

South African anti-apartheid strategy and BDS, then and now

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26 September, 6:00 pm
Friends Meeting House
Ramallah



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

Member organizations:

- Council of National and Islamic Forces in Palestine
- Gen. Union of Palestinian Workers
- Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions
- Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)
- Palestinian Nat'l Institute for NGOs
- Federation of Indep. Trade Unions
- Global Palestine Right of Return Coalition
- Occupied Palestine and Syrian Golan Heights Initiative
- Gen. Union of Palestinian Women
- Union of Palestinian Farmers
- 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
- Union of Professional Associations

www.bdsmovement.net
info@bdsmovement.net

A timeline of anti-apartheid BDS

Article in *Liberation* by W.M. Sisulu –
“Boycott as a Political Weapon”

<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?include=docs/arts/1957/arts0208.html>

8 February 1957, Johannesburg



Inspirations:

- *Irish Land Act of 1880;*
- *boycott of the Duma in Russia during the struggle against the Tsarist regime;*
- *boycott against the British Legislative Council in India by the Indian Congress;*
- *Alexandra [Johannesburg slum] bus boycott of 1944 (followed by several others).*

The fact that people can walk for twenty miles a day, week in, week out, in a 100% effective boycott, organized in less than two weeks; and in such diverse areas as Sophiatown, and Western Native Township in less than two days - this is a tribute to the determination of the people in utilizing this form of struggle.

SA BDS: international solidarity

1958: All-Africa People's Conference (Ghana): call for international boycott of SA goods

1959: with ANC encouragement, SA exiles in London and Committee of African Organisations launch BDS (mainly retail)

1960: support from trade unions and the Labour, Liberal and Communist parties (then Sharpeville Massacre, 69 shot dead fleeing on March 21)

1961: ANC and other groups turn to the armed struggle but by 1963 most leaders arrested

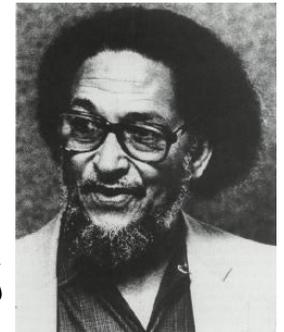
SA BDS: international solidarity

1962: United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 1761 (non-binding) establishing the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid and called for economic and other sanctions

1964: UK Anti-Apartheid Movement dedicated to BDS

1968: African states lobbied by Dennis Brutus to kick white SA out of Olympics

1970s: Brutus organised against rugby, cricket, tennis and other sports



1977: in the US, 'Sullivan Principles' for corporate social responsibility generated widespread confusion as BDS movement grew



SA BDS: beating the banks

1965: Martin Luther King, Jr and Albert Luthuli ask UN for sanctions; World Bank demurs; protests at Chase Manhattan Bank by Students for a Democratic Society

1980s: increasing bank protests in US, UK

1985: breakthrough with Chase Manhattan Bank after apartheid president PW Botha speech

1986: Swiss bail out Botha

1986-93: no more foreign credit

1994: ANC inherited \$25 bn debt

