



The Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC) is a wide coalition of the largest Palestinian mass organizations, trade unions, networks and organizations.

BNC member organizations:
Council of National and Islamic Forces in Palestine

Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)

Palestinian Nat'l Institute for NGOs

Global Palestine Right of Return Coalition

Palestinian Trade Union Coalition for BDS (PTUC-BDS)

Federation of Indep. Trade Unions

Gen. Union of Palestinian Workers

Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions

Gen. Union of Palestinian Women

Union of Palestinian Farmers

Gen. Union of Palestinian Teachers

Gen. Union of Palestinian Writers

Palestinian Federation of Unions of University Professors and Employees (PFUUEP)

Union of Professional Associations

Gen. Union of Palestinian Peasants

Union of Public Employees in Palestine-Civil Sector

Grassroots Palestinian Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign (STW)

Nat'l Committee for Grassroots Resistance

Pal. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI)

Nat'l Committee to Commemorate the Nakba

Civic Coalition for the Defense of Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem

Coalition for Jerusalem

Union of Pal. Charitable Organizations

Palestinian Economic Monitor

Union of Youth Activity Centers- Palestine Refugee Camps

Occupied Palestine and Syrian Golan Heights Initiative

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Palestinian civil society calls on The Hague to uphold international law by excluding Veolia

Occupied Palestine, 16 May 2012 - The Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC), the largest Palestinian civil society coalition, calls upon the Stadsgewest Haaglanden municipality to exclude Veolia Transport Nederland Openbaar Vervoer from participating in its on-going public transport tender in The Hague due to the deep complicity of its parent company Veolia Environnement with grave Israeli violations of international law.

Veolia Environnement companies are centrally involved in the Jerusalem Light Rail, which while disguised as a municipal infrastructure project is designed to serve the approximately 200,000 illegal Jewish settlers who reside within and around occupied East Jerusalem, reinforcing the unlawful Israeli annexation of Jerusalem and facilitating plans for further colonial expansion.[1] Veolia also operates waste collection, sewage treatment and bus services for illegal Israeli colonies in occupied Palestinian territory (OPT).[2] Despite attempts to mislead the public, Veolia remains an active and willing accomplice to Israel's systematic violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in the OPT.

When calling for a campaign of Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel in 2005, the overwhelming majority of Palestinian civil society articulated that Israeli compliance with international law is a minimum prerequisite for justice and self-determination for the Palestinian people.[3] As the host of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the body that authoritatively ruled on 9 July 2004 that all States, including their organs and public entities, have a *legal* obligation to bring to an end the unlawful situation caused by Israel's illegal wall and settlements, The Hague bears special responsibility to uphold international law and, at the very least, not to participate in the infringement of the ICJ ruling. Rewarding Veolia for its grave complicity with international law by allowing it to participate in a public tender would be a serious dereliction of this obligation.

Public authorities across Europe have lawfully excluded Veolia from public contracts due to its 'grave misconduct'. The Hague and the Stadsgewest Haaglanden authorities must uphold freedom, justice and equality and forbid Veolia from participating in public tenders until it ends its deep complicity with Israeli violations of international law. Former UN SG Boutros Boutros-Ghali described The Hague as the 'legal capital of the world'. Do not diminish this capital by siding with corporate criminals.

BDS National Committee (BNC)

[1] <http://www.ccdpri.ps/new/pdfs/book%20the%20jerusalem%20light%20rail.pdf>

[2] <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/palestinian-dutch-groups-tell-hague-dont-give-contract-israel-settlement>

[3] <http://www.bdsmovement.net/call>