these groups. The publication expanded on NGO Monitor’s October 2012 submission to the committee, urging it to adhere to international fact-finding standards as detailed in our book, *Best Practices for Human Rights and Humanitarian NGO Fact-Finding* (Nijhoff 2012).

NGO Monitor was also involved in the UPR process, a quadrennial peer review of the human rights record of every UN member state. NGO Monitor filed a submission in advance of Israel’s review, asking the UN committee to apply appropriate fact-finding methodologies and to verify NGO claims independently prior to issuing its report. When Israel cut off ties with the UNHRC in the wake of its incessant bias and targeting of Israel, which impacted participation in UPR, NGO Monitor published a report and authored two op-eds providing background and calling for an end to double standards at the UNHRC.

Academic Frameworks

NGO Monitor gained significant impact in academic frameworks related to human rights, lawfare, and soft-power warfare, breaking the near monopoly held by the NGO network. In 2013, we participated in a number of conferences, highlighting the exploitation of international law and human rights discourse by NGOs. In September, Professor Steinberg and Anne Herzberg presented their paper on “The Role of Political Advocacy NGOs in Aiding Terror Propaganda Campaigns” at the Institute for Counter-Terrorism World Summit at the IDC Herzliya. Later, Professor Steinberg and our European team participated in a workshop on Israel and the EU at Tel Aviv University.

NGO Monitor also published several academic articles in leading journals, further documenting the role of NGOs in anti-Israel lawfare, including, “A farewell to arms? NGO campaigns for embargoes on military exports: the case of the UK and Israel” in *Israel Affairs*, authored by Professor Steinberg, Anne Herzberg, and Asher Fredman, and Anne Herzberg’s “Kiobel: Running with the Pack,” published in the *American Journal of International Law*.

NGO Monitor’s academic contributions create widespread impact. For instance, the Institute for Counter-Terrorism published a database of international crimes, summarizing all of the cases in relation to war crimes on a global scale. NGO Monitor’s report, “NGO ‘Lawfare’ – Exploitation of Courts in the Arab-Israeli Conflict,” authored by Anne Herzberg, features in the further analysis section of the UK case of *Al-Haq v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs* [2009].
New Israel Fund

The New Israel Fund (NIF) is the single largest non-governmental source of support for Israeli NGOs active in Israel’s dynamic civil society, providing both funding and organizational-political assistance. NGO Monitor is widely recognized as the most effective source of analysis on and as the main interlocutor with NIF regarding funding for political advocacy NGOs. NGO Monitor’s goal is to trigger major changes in the NIF decision-making processes and end funding for NGOs that engage in demonization and other political warfare campaigns that violate NIF’s own guidelines, principles, and values. Strategies to achieve this goal include public criticism, as well as direct channels of communication.

In recent years, a group of NIF officials have responded substantively to our systematic and detailed reports. This has been reflected in the ending of support for CWP, Mada al-Carmel, and others.

To further increase NGO Monitor’s impact, NGO Monitor sent detailed reports to NIF board members in advance of their February 2013 meeting and again in December. The reports provided in-depth analysis of NIF’s funding for a number of Israeli political advocacy NGOs.

As in previous years, we also analyzed NIF’s financial documents (most recently from 2012). We noted that funding for the political NGO “Emek Shaveh” ended, and we confirmed that funding for radical groups Mada al-Carmel and Al-Qaws was not reinstated. However, new funding for Molad, an openly political organization that violates NIF’s guidelines against “partisan political activity,” was initiated, while funding for groups such as +972, Yesh Din, Breaking the Silence, and Adalah continued.

In 2013, a major focus for NIF grantees, including Adalah, Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Bimkom, Negev Coexistence Forum, and Rabbis for Human Rights, was condemning Israeli policy concerning Bedouin citizens in the Negev. In reports, op-eds, public statements, and presentations to the Knesset, NGO Monitor highlighted the NGOs’ exploitation of this complex issue, as well as their use of inflammatory and distorted rhetoric (see pages 16–17 for more details). This research was published in our op-eds appearing in a range of publications.

In March, NGO Monitor’s Chief Programs Officer Yitzhak Santis wrote an op-ed in the Bay Area publication J Weekly, raising important concerns regarding NIF-grantee +972, an online magazine. Our research showed that +972 is a forum for demonization and delegitimization that targets English-speaking audiences outside of Israel, who are the primary readers of this blog.

NGO Monitor was also active in publicly challenging Breaking the Silence (BtS), a group that appears frequently on campuses and in communities outside of Israel. Our reports detailed these international campaigns, in contravention of the NGO’s stated mandate of addressing Israeli society, as well as BtS’ political and predetermined conclusions. Our analysis and talking points were featured in numerous articles, including in The Telegraph, The Canadian Jewish News, J Weekly, and The Daily Californian.
The lack of rights and fundamental freedom for women is one of the most egregious manifestations of autocratic and oppressive regimes in the Middle East. However, prominent human rights NGOs fail to direct sustained attention to women’s rights in this area of the world.

On December 10, marking International Human Rights Day, we released “Second Class Rights – How Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch Fail Women in the Middle East.” This monograph evaluates Human Rights Watch’s and Amnesty International’s coverage of women’s rights in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in the years leading up to, during, and after the Arab Spring. Our qualitative and quantitative study shows that while Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch project a strong image of prioritizing women’s freedom, in reality their advocacy on behalf of women’s rights in the MENA region is weak.

The report enjoyed far-reaching impact and was well-received, including among audiences that were previously unfamiliar with our work. Leaders of women’s advocacy groups around the world received copies of the report, and our social media outreach generated positive tweets from Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

In 2014, “Second Class Rights” will be featured at a side-event, hosted by NGO Monitor, during the March UN Human Rights Council meeting.
Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is one of the most prominent and influential international human rights NGOs. NGO Monitor’s analysis over the years has highlighted HRW’s poor research methodologies, lack of expertise, and inherent anti-Israel ideology.

Throughout 2013, we analyzed and provided critical assessments of HRW statements relating to Israel. For example, in February, HRW twice accused Israel of violating international law. In one instance, an HRW researcher made factually and legally incorrect claims to an Australian media outlet regarding the “Prisoner X” affair. As the facts of the case emerged, it became apparent that the HRW official commented prematurely and without having knowledge of what transpired.

Also in February, HRW alleged that, “[a]t least 18 Israeli airstrikes during the fighting in Gaza in November 2012 were in apparent violation of the laws of war.” In contrast, our analysis showed that HRW possesses neither the military expertise nor the appropriate fact-finding methodology to make these assessments and conduct proper investigations. HRW’s “evidence” consisted solely of its inability to identify “indication[s] of a legitimate military target at the site at the time of the attack” and Israel’s refusal to explain its operational decisions to the NGO.

Although some media outlets elected to repeat HRW’s allegations without scrutinizing them, our response was published in The Times of Israel, which highlighted HRW’s “disproportionate obsession” with Israeli responses to terror.

NGO Malpractice – The Political Abuse of Medicine, Morality, and Science

In August, we published a lengthy report, “NGO Malpractice – The Political Abuse of Medicine, Morality, and Science,” focusing on organizations and individual activists who have exploited their professional medical standing for demonization campaigns against Israel. The report also analyses the role of medical journals, which often set aside academic and scientific rigor in their collaborations with medical NGOs. As shown in the detailed findings, medical NGOs often take partisan positions regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, advocating on issues far removed from medicine in their campaigns against Israel.

During the preparation of the report, we circulated drafts to medical professionals from Israel and abroad. In addition to helping improve the draft, these doctors served as a network for vastly expanding the impact of the completed report.

“NGO Malpractice” achieved further impact through the publication of op-ed articles in Israel and Australia. This report will again be highlighted at a conference in London in 2014.
Communications Impact

A crucial component of NGO Monitor’s strategy is media presence. To increase this impact we expanded our communication staff in 2013.

The communications team’s goals are to:

1) amplify NGO Monitor’s publications for greater exposure, credibility, and recognition;

2) make NGO Monitor more accessible and known to public policy makers and to the public at large in Israel, the United States, and Europe; and

3) expand NGO Monitor’s readership.

Achievements

In the past year our communications team improved the provision of communications tools for publicizing and amplifying NGO Monitor’s information and research. We placed NGO Monitor’s opinion articles in the press, and introduced new media platforms for getting our message out. NGO Monitor’s media appearances increased significantly, and our research appeared in many news platforms during 2013 (see page 27 for media and social media statistics).

NGO Monitor delivered strategic and timely messages on delegitimization and demonization of Israel to leading government officials, academics, legal institutions, and major Jewish organizations.

Israeli Media Impact

In 2013, NGO Monitor saw a major increase in presence in the Israeli media including over 50 appearances in leading newspapers and on news websites, and radio and television channels: Channel 2 News, Haaretz, Yedioth Ahronot, Ynet, Israel Hayom, Makor Rishon, NRG-Maariv, Walla News, Reshet Bet, Galey Tzahal, Galey Israel, and more.

More and more Israeli reporters are becoming familiar with NGO Monitor’s research and our direct and personal outreach to reporters has paid dividends.

Lena (Abayev) Bakman
Jewish Life and Anti-Semitism Conference, Tom Lantos Institute - Budapest.

Itai Reuveni’s op-ed article about the Muslim-Jewish Conference in Sarajevo, published by the JTA.
MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA - 2013

4,000+ Minutes watched on NGO Monitor’s YouTube channel

4,000+ Twitter followers

55,000+ Blog mentions

129,000+ Google search results

19% INCREASE
Daily visitors to NGO Monitor’s website

34% INCREASE
Expanded reach via additional social media outlets including Pinterest, Google+, LinkedIn, Paper.li, SlideShare, Scribd

Facebook friends
Israel, stay away from the UN Human Rights Council farce
By: Anne Herzberg
Israel was right last year to end contact with the UN Human Rights Council, and the reasons it gave then - its obsessive bias and double standards targeting the Jewish State - are just as relevant today.

Diplomatic schizophrenia: la France finance-t-elle le sabotage de sa propre politique au Proche-Orient?
By: Lynn Riggs
Pourtant, des recherches de NGO Monitor, institut de recherches basé à Jérusalem, montrent que la France finance également des organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) qui mènent des activités politisées ayant pour effet de saper la mise en œuvre de la politique française au Proche-Orient.

BREAKING THE SILENCE: GROUP’S MESSAGE EMBOLDENS ENEMIES, DELEGITIMIZES ISRAEL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013
BY NAFTALI BALANSON
As an Israeli organization, Breaking the Silence can choose to foment international pressure on Israel by associating with leaders of the demonization movement. If Breaking the Silence and those who support it do not want to be seen as hypocritical, they should be honest about the complexities facing the Israeli army and end their international demonization campaign.

Israel-bashing seminar does Anu no credit
Gerald M. Steinberg
The main task of a university is to pursue knowledge, free from political or religious dogmas, and ideological or other biases. It is for this reason that institutions of higher learning are granted special status and supported by public funds. But when those values are violated, and the campus is required as a venue for lobbying on behalf of narrow interests, this tarnishes the reputation of the academic community, while society is deprived of benefit from the pursuit of knowledge.

Israel’s Nergey Bedoshin challenge and the exploitation of human rights
By Emily Ziedman
The challenge posed by the Nergey Bedoshin letters are highly counter-productive, requiring a fateful reanalysis of all dimensions and a consideration of consequences that go beyond simple rhetoric. Unfortunately, results and conclusions are not reflected in the activities and statements of political advocacy NGOs and their leaders.

This is not apartheid
Lena Abate
Furthermore, this loose use of the term is an affront to the victims of the South African to Holocaust survivors and diminishes the magnitude of the event. Black South Africans feel that the terrible, inhuman suffering they went through only 20 years ago is trivialized.
NGO Monitor’s publications are a significant means to increase our impact among the most influential elements of the human rights and foreign policy networks. Books and journal articles in top legal publications are used in university curricula, are read by professionals in the field, and generate significant follow-up interest and impact.

Academic Articles

**Boycotts, Bias and Politics in the Arab-Israeli Conflict**


This article examines the origins of BDS campaigns in the NGO Forum of the 2001 UN Durban Conference. It explains how BDS is a form of political warfare in which universities and academia are exploited.

**International NGOs, the Arab Upheaval, and Human Rights: Examining NGO Resource Allocation**

Professor Steinberg, *Northwestern Journal of International Human Rights*, 11:1 2012

The international structures and institutions most closely associated with promoting universal human rights also share responsibility for the failure to realize these values. In order to reverse the current situation, a sustained and principled engagement with powerful frameworks is necessary.

**Human Rights Watch Protects the Arab Tyrants**

Professor Steinberg, *Middle East Quarterly*, Summer 2013, Vol. 20, No 3, pp 49-58

Human Rights Watch (HRW) was an active participant in eagerly embracing the Qaddafi regime. Led by Executive Director Kenneth Roth and Sarah Leah Whitson, director of its Middle East and North Africa division, HRW has an overall dismal record with regard to “naming and shaming” Arab dictatorships. Over the years, it devoted few resources to opposing the daily human rights violations that characterized these regimes and even built alliances with some. HRW’s documented and quantifiable behavior with regard to the Middle East demonstrates a determined effort to avert its eyes from the worst human rights abuses while focusing disproportionately on Israel—the only democracy in the region.

**A Farewell to Arms? NGO Campaigns for Embargoes on Military Exports: the Case of the UK and Israel, Israel**

Professor Steinberg, Anne Herzberg and Asher Fredman, June 26, 2013 *Israel Affairs*, Vol 19, No 3 2013

International human rights NGOs utilize soft power resources to shape discourse on state compliance with the Laws of Armed Conflict (LOAC), as well as related policy decisions. The NGO impact is generally due to perceived expertise, credibility, and commitment to universal principles. This article examines these factors in the NGO campaign in the UK calling for an arms embargo against Israel. NGO reports and activities created the basis for the July 2009 decision by the British government to cancel five military export licenses. However, as shown, these reports contain problematic methodologies, inaccurate claims, and controversial interpretations of international law.

**False Witness? EU-Funded NGOs and Policymaking in the Arab-Israeli Conflict**


This report is an in-depth analysis of European Union funding for political advocacy NGOs, and the impact of this practice on EU policy making regarding critical issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The study examines a number of documents written by or under the auspices of EU representatives in Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) between 2010 and 2012. The information in the documents is shown to have been provided by Israeli and Palestinian political NGOs, and in many cases is demonstrably false, out of context, or one-sided.

Anne Herzberg

This essay traces the role of NGOs in the Arab-Israeli conflict in contributing to global antisemitism through the delegitimization and demonization of Israel that grew out of the NGO Forum of the UN’s 2001 World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa. The work details NGO campaigns implementing the “Durban Strategy” and how many of them adopt antisemitic themes. The article also examines their funding sources.


Anne Herzberg, SPME Book Reviews, March 18, 2013

A review of Aryeh Neier’s book, published at the end of his twenty-year tenure as the head of George Soros’s mega-philanthropy, the Open Society Foundation (OSF). Neier focuses on the advent of human rights NGOs such as Amnesty International and HRW, and how the movement has reacted to, adapted to, and influenced significant world events. According to Herzberg, Neier often lacks critical distance and appears at times to be blinded by the “halo effect,” claiming that human rights groups intervene in policy solely for “altruistic reasons.” There are also several striking omissions throughout the book. These lapses highlight the many ways in which this movement has acted immorally and failed to stay true to the principles of universal human rights.

Major Reports

*Far Beyond the Curve: HRW’s Bias and Lack of Credibility in 2012* (January)

This report documents HRW’s egregious moral failures in 2012, specifically in the Middle East. The report’s publication was timed with the release of HRW’s annual report in London. Our report demonstrated that little changed compared to previous years, and that disproportionate attention to Israel and neglect of state-sponsored violence against civilians in Arab countries have damaged HRW’s reputation and left it unprepared to respond adequately to the violent uprisings, which continued into 2012.

*Bad Investment: The Philanthropy of George Soros & the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (May)

George Soros, the Soros family, and the Open Society Foundation network are among the world’s largest philanthropists, with major impact on a global scale. This monograph provides a detailed examination of these activities and their effect in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The report demonstrates that Open Society funding contributes significantly to anti-Israel campaigns.


NGO Monitor presented this report in Madrid to key government officials. The report reveals that the levels of transparency and accountability for the NGOs funded by Spain’s federal, regional, and municipal bodies remain highly inadequate. Information on funding programs is opaque, and the supervisory mechanism to audit and evaluate the programs remains insufficient.

*U.S. Government Funding for Mideast Political NGOs and the Undermining of U.S. Middle East Policy* (May)

Released in conjunction with a series of meetings held in Washington, D.C. with members of Congress and U.S. government agency directors, this report revealed that U.S. government funding of several political NGOs in the PA and Israel contradicts U.S. policy, has a negative impact on the peace process, and lacks the independent oversight necessary to prevent abuses. The U.S. government’s funding of highly politicized NGOs is indicative of the lack of supervision and transparency in relation to such grants. Recommendations focused on the need for pre-notification of proposed grants to Congress, and for detailed, professional, and independent evaluations of NGO activity before grant allocation, during implementation, and at the conclusion of the grant cycle.
Lack of Due Diligence and Transparency in European Union Funding for Radical NGOs: EIDHR and PfP Grants for Coalition of Women for Peace (June)

An analysis of EU grants to the CWP, a leader in anti-Israel BDS campaigns. The analysis demonstrates how, in many cases, European Union funding is allocated via non-transparent processes to organizations whose activities are inconsistent with EU funding and policy objectives.

“Driving a Wedge” – JVP’s Strategy to Weaken U.S. Support for Israel by Dividing the Jewish Community (July)

This detailed report describes the goals, tactics, and opaque financing of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), a U.S.-based advocacy organization self-described as the “Jewish wing of the [Palestinian solidarity] movement.” JVP is dedicated to driving “a wedge” within the Jewish community regarding Israel, thus weakening the U.S.-Israel relationship.

NGO Malpractice – The Political Abuse of Medicine, Morality, and Science (August)

This comprehensive report documents how several medical NGOs participate in the global delegitimization campaign against Israel with allegations that Israel denies Palestinians’ access to medical care, violates their right to health, and is responsible for poor health markers among the Palestinian population. These groups exploit their international standing and reputations as experts to take partisan positions against Israel, using medical jargon to advocate on issues far removed from medicine in order to support Palestinian political goals.

German Funding for Political Advocacy NGOs Active in the Arab-Israeli Conflict (October)

In this extensive publication, NGO Monitor surveys German government funding for numerous NGOs in Israel and the PA that engage in delegitimization campaigns targeting Israel. The funding for these political advocacy NGOs is channeled through the German government, German political foundations (Stiftungen), church aid organizations, and NGOs.

NGOs and the Negev Bedouin Issue in the Context of Political Warfare (November)

An investigative report detailing the activities, claims, and funding sources of NGO campaigns on the issue of Bedouin citizens in the Negev. The study examines several NGOs active in the campaign, including the Negev Coexistence Forum, Adalah, Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Bimkom, Rabbis for Human Rights, and HRW. These NGOs lobby the UN, EU, and other European frameworks in order to influence their policy against Israel.

Second Class Rights: How Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch are Failing Women in the Middle East (December)

This monograph presents an analysis of the campaigns and activities relating to women’s rights in the MENA region by Amnesty International and HRW, the two biggest and most powerful organizations claiming to promote universal human rights. The study evaluates the output of these NGOs leading up to, during, and after the 2011 Arab Spring demonstrations. The paper concludes that although these organizations claim to prioritize human rights for women, in practice, these organizations have not focused sustained attention on women’s rights in this area of the world.

Forthcoming Publications

BDS in the Pews: Churches, NGOs, and the Global Campaign Against Israel

This long-term project is built on the foundation of our 2012 report, “BDS in the Pews: European, U.S., and Canadian Government Funding Behind Anti-Israel Activism in Mainline Churches.” It aims to diminish the funding of anti-Israel NGOs by governments through third-party Catholic and Protestant aid societies that promote BDS and other aspects of the “Durban Strategy,” and to provide information for use in efforts to thwart BDS campaigns. At the end of 2013, we inaugurated a project-specific website (www.bdsinthepews.org), where we publish our reports and provide in-depth information on the subject.
Professor Gerald Steinberg, President

A senior faculty member at Bar Ilan University, Professor Steinberg, provides direction and strategy for NGO Monitor. In 2013, he published a number of academic articles as well as op-eds in *Ha’aretz, Jerusalem Post, National Post* (Canada), and many other newspapers, and conducted extensive interviews on NGO and human rights related issues with television, radio, and print media outlets. He also spoke at a variety of high-level government sessions and academic conferences worldwide. Professor Steinberg is co-author of *Best Practices for Human Rights and Humanitarian NGO Fact-Finding*.

Dov Yarden, CEO

Oversees the management of the organization, its staff, and its finances. Along with Professor Steinberg, he devises NGO Monitor’s strategy and directs the organization’s resource development activities.

Anne Herzberg, Legal Advisor

Is the author of NGO Monitor’s “NGO Lawfare: Exploitation of Courts in the Arab-Israeli Conflict” and the “International Law, Human Rights and NGOs series”, as well as co-author of *Best Practices for Human Rights and Humanitarian NGO Fact-Finding* and other academic articles. She is one of the leading experts on NGO “lawfare” cases against Israeli officials and companies doing business with Israel. She is invited regularly to speak at international conferences, and her op-eds have appeared in *Ha’aretz*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Jerusalem Post*.

Yitzhak Santis, Chief Programs Officer

Oversees quality control of NGO Monitor’s key products in its areas of research and communications. He has expertise in BDS campaigns and the strategy of co-opting churches to BDS. He also oversees key functions in the area of resource development - including donor relations, donor development, and campaign planning.

Naftali Balanson, Managing Editor

Directs NGO Monitor’s research, developing research strategy and ensuring that all NGO Monitor publications are produced in an effective and timely manner. His correspondence with NGO, foundation, and government officials has elicited crucial information. Naftali has an MA in English Literature from Columbia University.
Board of Directors

Professor Avraham Bell

Professor Bell is a professor of law at the law schools of Bar Ilan University and University of San Diego. His research interests include international law (particularly the laws of war), property law (including intellectual property) and economic analysis of law. He studied at the University of Chicago and Harvard University.

Professor Bell co-authored with Professor Steinberg a study on NGO reporting during the Lebanon War, funded by the Israel Science Foundation. He currently serves on the board of the San Diego chapter of Stand With Us and the Israeli chapter of CAMERA (Presspectiva).

Mr. Joel Golovensky, Chair; Finance Advisory Committee

Mr. Golovensky was born in New York City and was raised in New Rochelle, NY. He received a BA from the University of Pennsylvania (magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa), a JD from the Harvard Law School, and a LLM from the New York University School of Law. Mr. Golovensky practiced law in New York for 20 years and was a managing partner of a Manhattan law firm before moving to Israel with his wife (Vera) and two daughters (Yael and Michal) in 1987. In New York, he was active in Jewish life, serving as Vice President and President-Elect of the Board of Jewish Education for the New York Metropolitan Area.

In Israel, Mr. Golovensky practiced law and was active as a lay leader in the Jewish Agency for Israel, serving on the Executive of the Joint Authority for Jewish Zionist Education and on the Board of Governors Education Committee.

At the end of 2004, he founded the Institute for Zionist Strategies (IZS). He also wrote a bi-weekly column for Haaretz, articles for Maariv, the Jerusalem Post, and the Jerusalem Report, and was a pioneer mediator, serving on the panel of the Supreme Court. From September 1999-September 2002, Mr. Golovensky served as Director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s Russian Department in Moscow. Mr. Golovensky continues to practice international law.

Mr. Paul Ogden, Secretary

Mr. Ogden has 40 years of communications experience, gained principally in Canada where he was a senior vice president at Weber Shandwick Worldwide. Canadian clients included Air Canada, General Motors Canada and Canada Trust, and a 350-branch retail bank. Major clients in Israel include the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Israel Export & International Cooperation Institute and the Israel branch of the London-based Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners. From 2006 until 2011, Mr. Ogden was managing editor of Justice, the magazine of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists. He has also served as managing editor for several professional books, including two books on Israeli business law published by Kluwer Law International of The Hague, London and Boston. Mr. Ogden studied communications (print journalism) at Centennial College of Applied Arts and Technology in Toronto and is chairman of the ethics committee of the Israel Public Relations Association.

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R. James Woolsey is the former Director of the CIA and the Intelligence Community (1993-1995), and currently serves on the board of the Washington firm, Executive Action LLC.

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Hon. Fiamma Nirenstein is an award-winning journalist and author, and member of the Italian Parliament’s Chamber of Deputies, where she serves as Vice President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies.

**Elliott Abrams**
Elliott Abrams is a Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

**Ambassador Yehuda Avner**
Ambassador Yehuda Avner was a former speech writer and political advisor for many of Israel’s Prime Ministers, he later served as Consul in New York, Counselor at the Washington Embassy, Ambassador to Great Britain, non-resident Ambassador to Ireland, and Ambassador to Australia.

**Hon. Alexander Downer (AC)**
Hon. Alexander Downer is Australia’s longest serving foreign minister, during which he played a pivotal role in Australia’s response to the Middle East conflicts. Today, Downer is a Partner in his firm, Bespoke Approach.

**Tom Gross**
Tom Gross is a British-born journalist and international affairs commentator.

**Col. Richard Kemp**
Col. Richard Kemp served as Commander of the Order of the British Empire for 29 years, and handled all major global terrorist attacks, including those against British interests.

**Douglas Murray**
Douglas Murray is a UK based best-selling author and commentator. He is currently the Director of the Centre for Social Cohesion.

**Professor Judea Pearl**
Professor Judea Pearl is a professor of computer science and director of the Cognitive Systems Laboratory. He is known internationally for his contributions to artificial intelligence, human reasoning and philosophy of science.

**Judge Abraham Sofaer**
Judge Abraham Sofaer is a George P. Shultz Distinguished Scholar and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution (Stanford University) since 1994. He has been a prosecutor, legal educator, judge, government official, and attorney in private practice.

**Professor Ruth R. Wisse**
Professor Ruth R. Wisse is Martin Peretz Professor of Yiddish Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University.

**Dr. Einat Wilf**
Dr. Einat Wilf is a Senior Fellow with the Jewish People Policy Institute, former Chair of the Knesset Sub-Committee for Israel and the Jewish People, and previous Member of the influential Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in the 18th Knesset.
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NGO Monitor is the only organization that successfully targets and reduces government funding for anti-Israel agendas and “names and shames” groups that delegitimize Israel.

We are the go-to source for research on NGOs, providing credible information to journalists, organizations, and governmental officials in Israel and abroad.

NGO Monitor receives no government funding. To continue to make an impact, NGO Monitor needs your support.

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