

Arabs in Israel

Israel, an Apartheid state – IS IT SO !?!



The text was written and the images were selected
by Aron Albahari

Introduction

As of early 2013, the total population of Israel has been about eight million people. About six million among them are Jews (75 percent), around 1,300,000 Muslim Arabs, 150,000 Christian Arabs, 140,000 Druze, 60,000 Bedouins, whereas 350,000 people belong to the 'others' category (non-Arab Christians, Circassians, Armenians, etc.). Both formally and legally, as Israeli citizens, they have equal rights and obligations, and this, naturally, also applies to Arabs. The only obligation that does not apply to Arabs is military service, except if they wish to opt for it. Although they are Muslims, Druze, Bedouins and Circassians do serve the military service. Since May 14, 1948, and the formation (reinstatement) of Israel as a state, despite political and other connotations regarding the relationship between the Arabs and Israeli Jews typical of this period, the Arab population in Israel has grown in number by ten times, or by more than 1000 percent: from 190,000 to about two million.

One of the major reasons for this has been the overall standard and quality of life within the Israeli society and state, regardless of personal affinities, political or other views and attitudes and an individual's experience of the life in the predominantly Jewish society. Compared to other Arabs living in 22 Arab Muslim countries, the Israeli Arabs, as the largest non-Jewish population in Israel, have on average the longest life expectancy (both men and women), the lowest mortality rate among the newborns, the lowest illiteracy rate and the highest rate of university-educated people (both among men and women). From a statistical point of view, these parameters are used as an international standard in determining the overall quality and standard of life in a country.

However, over the past nine years, or more precisely, since 2004, a group of Arabs have been carrying out an international campaign titled ***The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel*** (PACBI). The campaign was launched by a group of Palestinian academics and intellectuals in the West-Bank town of Ramallah, with the aim of encouraging and involving large numbers of individuals (mainly from intellectual and economic circles), groups and associations, institutions (universities), professional and syndicate organizations, business companies, religious representatives and leaders, politicians and, finally, states from all over the world in a primarily academic (intellectual) and cultural boycott of Israel. But the campaign has been envisaged on a broader scale and has been intended to include the economic and business, sport, religious and, finally, political boycott of all Israeli public figures (writers, professors, musicians, sportsmen, experts in various scientific and scholarly disciplines, actors, etc.), groups and institutions (universities, faculties, representatives of business companies, museums, libraries, theatres, music and philharmonic orchestras, folklore ensembles, etc.) either by banning or boycotting their visits to other countries for seminars, meetings, congresses, concerts, lectures, business fairs, etc., or visits to Israel for the same type of meetings and events organized by Israeli representatives and institutions.

The idea of such a campaign and the initiative for its organization date

back to 1922, when the Arab League, which joined together the Arab states of the time, launched and demanded a boycott of *"any Jewish-owned business operating in the British Mandate of Palestine"*. The second wave of such and similar campaigns followed in 1945, and particularly in 1948, when the Jewish state of Israel was established. This time, the idea of the boycott was through the slogan the *"Arab League boycotts Israel"*, disseminated through the international community and to all individuals, institutions and companies who had any kind of contact with Israel. In fact, the ideas underlying this campaign were the boycott of and opposition to the mere idea of the right to existence of the Jewish state of Israel. The culmination of the idea (which rests on racist and nationalist premises) was and still remains the refusal to allow entrance to Israeli citizens, i.e. to anyone using an Israeli passport, on the part of 16 Islamic countries.^{1*} And this is not all. The refusal extends to all non-Jews who have an Israeli visa or stamp in their passports showing that they visited Israel at some time. The action was so far-reaching that the *Central Boycott Office* was established and headquartered in Damascus (Syria) with the task of *"monitoring the implementation of these decisions and proposing measures against those international subjects who have violated these provisions"*. Nevertheless, between 1992 and 2002, the office did not hold a single meeting because it was impossible to establish a quorum!

Apart from the refusal to allow entrance to the mentioned countries, the overall effect of this boycott is difficult to determine. However, the absurdity of the idea was demonstrated, for example, by banning performances of Boney M, a famous pop and rock group of the 1970s and 1980s, in Islamic countries because of their song *Rivers of Babylon*, which deals with a biblical motif (*Psalms; 137:1*): the Jews in the Babylonian captivity who *"sat down by the rivers of Babylon and wept when they remembered Zion (Jerusalem, Israel)"*. Worth mentioning is also the ban on selling Barbie dolls, a popular children's toy, because Ruth Handler, who inspired and created this type of toy, was a Jewish girl from the United States and later a business woman.

The adoption of the Final Declaration of the NGO Forum of the *World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance* at the meeting held under the auspices of the United Nations in Durban, South Africa, in 2001, may be considered a scored point or a political success of the campaign. On that occasion, a proclamation-like declaration was adopted in which, not taking into account any other events worldwide, only Israel was condemned for its *"racist system including its own brand of apartheid"* and the international community was called upon to cease *"all links (diplomatic, economic, social, aid, military cooperation and training) between all states and Israel"*. The manipulated atmosphere that prevailed throughout the Forum was best described by the Chair of the Forum and the then United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Irish Mary Robinson, who said that *"there was horrible anti-Semitism present"* at the Durban Forum.

It was on the hype of these "scored points and actions" that a new round, i.e. the third wave of boycott appeals was initiated. It has been

^{1*} Algeria, Bangladesh, Brunei, Djibouti, Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Somalia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

manifested through *The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel* (PACBI). According to its initiators, the campaign was launched against "*Israel's colonial oppression of the Palestinian people*"; because of that, it was necessary to formally proclaim the following aims of the campaign:

- To "force" Israel to admit responsibility for several "*waves of ethnic cleansing and dispossession that created the Palestinian refugee problem*" and to oblige it to "*accept the inalienable rights of the refugees and displaced stipulated in and protected by international law*";
- To "force" Israel to give up the "*military occupation and colonization of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza*", which is "*in violation of international law and UN resolutions*";
- To "force" Israel to give up "*the entrenched system of racial discrimination and segregation against the Palestinian citizens of Israel, which resembles the defunct apartheid system in South Africa*";
- The supporters of the campaign (The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel) believe that the boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions will contribute "*to the struggle to end Israel's occupation, colonization and system of apartheid*".

The initiators of this campaign are placing their faith in success on the international "saturation" with the persistence of this political and military crisis zone in the Near East due to years-long reluctance to resolve the crisis and, in particular, to find solution to problems related to the treatment and status of Palestinian refugees. Furthermore, the initiators of the campaign believe that the fact that there are a large number of Islamic states – 57, and one and a half billion people worldwide belonging to the Islamic religion, is bound to enable them to exert a strong influence in favour of launching this boycott against Israel both in individual countries (apart from the 57 Islamic countries) with significant Muslim populations and in addition in the United Nations.

A similar initiative was passed at the international level when a campaign resembling this one and a "voting machinery" led to the adoption of Resolution No. 3379 by the United Nations on November 10, 1975. By this Resolution, **Zionism**, as a national and legitimate Jews' movement that (just like other world peoples' movements) embodies the aspiration towards an independent and sovereign homeland and state, and the right of the Jews to live in that country, was determined as "*a form of racism and racial discrimination*" and defined as a system which supported "*apartheid and racism*". It took long time before the international community realized the absurdity of the mentioned Resolution and manipulation that led to its adoption due to a "voting machinery". Accordingly, the United Nations revoked it in 1991, clearly realizing that the mentioned definition was in opposition of internationally recognized principles and rights guaranteed to all other nations – to have their homeland and state.

This led to the activation of a similar campaign in Great Britain, where in 2005 the PACBI established a close relationship with the *British Committee for Universities of Palestine*, which is lobbying for their campaign with the *British*

Association of University Teachers with the idea of persuading them into validity of joining the “academic boycott of Israeli universities”.

The idea and the motive of the creators, advocates and the partakers of the PACBI campaign were soon extended to include a wider range of calls and demands for a general boycott and sanctions against Israel. Over time, the bearers of the PACBI idea established links with a number of similar, mostly non-government organizations (NGOs), such as the Palestinian NGO *Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions* (BDS), established in 2005, the Canadian organization *Israeli Apartheid Week*, established in Toronto in 2007, the *American National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus*, which joined the campaign in 2011, and some other organizations.

Over the past eight to nine years, the mentioned campaign has spread further and while at its beginnings there were a dozen actions on a world scale, in 2012, the supporters of the campaign managed to organize protest actions in 60–70 towns all over the world, mainly at universities. Therefore, 2012 may be considered the most successful year because the advocates of the campaign managed to officially attract dozens of university and professional organizations as its supporters, as well as to persuade a significant number of individuals from various walks of life not to visit Israel, nor to participate at events co-organized by Israeli institutions, consular offices or embassies or attended by representatives of Israel.

What follows is the list of all those who supported this campaign or took part in it (by cancelling their visits to Israel) in 2012:

- A delegation of five professors from five US universities called upon a boycott of Israel;
- French philosopher Jacques Rancière cancelled a lecture at Tel Aviv University;
- National Union of Students in the United Kingdom endorsed “*divestment from companies implicated in Israel’s violations of human rights*”;
- United States-based band of percussionist performers *tUnE-yArDs* cancelled their Tel Aviv performance;
- American jazz singer Cassandra Wilson cancelled her Israel show;
- University of Regina (Canada) Students Union joined the boycott campaign;
- University of Pennsylvania student group PennBDS organized a conference and hosted the Palestinian NGO *Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions*; the conference included a series of lectures and attracted hundreds of activists from all over the United States;
- Rock musician *Cat Power* cancelled her Israel show;
- New York Indie band *The Pains of Being Pure at Heart* cancelled their performance in Israel;
- Dozens of prominent British artists, including Oscar, Emmy and Golden Globe winner Emma Thompson, signed a petition asking the organizers of Shakespeare’s Globe festival in London not to allow the performance of one of the most famous and renowned Israeli theatre groups – *Habima* of Tel Aviv;
- Graduate Students at Carlton University (Canada) called for the boycott of companies “*implicated in the Israeli Occupation*”;

- Seattle LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual) Commission cancelled the Pinkwashing Event because it was sponsored by the Israeli Consulate in Seattle, USA;
- The organizers of the Madrid Gay Pride cancelled the visit of Israel's representatives, though Israel is **the only country in the Near East** that does not legally deny rights to the LGBT population;



Participants of the Tel Aviv Gay Pride in 2004. Israel is the only country in the Near East where individuals are allowed to freely express their sexual orientation (left)

- Belgian singer Lara Fabian's tour in Lebanon was cancelled because she had performed at the celebrations of Israel's 60th anniversary in France;
- Lectures of Israeli experts scheduled to be held at the University of Jordan in Amman were cancelled;
- At the 18th Annual National Conference of M.E.Ch.A. (Chican@ Student Movement of Aztlán), an organization of Latino youth in the USA, the decision was made to endorse the Palestinian *Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions* campaign;
- *Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions* campaign activists managed to cancel the Mediterranean Delight International Belly Dance Festival, which should have been held in Marrakech, because the producer of the festival was the Israeli citizen Simona Guzman, who was also a representative of an Israeli belly dancing school;
- The Irish traditional music band *Dervish* cancelled their performance in Israel;
- Huzama Habayeb, a Palestinian novelist, led at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, a campaign that resulted in cancelling the planned book project titled *Memory of a Promise: Short Stories by Middle Eastern Women*; she persuaded 13 authors (out of 29) to withdraw their literary contributions because the project allegedly "attempted to promote a false symmetry, or balance, between Palestinians/Arabs on the one side and establishment-celebrated Israelis on the other"!!! (What is apparent is the striving of the boycott initiators and their supporters to depict events and black-and-white, where, naturally, only Arab and Palestinian fates and stories are 'white', whereas those coming from the Israeli side are always and only 'black'!!!)
- Indian writer Vikas Swarup, on whose novel the famous film *Slumdog Millionaire* (co-directed by a British and an Indian director) was based, cancelled his participation in the International Writers Festivals in Jerusalem heeding appeals from PACBI and BDS activists;
- The US Professor Katherine Franke, Director of the Columbia University Centre for Gender and Sexuality Law (sexual equality), cancelled her participation in a conference sponsored by the Israeli Government;
- The writer Alice Walker declined a request to publish an Israeli edition of her best-selling book *The Colour Purple*, upon which the eponymous film was based;

- World famous percussionist Zakir Hussain cancelled his performances in Israel after appeals from the Indian Campaign *for the Academic and Cultural Boycott* of Israel (InCACBI);
- Arizona State University Student Government, USA, unanimously voted to *divest from companies trading with the Israeli Defence Force*. The following companies were explicitly mentioned: *Alliant Tech Systems, Boeing, Caterpillar, Motorola, United Technologies, Petrochina, China National Petroleum Company, Sinopec, Oil and Natural Gas Company, and Alstom*;
- Disappointed that the American president Barack Obama had awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Israeli President Shimon Peres, Jamaican reggae musician Sizzla Kalonji cancelled his performance in Israel;
- Hollywood actors Bruce Willis and Jean Claude Van Damme cancelled their planned visit to Tel Aviv, where they were scheduled to attend a local premiere screening of their film *Expendables*;
- The Georgian jazz singer Nino Katamadze cancelled her five-concert tour in Israel after being contacted by the Israeli activist group Boycott from Within, including both Israeli Arabs/Palestinians and Jews; this group supports the BDS campaign;
- The Palestinian dance troop Juthor cancelled their performance at the *International Folklore Encounters Festival*, in Fribourg, Switzerland, because the organizers of the festival had intended to bring Juthor onto the stage together with the Israeli group Shalom Israel (Peace to Israel or Peace in Israel);
- Swedish band The Cardigans cancelled their Tel Aviv performance;
- American-Jewish musician Lenny Kravitz cancelled his show in Tel Aviv;
- Lebanese filmmakers withdrew from an Israeli-run workshop at a seminar in Jordan;
- The Indian Campaign for the *Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel* launched a campaign against the academic research agreement between the Indian University Grants Commission and the Israel Science Foundation, asking the former to annul the agreement;
- University of the Witwatersrand Student Representative Council initiated an academic boycott of Israeli institutions;
- The Indian Campaign for the *Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel* lead a forceful campaign against the participation of three Israeli universities in the Indo-Global Education Summit in Hyderabad, India;
- The University of California Student Association, a body which represents hundreds of thousands of students in California, decided by a 12:0 vote (out of 14 delegates) to condemn the California Assembly House Resolution 35, which associated the PACBI boycott-related activism with anti-Semitism;
- Rejecting the normalization of relations with Israel, twenty Palestinian film directors refused to participate in the filming of the 24-hour life in Jerusalem, a German-Israeli-Palestinian film project, because it was to be partially funded by Israeli entities;
- British theatre director Peter Brook cancelled participation at the International Festival for Plays of the Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv because it performed in Ariel, a West-Bank Jewish town;
- The Lebanese band *Mashrou' Leila* cancelled their performance as an open

- band to Red Hot Chili Peppers after the latter refused to cancel a concert in Israel;
- Turkish alternative band *Baba Zula* cancelled their planned concert in Israel;
- Four of five speakers left the UNESCO conference in honour of the Israeli president Shimon Peres at the University of Connecticut;
- Five Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese participants left the Salam.Orient cultural festival in Austria due to the Israeli embassy sponsorship;
- Political hip-hop duo Rebel Diaz, the Iraqi-Canadian hip-hop musician "*The Narcicyst*" and the Cairo-based art collective Mosireen cancelled their performances at the Creative Time Summit because its partnership with Israeli organizations;
- PACBI activists initiated a campaign aimed at instructing students how to stay away from possible participation in Israel Studies schemes at universities around the world;
- Electronica musician and DJ Carl Craig of Detroit, USA, cancelled his participation in a performance in Tel Aviv;
- At least ten international actors cancelled at the last moment their participation at the IsraDrama festival at the Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv;
- Ten young harpists cancelled their participation at the International Harp Contest in Israel, leaving 22 non-Israelis to compete. In addition, the acclaimed harpists Naoko Yoshino and Park Stickney also cancelled their performances at the contest;
- The South African jazz musician and producer Ismael Pops Mohamed cancelled his participation in the Cape Town World Music Festival in South Africa because of the co-sponsorship of the event by the Israeli embassy;
- Just over a year since a group of eleven students from the University of California – Irvine was punished for disrupting a lecture by the Israeli Ambassador to the USA, Michael Oren, the Associated Students of UC Irvine voted unanimously (16:0) for a non-binding decision to call for divestment from companies trading with Israel, and particularly from *Caterpillar, Cement Roadstones Holding, Cemex, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard, Raytheon, Sodastream* and *L-3 Communications*;
- At its annual conference, the American Studies Association put forward a petition signed by 150 scholars supporting the boycott of Israel;
- Having received numerous letters, including those of the South African Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Roger Waters, and leading African-American figures, the famous American musician Stevie Wonder withdrew from the Israel Defence Forces fundraiser;
- The world-famous oud player Ross Daly cancelled his participation at an Israeli oud festival;
- York University (Canada) Graduate Students' Association endorsed the BDS campaign;
- Teachers' Union of Ireland (Dublin Colleges Branch AGM) also supported the BDS campaign;
- Roger Waters, a musician and founder of the famous band *Pink Floyd*, reiterated his support for the BDS campaign in his UN address on behalf of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine;
- The London-based percussion band Portico Quartet cancelled their performance in Israel;

- Andreas Oberg, Swedish guitarist, cancelled his concert in Tel Aviv;
- The Palestine Committee of the University of Oslo, Norway, managed to persuade the University authorities to terminate the contract with the company G4S, which secured all University buildings and campuses, in July 2013 because of the company's business collaboration with Israeli prisons;
- University of Toronto Graduate Students Union endorsed the BDS campaign against Israel.

However, despite the boycott, numerous public figures, individuals and music bands refused to join and support this campaign against Israel and they held their performance in Israel over the past several years. They include the writers Umberto Eco and Ian McEwan, film directors Joel and Ethan Cohen, musicians Elton John, Madonna, Lady Gaga, Rihanna, Justin Bieber, Paul McCartney, Leonard Cohen, Ziggy Marley, music bands such as Metallica, Editors, Placebo, LCD Soundsystem, MGMT, and the Irish dance troop Riverdance, as well as some other less known artists and groups.

Nevertheless, those who have supported and joined this boycott see the struggle against the alleged "*Israeli apartheid*" as the motto behind its launching or support. The political circumstances that arose from the persisting reluctance to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and have to a great deal been a result of excessive and intolerant demands on the part of Palestinians and Arabs are entirely disregarded. It is more than clear and apparent that the campaign has been directed against the idea of Israel's existence as a state, and particularly as a Jewish state. The fact that the right of the Jews to have their own state and homeland is entirely denied or at least ignored, though there are 22 Arab states and 57 Islamic countries, is normally not used as a pretext for the same and similar action against those who put forward excessive, racist and nationalist attitudes, principally the Arab Corpus. Indisputable results of the action and campaign also include an excellent organization on the part of its initiators and networking with naturally numerous compatriots, who also make a respectable share of the population and citizens in many European, North American (USA, Canada) and South American countries, as well as in the New Continent – Australia.

The campaign primarily addresses the sympathy immanent to the European and American democratic sense of law and justice and the tendency to take sides with "the formally weaker side in the conflict". The fact that many of the initiators of such actions originate from Arab and Islamic countries whose citizens have much more limited rights in terms of fundamental citizen and human rights, is either fully or almost fully disregarded. For example, **women** are deprived of the right to political vote; they are not allowed to practice certain jobs and activities (e.g. sports); education is not allowed for female children; men and women must stay physically separated at work, in the street and at sport stadiums; in case of divorce, law stipulates that women are deprived of their rights; women are subjected to forcible, painful and inhuman genital mutilation; they are not allowed to freely choose their husbands; selling and forced marriages of girls younger than 14 are stipulated by law. In these countries, brutal and inhuman **forms of punishment** (cutting off arms or legs, stoning, hanging, etc.) for

some offences are still used. Minority populations, including those of Islamic faith (such as Shiite and Sunni, Kurds, Berbers, Druze), are **not allowed to participate in political life** – to elect and be elected; this particularly applies to members of non-Muslim minority populations, such as Copts, Armenians, Jews, Africans, etc. **Sexual minority groups** (homosexuals, lesbians, transsexuals, etc.) **are denied their rights** and in some countries they are even subjected to punishments such as public hanging or stoning. Minority groups (Berbers, Armenians, etc.) are **banned by law to use their mother tongue**.

Let's get back to the main motto behind the calls for joining the campaign: "**Israel as an apartheid state**". According to the dictionary definition 'apartheid' is "*a political and social doctrine that legally stipulates political, social, educational, cultural, economic, sport, healthcare, religious and spatial segregation of members of various races, nations or religions, whereas such conditions in a society are achieved by segregation development in all of the mentioned areas, provided for and regulated by law*".

The first step in constructing segregation throughout a social system resting on apartheid would also include language segregation, i.e. the unequal status of the language spoken by the ethnic minority. However, this is not true in case of Israel. On the contrary, the Arabic language, as a minority language, is used on an equal footing at all levels of public life as the majority language.

Through these images we wish to show a number of examples of the public use of the Arabic language, as regulated by law.



Names of streets, neighbourhoods and other public places are also given in the Arabic language



Text on traffic signs along all highways and roads is also given in the Arabic language



Text on traffic signs along all highways and roads is also given in the Arabic language



Tourist signs are also supplied with labels in the Arabic language



Text on notes and coins is also given in Arabic language



Text on notes and coins is also given in Arabic language



Labels on institutions (The Israel Museum and Knesset – the Parliament of Israel) are also provided in Arabic language

The explanation who is one of the chief initiators and bearers of *The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel* (PACBI) most strikingly reveals the absurdity of the campaign aimed at depicting Israel as “an apartheid state”.



The explanation who is one of the chief initiators and bearers of The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) most strikingly reveals the absurdity of the campaign aimed at depicting Israel as ‘an apartheid state’. That person is **OMAR BARGHOUTI**, an Arab (not a Palestinian) born in 1964 in Qatar, a Persian Gulf country. As a child, he lived in Egypt; as an adult young man, he moved to Ramallah, a

West-Bank town, at the time when it was governed by the Israeli occupation authorities.

In April 2004, Barghouti launched the mentioned *Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel* together with an American

citizen (of an American mother and an Afghan father), a journalist and teacher Lisa Taraki, who also moved to Ramallah and married a West-Bank Palestinian.

What makes his activities related to the launching of the campaign that depicts Israel as an 'apartheid country' even more absurd is the fact that he is currently studying for a master's student in philosophy at Tel Aviv University, though he is a foreigner without Israeli citizenship, namely an Arab coming from a country which does not have diplomatic relations with Israel. He thereby joined a large number of Israeli Arabs (Palestinians) who are also enrolled in MA and PhD programs at the same university. As a foreigner, he is, naturally, obliged to pay a student fee, which is a normal practice that applies to foreign students at universities all over the world. Asked by journalists to comment on the fact that he had enrolled in an MA programme at a university in Israel, he briefly replied: "*My studies at Tel Aviv University are a personal matter and I have no interest in commenting*".

After he had initiated the academic, cultural and all other forms of boycott of Israel, a group of students from the mentioned university signed a petition to expel him from the faculty. However, the Board of Directors of Tel Aviv University refused to do it. **Apartheid!?!**

In reply to Barghouti's criticism of Israel, Samir El-Youssef, a Palestinian writer and critic with a degree in philosophy, who now lives in London, UK, has said: „*Barghouti's 'true peace based on justice' is that Israel must be punished, brought down to its knees, before a Palestinian is allowed [by other Palestinians, comment by A. A.] to greet an Israeli in the street*".

The words of El-Youssef are best confirmed by this story: <http://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-principal-in-hot-water-over-israeli-beach-party/>. The story speaks of the decision of the Palestinian Ministry of Education to fire the West-Coast Palestinian principal Mohammad Abou Samra only because he "allowed" a group of his pupils to join Israeli teenagers for a beach party during their visit to a beach in Jaffa, Israel.

Taking all these facts into consideration, a crucial and logical question arises: how could Omar Barghouti, as an Arab, be given the right to get a master's degree at an Israeli university if Israel is really an apartheid state that, according to Barghouti, uses "*racist and apartheid policies*" against Arabs.

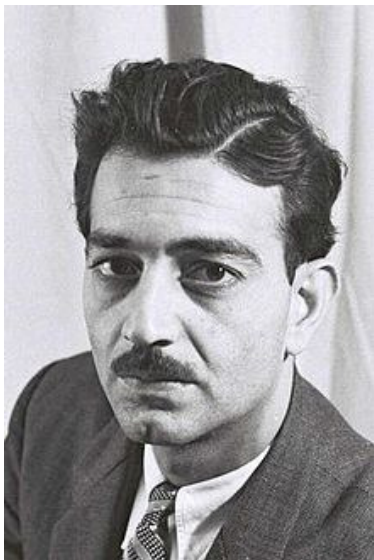
The following series of short biographies of "those" who are not Jews but do have the Israeli citizenship and the overview of their personal, educational and professional successes achieved in the Israeli society are meant to show the 'other Israel', unknown to many people worldwide and considerably different from the image imposed by supporters of *The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel* and *Israeli Apartheid Week*.

Prominent Arabs, Palestinians, Druze and Bedouins – Muslims and Christians – citizens of Israel

SEIF EL-DIN EL-ZOUBI



an Arab, born in Nazareth in 1913. Already in 1949, a year after the proclamation of the Israeli state, he became a member of the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) as a member and representative of the first and, at that time, the only Arab party in Israel^{2*} – the *Democratic List of Nazareth*, which supported and advocated the co-existence of Arabs and Jews. In 1951, he was re-elected to the Knesset as a member of another Arab party – the *Democratic List for Israeli Arabs*. In 1973, he was the Deputy Speaker of the Knesset (Parliament). Furthermore, he was the Mayor of Nazareth, a town in northern Israel, for 16 years, over several election terms. **Apartheid !?!**



IMIL (EMILE) SHUKRI HABIBI

a Christian Arab, born in Haifa in 1922, a writer and politician. He was the founder of the *Israeli Communist Party* and the founder and editor of the communist newspaper *Al-Itihad* (in Arabic "*The Union*"), issued daily in Israel in the Arabic language. He was also a member of the Knesset for two terms, i.e. for twenty years in total. In a survey carried out in 2005, he was voted among the 200 greatest Israelis of all time. In 1990, he received the Al-Quds Prize from the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), and in 1992, the Israel Prize for Arabic literature.

Habibi's willingness to receive the latter award aroused significant criticism from some Arab intellectuals, to whom he replied: "*A dialogue of prizes is better than a dialogue of stones and bullets. This is an indirect recognition of the Arabs in Israel, as a nation. This is recognition of a national culture [Arab culture, comment by A. A.]. It will help the Arab population in its struggle to strike roots in the land and win equal rights*". **Apartheid !?!**

^{2*} It is very important to point out that since the very first year of its existence as a state Israel's law provided for (and it still does to this day) the possibility of establishing a minority political party, in this case an Arab party. On the other hand, a hundred-odd years after the first Arab states were established, not a single among 22 Arab states has provided by law for the possibility of establishing a minority (Berber, Coptic, Druze, etc.) political party, though their minorities number in the millions. The only exceptions are Lebanon, where the Druze are given such a possibility, and Iraq, where this right is granted to Kurds.



ABDEL RAHMAN ZUABI

a Muslim Arab, born in 1932 in the Arab village of Sulam, in northern Israel. He was the first Arab (Palestinian) to graduate law and economy from Tel Aviv University. He served as a judge of the Regional Court in Nazareth for seven years, to be **appointed as the first Palestinian judge of the Supreme Court of Israel**. He held that function temporarily, for nine months. **Apartheid !?!**



SALIM JOUBRAN

a Christian Arab (a semi-Lebanese) born in 1947 in Haifa. He graduated from the Terra Santa School of the Franciscan Order in the Israeli town of Acre and acquired a degree in law at the *Hebrew University of Jerusalem*. After twelve years of private practice, he first became a judge of the Israeli Magistrate Court of Haifa and then a judge of the District Court in Haifa. In 2003, he was first **appointed** as a temporary and a year later as a **permanent judge of the Supreme Court of Israel**. He was the first Arab to be appointed as a permanent judge of the Supreme Court.

In his career as a judge of the Supreme Court of Israel, Joubran was one of the three judges who led the proceedings against the former President of Israel Moshe Katsav and upheld his conviction for sexual harassment and rape.

Joubran was a lecturer at the Faculty of Law of Haifa University. He was also a governor of *Israeli Rotary* and the chairman of the *Zeltner Fund* for legal research under the auspices of *Rotary Israel* and Tel Aviv University. **Apartheid !?!**



ALI YAHYA

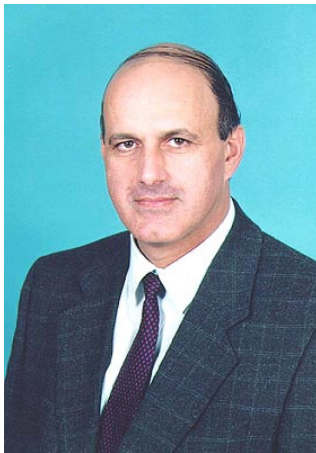
a Muslim Arab, born in 1947 in Kafr Kanna, a small town in northern Israel. He graduated in history and Arabic literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1970. Yahya took his first job at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel, where he soon became appointed the coordinator of the Special Projects Division for the Middle East and the Peace Process. He was later appointed Director General of the Akiva Language Institute (Ulpan Akiva) in Netanya, where he also taught the Arabic language and Arab culture.

Yahya taught Arabic at Tel Aviv University, Israeli Senior Police College, and the Israel Foreign Ministry Cadet Training Program. In 1995, he was appointed as a member of the Board of Directors of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, where he was in charge of Arabic and radio programmes.

In 1995, Ali Yahya was appointed the Israeli ambassador to Finland and was the first Muslim Arab (Palestinian) to become an Israeli ambassador. He held that position for four years, until 1999.

Between 2000 and 2006, he held several important functions: he served as the Coordinator and Advisor for Special Projects at the Department for the Middle East Peace Process; the Chairman of the Board of The Arab Institute at the Central Galilee College; a Member of the Board of Trustees at The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace and a Member of the Board of Trustees at The Max Stern Academic College of Emek Yezreel.

In 2006, he was appointed as Israeli ambassador for the second time, in this occasion to Greece. Apartheid !?!



SALAH TARIF

a Muslim Druze, born in 1954 in the Druze village of Julis, in northern Israel. As an adult young man, he served in the Israel Defence Forces in a parachute and tank corps. He graduated from the University of Haifa, where he served as a deputy chairman of the student union. Having graduated, Tarif became the Mayor of Julis and chaired the board of Druze and Circassian (an ethnic group, a people of Muslim faith originating from Circassia, Russia), mayors. Between 1992 and 2006, he was a member of Israel's Parliament – the Knesset.

In 2001, the then Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon appointed him as a **Minister** without Portfolio in **Israel's Government**. **Apartheid !?!**



NAWAF MASSALHA

a Muslim Arab, born in 1943 in Kafr Qara, a town in northern Israel. He graduated from Tel Aviv University. He was a member of the Knesset for five years. Already during his first term as a parliament member, Massalha was appointed / elected Deputy Speaker of the Knesset. In 1992, the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appointed him **Deputy Minister of Health in Israel's**

Government, whereas in the Government of Ehud Barak, he was the **Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs** and held that position until 2003. **Apartheid !?!**



MAJALLI WAHABI

a Muslim Druze, born in 1954 in the Druze village of Beit Jann, in northern Israel. He served in the Israel Defence Forces and earned the rank of lieutenant colonel. Wahabi graduated in history from the Hebrew University of Israel in Jerusalem and acquired an MA degree in the History of the New Middle East at the University of Haifa. For eleven years, between 2003 and 2013, he was a member of Israel's Parliament and he also held the position of the **Deputy Speaker of the Knesset**. In 2006, he was appointed **Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sport**, whereas in 2007, he became the **Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel** in the Government of Ehud Olmert.

In February 2007, after Moshe Katsav had been compelled to withdraw from the position, in the absence of the Knesset Speaker, Dalia Itzik, Majalli Wahabi assumed the position of the **Acting President of Israel**. He was the first non-Jew to hold that position.

Furthermore, he was the **Director General of the Ministry of Regional Cooperation** (1999–2002), a **Senior Political Advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (1998–1999) and the **Aide to the Minister of Infrastructure** (1996–99). **Apartheid !?!**



RANA RASLAN

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), born in 1977 in Haifa. **In 1999**, at the **Miss Israel** beauty contest she was elected the most beautiful Israeli (a citizen of Israel) and the same year she represented Israel at the Miss Universe contest. **Apartheid !?!**





REDA MANSOUR

a Muslim Druze, born in 1965 in the Druze village of Isfiya, in northern Israel. He is a writer, historian and a diplomat. He graduated from Harvard University as a Wexner Israel Fellow. Mansour acquired his PhD degree at the University of Haifa. He received the University of Haifa Miller Award and State President Scholarship for young writers. He has been the first non-Jew writer, to write in Hebrew. Mansour was the chairman of the Israeli branch of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization.

Reda Mansour began his political career as the Deputy Chief of Mission at Israel's embassy in Portugal and later worked for the Israeli Consulate in San Francisco, USA. At the age of 35, he was appointed **Israel's ambassador to Ecuador**, becoming the youngest appointed and accredited ambassador of Israel ever. He is now holding the position of Consul at the Israeli Consulate General in Atlanta, USA.

Along with being an ambassador, Mansour was a board member of the Jewish Healthcare International, the U.S - Israel Chamber of Commerce in Atlanta, the Israel Cultural Institute in Ecuador, etc. **Apartheid !?!**



WALID BADIR

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), born in 1974. He began his career in the junior team of Hapoel Kafr Qasim and later played for Maccabi Haifa.

In 2005, he signed for Hapoel Tel Aviv, where he became the team

captain.

He is currently the **team captain of Maccabi Tel Aviv**. Badir appeared in 76 matches of the national team of Israel. **Apartheid !?!**



MIRA ANWAR AWAD

a Christian Arab (her father is a Christian Arab, while her mother is Bulgarian), born in 1975 in the village of Rameh in Galilee, in northern Israel. She now lives in Tel Aviv. Mira Awad is a singer, actress and a composer.

Mira Awad studied at the Rimon School of Jazz and Contemporary

Music in Ramat HaSharon (a town in central Israel). Having received a scholarship from the America-Israel Culture Foundation, she also studied theatrical body movement in Israel and England.

She began her artistic career as an actress in the popular Israeli TV series *Arab Labour*, a sitcom that has aired on Channel 2 in Israel since 2007. It has been created by Sayed Kashua, an Israeli Palestinian.

Together with the Israeli singer Achinoam Nini, who is Jewish (image to the right), Mira Awad **won the Israeli national selection for the Eurovision Song Contest** with the song *There Must be Another Way*, **which also contains lyrics in Arabic**. That same year, the two singers represented Israel at the international Eurovision Song Contest. **Apartheid !?!**



YUSEF MISHLEB

a Muslim Druze, born in 1952. As a **major general in the Israel Defence Forces** he was the highest ranking non-Jewish, Muslim officer in the Israeli armed forces.

The last position held by Mishleb was the Coordinator of Government Activities in the (occupied) Territories. **After a 35-year long career in the Israeli army**, where most of the time he held the rank of an officer, Mishleb retired in 2008. **Apartheid !?!**



NAIM ARAIDI a Muslim Druze, born in 1950 in the village of Kfar Maghar, in northern Israel. He acquired a PhD degree in Hebrew literature and lectured at two Israeli state-run universities: the University of Haifa and Bar-Ilan University. He is also the Dean of the Arab Academic College for Education in Haifa and a Board member of the prestigious Israeli *Sapir Prize for Literature*. In 2008, Araidi received the Prime Minister's Award for Hebrew Literature.

In 2012, Naim Araidi was appointed and accredited as the Israeli ambassador to Norway. **Apartheid !?!**



GEORGE DEEK

a Christian Arab (Palestinian), born in 1984 in Jaffa. He is an officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel. For two years, he served as the **Deputy Head of the Diplomatic Mission of Israel to Nigeria**, to be appointed in mid-2012 as the **Vice-Ambassador of Israel to Norway** (the Ambassador is the Druze Naim Araid). **Apartheid !?!**



SAYED KASHUA

an Arab (Palestinian), born in Tira (central Israel), a journalist, writer and screenplay writer. He attended a prestigious boarding school in Jerusalem, *The Israel Arts and Science Academy*, and studied sociology and philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As a journalist, he writes satirical columns for the famous Israeli journal *Haaretz*, as well as for the Tel Aviv weekly *Ha'ir*. His satirical columns usually depict everyday life in Israel from the perspective of an "average" Arab (Palestinian).

Kashua wrote the script for the TV series *Arab*

Labour, a sitcom with dialogues in Arabic, subtitled in Hebrew. The series shows everyday "dealings" of an average Israeli Arab (Palestinian) distraught between being "loyal" to his origin and the (Jewish) state and society, in which he is living.

Sayed Kashua **won the Award for Best Television Series** at the 2009 Jerusalem Film Festival for *Arab Labour*. Before this, in 2004, Kashua received the **Prime Minister's Award for Hebrew Literature**. In 2001, he won the prestigious **Bernstein Prize**, an Israeli literary prize awarded to writers younger than 50. **Apartheid !?!**



DR. MASSAD BARHOUM

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), a medical doctor. He was the first Arab (Palestinian) to be **appointed Director General of a state-run hospital in Israel**.

In 2007, among six candidates, physicians who applied for the position of the head of the largest and the most important medical centre in northern Israel – *Western Galilee Hospital* in Nahariya, the Civil Service Commission of the Ministry of Health of Israel selected and appointed Dr. Massad Barhoum as the Director General. He still holds that position. **Apartheid !?!**



TAWFIQ ZIAD

a Muslim Arab, born in 1929. He studied literature in the USSR. Having returned to Israel in **1973**, he was **elected Mayor of Nazareth** (in northern Israel), the sixth largest city in the country. As a member of the Rakah, a Palestinian communist party, that same year, he became a member of the Knesset (Parliament). His activities and his writings were focused on improving the status of the Arab Palestinians both in Israel and in the "Occupied Territories" (West Bank).

His criticism was particularly directed at the conditions for Palestinians in Israeli prisons and he dedicated a column in the Israeli newspaper *Al HaMishmar* to this topic. In July 1994, Ziad welcomed in Jericho the leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat after he had returned from exile. **Apartheid !?!**



RAMIZ JARAISSY

a Christian Arab (Palestinian), born in 1951. He graduated in mechanical engineering and acquired his master's degree in civil engineering at the Israel Institute of Technology – Technion, University of Haifa. Jaraisy is the founder of two Arab student unions in Israel: one is the student union of the Technion, whereas the other is a national Arab union (for Israel).

In 1978, Jaraisy was first elected to the City Council of Nazareth, a town in northern Israel. He then served as Deputy Mayor (when the Mayor was also an Arab Palestinian – Tawfiq Zaid). Following Zaid's death in 1994, Jaraisy was **elected Mayor of Nazareth**, the sixth largest city in Israel. He held that position for four terms, i.e. for sixteen years. **Apartheid !?!**

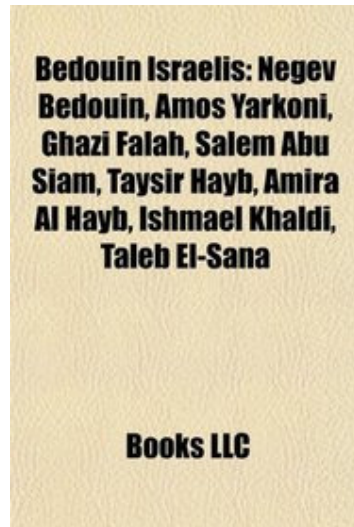


ELINOR JOSEPH

a Christian Arab (Palestinian), born in 1991 in the village of Jish, in northern Israel. **She has been the first Arab woman to serve in a combat unit of the Israel Defence Forces** (IDF), namely in the Caracal Battalion, an infantry unit composed of both Jews and Arabs (Palestinians). Women make 70 percent of this battalion. Elinor Joseph's elder sister, **Lauren**, also served in the Israeli Paratroopers Brigade. While serving in the army, Elinor first completed a medic's training

course, and then served in the Military Police. [She now holds the rank of a junior officer in the Israeli army.](#)

In his newspaper article, the Israeli Palestinian journalist Suleiman al-Shafi has argued that Elinor Joseph is not the first Arab Palestinian woman to serve in the combat units of the Israel Defence Forces, but the first one to publicly disclose that fact and let images of her wearing the Israeli uniform be published. **Apartheid !?!**



BEDOUIN ISRAELIS is the title of the book dealing with those members of the Negev (a desert area in southern Israel) Bedouin community who serve in the Israeli Defence Forces. Bedouins are nomadic Arab tribes. Some Bedouin tribes live in the Negev desert in southern Israel. They are Muslim. Since the establishment of Israel as a state in 1948, a great number of Bedouin men have served in the Israeli army (IDF), the most of them in the border and reconnaissance units. So it is now. But what is new in this book is the reference to individual Bedouin women who still serve in the Israeli army (IDF). See [link: http://www.paperbackswap.com/Bedouin-Israelis-Negev-Amos-Yarkoni/book/1155517210/](http://www.paperbackswap.com/Bedouin-Israelis-Negev-Amos-Yarkoni/book/1155517210/)



AMIRA AL HAYB

a Muslim Bedouin, born in 1985. She has been the [first Bedouin woman to serve in Israeli combat units.](#) She is one of those whose life has been described in the above-mentioned book *Bedouin Israelis*. As a child, she lived in the Bedouin village of Wadi Hamaam, on the coast of the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel.

At the age of 19, Amira al Hayb joined the Israeli army (IDF), where she served in the Border Police. Although it is common for male Bedouins to serve in the Israeli army, her decision to join the army as a woman caused great discontent, particularly among her fellow Bedouins who support a hardline concept of Islam (Al Hayb's family house was even stoned).



However, her father **Nur al Hayb**, a veteran of the Israeli army (IDF), has supported her. Following her decision, a number of young girls – Bedouin women, joined the Israeli army. **Apartheid !?!**

Amira al Hayb's brother **Taysir Hayb** (image to the left) served in the Israeli army and achieved the rank of a sergeant.

Having accidentally killed an English peace activist and a member of the pro-Palestinian International Solidarity

Movement, Tom Hurndall, in 2003, he was sentenced to an eight-year imprisonment. After he had served five years of his sentence, Hayb was released from military prison.



NAZAR MAHMUD

a Druze (of a Muslim Druze father, and a Ukrainian mother, Christian), born in 1988 in Russia. His father later returned to Israel, taking with him his wife and son. Nazar and his younger brother Ruslan are the first Druze figure skaters ever. Nazar Mahmud participated in four Israeli Junior Grand Prix figure skating championships, and one senior competition.

Together with his brother Ruslan, as a representative of Israel, Nazar participated in four senior international figure skating championships (Bulgaria, Germany, France, Slovenia) and one junior international competition (Zagreb 2003/2004). He is currently serving in the Israeli army. **Apartheid !?!**



AHMAD TIBI

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), born in 1958 in the Arab town of Tayibe, in central Israel. He is a politician and the leader of one (Ta'al – Arab Movement for Renewal) of the three Palestinian Arab parties in Israel which have their representatives in the Israeli Assembly/Parliament – the Knesset. He was elected to the Parliament and **appointed Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, which position he still holds.** **Apartheid !?!**

He graduated in 1983 in medicine from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Already in 1984, he was employed as a doctor at one of the largest and best Israeli state-run hospitals – The Hadassah Medical Centre in Jerusalem.

That same year, Tibi travelled to Tunisia to meet the leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), Yasser Arafat. He soon became the political advisor to Arafat, and performed that function for several years. Tibi even represented the Palestinians in negotiations with Israel in 1998 at the Aspen Institute Wye River Conference Centers, Maryland, USA. He describes himself as a "Palestinian patriot", though a loyal citizen of Israel. He also said: "*The person responsible on behalf of the Palestinian people for everything that*

was done in the Israel-Palestinian conflict [both for peace and war; comment by A. A.) is Yasser Arafat", and explained that Arafat was the person who had the greatest influence and that his contacts and relationship with Arafat had been "close" and "extremely interesting and important." Tibi later visited the Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas, and urged him "to hold firm in refusing to recognize Israel as a Jewish state".

Tibi withdrew from the position of the advisor to the Palestinian Authority in 1999, when he was elected deputy to the Israeli Parliament – the Knesset as a member of the Arab Palestinian Balad party (before he would establish another party - Ta'al).



Dr. ANAN FALAH

a Muslim Druze, born in the Israeli port Acre, in northern Israel. She comes from a poor rural family and has six other siblings. Anan Falah has been the first Druze woman in Israel to become a dentist, and she now **works as a civil servant at the Ministry of Health of Israel, namely as a supervisor** at a dental clinic in the Arab sector. Along with being a jury member at beauty contests, she also "dreams of

becoming a judge".

What is particularly interesting about her is that in 2001, she obtained a civil pilot licence in the Israeli flight training centres in Beersheba, Rosh Pina and Cyprus, **becoming the first Druze woman with a pilot's licence.** **Apartheid !?!**

(<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4229576,00.html>)



Prompted by her success, and her brother **Zaid Falah** also passed the course in 2003rd, and he became the first Druze who was licensed as a civil pilots.

Otherwise, Zaid's first bachelor's degree, and then master's degree of law and philosophy at the state-run University of Tel Aviv, and academic experience gained in the study of "Max-Planck Institute for Comparative and International Criminal Law" in Freiburg, Germany.

Military service in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) **he served as a military prosecutor and the judge, in the rank of major.**

Since 2005. he was appointed a judge of the District Court in Haifa. Apartheid !?!



GHALEB MAJADELE

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), born in 1953 in the Arab town of Baqa al-Gharbiyye. He is a politician and a businessman. As a teenager, he was a member and one-time secretary of the Israeli youth movement No'al. As a businessman, he was the secretary of the Regional Workers Council and, later, the head of the Education and Sport Department of the Histadrut Trade Union.

In 2004, as a member of the Israeli Labour Party, he was elected to the Knesset – the Israeli Parliament. He was re-elected as a Knesset member for additional two terms, which means that he was a parliament member for eleven years in total, until 2013.

In 2007, the Israeli cabinet elected by a vast majority and appointed Majadele first as a Minister without Portfolio, and, two months later, as the Minister of Science, Culture and Sports in the Government of Israel. He held the position of a Minister for three years, until 2009. **Apartheid !?!**



SALMAN S. ZARKA

a Muslim Druze, a lieutenant colonel in the Israeli army. He has been the first Druze to be appointed head of the Medical Corps in the Northern Command of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and is one of the six Druze doctors serving in the Israeli army.

In his civilian life, Zarka is a doctor in the public health sector. He graduated in medicine at the state-run University of Haifa and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He currently holds the position of the Medical Assistant to the General Manager at the Ministry of Health of Israel, and is a medical lecturer at the School of Public Health at the University of Haifa. **Apartheid!?!**



These data are provided by AHMED RAMIZ, Zarka's colleague, also a Muslim Druze. He is a colonel in the Israeli army and the head of the Minorities Unit in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF).

Ramiz gives and the following interesting information about the Druze: the percentage of the Druze Israelis applying for service in the Israeli army is 84, compared to

an average of 74 percent among other Israelis. Furthermore, while Druze Israelis make only 1.6 percent of soldiers in the Israeli army, they make as much as 16 percent of the military medical personnel in the combat units of the Israel Defence Forces. For additional information, see the following link: (<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4031606,00.html>). **Apartheid !?!**



ISMAIL KHALDI

a Muslim Bedouin, born in 1971, in Khawaled, an Arab village near Haifa. He is the third of eleven children in his family. Together with all of his male siblings, he served in the Israeli army. His family has maintained ties with Jews since 1920. Khaldi considers himself a proud Bedouin and believes that the Jewish state is beneficial to his Bedouin community.



Khaldi acquired a university degree in Political Science at Haifa University, and an MA degree in political science and international relations at Tel Aviv University. He worked for the Ministry of Defence and the Israeli police and was also as a political analyst in the Israeli army (IDF).

In 2006, Khaldi was **appointed and accredited Vice Consul at the Israeli Consulate in San Francisco, USA**. He held this position for four years, and in 2009, was appointed **Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel** – in the Government of Avigdor Lieberman. **Apartheid !?!**



ANGELINA FARES

a Muslim Druze, born in 1989, in the Druze village of Rameh. **She won the Miss Israel Beauty Contest in 2007, and represented Israel at the 2007 Miss Universe Pageant** held in Russia. Among eighty contestants from all

over the world, she finished tenth. **Apartheid !?!** Angelina Fares withdrew from competition and later left high school due to protests and threats from

her Druze community, particularly from their religious leaders, and even from her two uncles, because of the alleged "dishonour caused" by her participation in such a contest.



LUCY AHARISH

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), born in 1981 in the Israeli town of Dimona. She is a television presenter and a reporter. Speaking about her origins in an interview to the Israeli pro-government newspaper *Haaretz*, Lucy Aharish said: "My mother always told us: 'Remember that you are Arab girls – different'. She made sure to impart to us who and what we are – tradition and holidays – and

to speak to us in Arabic at home."

Lucy Aharish graduated in social science and theatre from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and journalism from the Koteret School of Journalism in Tel Aviv. Then she went on an internship in Germany for one and a half years. Having returned to Israel, Lucy Aharish worked briefly as an Arab affairs reporter for the renowned Israeli newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth* and in 2007, she became the first Arab (Palestinian) woman to work as a **presenter and speaker in several programmes on the popular Israeli TV Channel 10**. She later worked as a reporter for morning and evening shows of the same TV channel.

Lucy Aharish now works for the Israeli Channel 1 as a co-host of a night show and a show for teenagers dealing with current events. **Apartheid!?!**



AYOOB KARA

a Muslim Druze, born in 1955 in the Druze town of Daliyat al-Karmel, near Haifa. He is a politician. His family's friendship with the Jews dates back to the period preceding World War II, when one of his uncles was, alongside with Jews, killed by Arabs in the so-called Arab riots of 1939. In the war for Israel's independence in 1948, Kara's father and another uncle, who was also killed by Arabs, fought as members of the Israeli army (IDF). In a twist of tragic fate, his two brothers were killed in the 1982 Lebanon War as Israeli soldiers. Kara describes himself as an Israeli

patriot, and considers Israel his home country.

Kara completed the agricultural high school in Kfar Galim and studied business administration. He served in the Israel Defence Forces and attained the rank of a major. In 1996, Kara became a member of the Israeli parliament – the Knesset, to be **appointed Deputy Speaker of the Knesset in 1999**.

He served as the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Workers. In 2003, he became the chairman of the Anti-Drug Committee.

In 2009, Kara was appointed **Deputy Minister of the Development of the Negev and Galilee**. He is a right-oriented politician and he opposed Israel's unilateral disengagement from the Gaza strip and the West Bank. **Apartheid!?!**



GEORGE KARRA

a Christian Arab (Palestinian), born in 1953 in Jaffa, an attorney at law and judge. Karra graduated in law from Tel Aviv University. After 15 years of private practice, he was appointed a judge of the Tel Aviv Magistrate Court. Since 2000, Karra was a judge of the Tel Aviv District Court, to be **appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Israel** in 2011.

There is an interesting fact related to of his career as a judge: Karra was one of the judges who convicted the former President of Israel Moshe Katsav under the accusation of rape. **Apartheid !?!**



KHALED ABU TOAMEH

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), born in 1963 in Tulkarem, an Arab city on the West Bank. His father is an Israeli Palestinian, while his mother a West-Bank Palestinian (at the time of his birth, the West Bank was occupied by Jordan). He is an Arab Israeli journalist, lecturer and a documentary filmmaker. Abu Toameh studied journalism at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. After graduation, he worked as a senior journalist and reporter for the Israeli weekly *The Jerusalem Report* and the Palestinian daily newspaper *Al-Fajr*. He also worked as a correspondent for several foreign newspapers, such as "*U.S. News and World Report*", "*Wall Street Journal*", "*World Tribune*", "*Sunday Times*", "*Daily Express*". As a producer, he made several documentaries about Palestinians in Israel and the West Bank for the BBC, Channel 4, Australian, Danish and Swedish television. As a guest lecturer at several camps and workshops, he spoke about the current situation on the West Bank, Gaza and the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

Khaled Abu Toameh has often written about "tricky" issues, such as arrested journalists in the Palestinian Territory, corruption and sexual scandals related to the leaders of the Palestinian Authority. Particularly interesting is his exclusive interview with the former official of the Palestinian intelligence service Fahmi Shabaneh in the Israeli newspaper *The Jerusalem Post* in 2011.

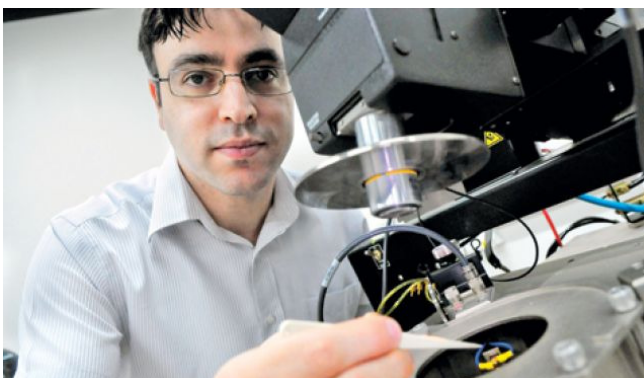
In 2009, in a panel discussion of the Gatestone Institute in New York, Among other things he said: "*Israel is a free and open country. If I were given the choice, I would rather live in Israel as a second-class citizen than as a*

first-class citizen in Cairo, Gaza, Amman or Ramallah [on the West Bank; comment by A. A.]". His whole speech in the discussion on the topic of "Islam Today" can be read at the following link: <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/511/islam-today-1>.

On the same occasion, he made a comment regarding the so-called Durban Review Conference, or Durban II, held in Switzerland in 2009. Just like the first conference held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001, it was conceived and announced as a conference against racism and xenophobia. However, both conferences bore a strong mark of clear-cut and orchestrated criticism of Israel as an allegedly "racist country" and resulted in a declaration "condemning Israel as a country of racism and apartheid." In his comments regarding the participation of some Arab Palestinians, citizens of Israel, in such a conference and the fact that they most loudly supported the adoption of such a resolution, Khaled Abu Toameh expressed his criticism towards them and stressed that it was absurd that most of them were in fact members of the Israeli Parliament – the Knesset, for which they got good salaries; but they came to claim Israel was an apartheid state, rather than fighting for the status of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel in the Parliament which they live off (similar opinion and criticism could be seen in an interview of another Palestinian Arab – Hisham Abu Varia, see page 25).

Nevertheless, Khaled Abu Toameh proceeded: *"And then they come here to tell us that Israel is a state of apartheid? Excuse me. What kind of hypocrisy is this? What then are you doing in the Knesset [Israeli Parliament]? If you are living in an apartheid system, why were you allowed, as an Arab, to run in the election? What are you talking about? We do have problems as Arabs with the establishment [state, Israel, comment A. A.] here. But to come and say that Israel is an apartheid state is a big exaggeration. I am not here to defend Israel, but I think that Knesset members like this gentlemen [he referred to Knesset members who attended the conference held in Switzerland; comment by A. A.] are doing huge damage to the cause of Israeli Arabs. I want to see a Knesset member sitting in the Knesset, in Jerusalem, and fighting for the rights of Arabs over there".*

Khaled Abu Toameh, has been working as a journalist for 30 years. He now works for the Israeli daily newspaper *The Jerusalem Post*, and as a senior advisor at the Gatestone Institute in New York, USA. Apartheid!?!



DR. HOSSAM HAICK

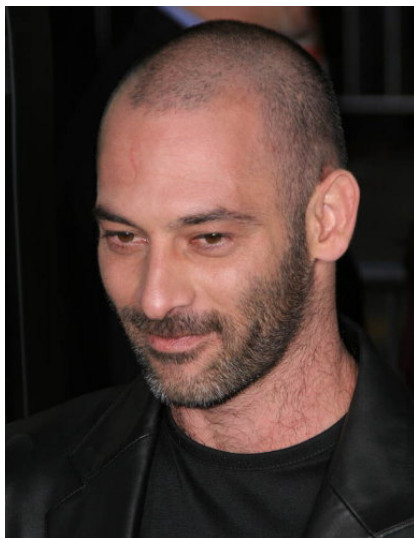
a Christian Arab (Palestinian), born in 1975 in Nazareth, in northern Israel. Going in the footsteps of his father, a professor and a mechanical engineer who graduated from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, University of Haifa, Hossam acquired a PhD degree in chemistry

at the same University in 2002. Before that, he had graduated in chemical engineering from the state-run Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba, in southern Israel. Having completed his doctoral studies, Haick first enrolled in a two-year postdoctoral programme in molecular electronics at the prestigious Israeli Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot (central Israel), and then won another postdoc fellowship in nanotechnology and materials science at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, USA.

In 2008, the famous technology magazine of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *Technology Review*, listed Dr. Hossam Haick among the top 35 the most successful young scientists in the world, whereas in 2010, he received the medal of the Knight of the Academic Palms from the French government. "*Les Palmes Académiques*" is one of the oldest civil decorations; it was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1808 to honour pioneering contributions to social work and science.

After he had completed the postdoctoral programme in the USA, Dr. Haick received offers from several leading US universities, including the prestigious University of California, Berkeley, to continue his research there. All of them were ready to fulfil his requirements related to laboratories and research. However, he decided to return to Israel, and in 2006, he applied for a job at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, University of Haifa, where he was eventually selected, among 27 other researchers. **With total funds of about one million US dollars received from the Technion**, he has set up seven research labs and two classrooms. Together with a team including 27 scientists and 14 technology developers, Dr. Haick has focused his research on electronic detection of several types of cancer in an early stage.

His wife is an engineer and she is employed at the Ministry of Health of Israel. **Apartheid !?!**



ASHRAF BARHOM

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), born in 1979 in the Arab village of Tarshiha in northern Israel. He is a film actor.

As a boy, he performed in school plays. He later graduated in theatre and art at the University of Haifa. **Barhom has appeared in dozens of Israeli** and international films, and **in several of them he played the lead male roles**. In the film *The Kingdom*, he played the important role of Colonel Faris al-Ghazi alongside the actor Jamie Foxx. He also appeared in famous films such as *Clash of the Titans*, *Agora*, as well as adaptation of Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*.

Speaking of his ethnic, Arabic heritage, Barhom said: "*When we attach ourselves to national identities, then we enter into a cycle of conflict. I didn't choose where I was born, or who to be, or what people would call me. I'm a hybrid, from a cultural perspective, but I don't think in these terms. I'm more*

simple than that. I'm a mammal who will live 70 years more or less, who believes in God and likes his life". **Apartheid !?!**



ABBAS SUAN

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), born in 1976 in the Arab town of Sakhnin in northern Israel. He is considered to be one of the best football players in Israel. **He appeared in 12 matches of the Israeli national team.** Although he is one of the two Palestinian Arabs who play in the Israeli national football team and refuse to sing the Israeli national anthem *Hatikvah* (because of this, during a local game, he was exposed to racially charged messages written on banners carried by local fans), because it mentions only Jews, he became a national hero in Israel when he scored a last-minute goal in the World Cup qualifying match against Ireland in 2006. This goal took Israel to the 2006 FIFA World Cup. Suan began his career in the local Arab club of Bnei Sakhnin, one of the two Arab clubs in the Israeli Football League^{3*}. With the aforementioned club, he won the State Cup in the 2003/2004 season.

Apart from Bnei Sakhnin, Suan also played for two other Israeli clubs: Maccabi Haifa and Hapoel Kiryat Shmona. He is now a coach of the junior team of Bnei Sakhnin. Along with appearing in other advertising campaigns, Suan is currently the spokesperson for Subaru Motor vehicles in Israel. **Apartheid!?!**



HISHAM ABU VARIA

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), born in 1984 in the Arab town of Sakhnin. **He has been the first Muslim Arab** (Palestinian, and not Bedouin or Druze) **to earn an officer's rank** by serving in the Israeli army. Before applying for military service, at the age of 23, he worked as a school teacher. It is interesting to mention that one of his elder brothers, as well as one of his relatives, also served in the Israeli Army for three years.



The Ihoud Bnei Sakhnin football club (the club emblem is shown to the left) is an Arab club founded in 1991. This is the most successful Arab club in Israel. Ihoud Bnei Sakhnin won the Israeli State Cup in the 2003/2004 season, and was the eighth in the 2011/12 season. The Doha Stadium in Sakhnin has a capacity of 8,500 people. The club's administration, management team and players, also include Jews.

The other Arab club that played in the Israeli Premier League was Hapoel Tayibe, founded in 1961. It was the first Arab Club to enter the Premier League in 1996, but it dropped out of it in 2003. The club uses the Municipal Stadium, which has a capacity of 2,500 people. **Apartheid !?!**

Abu Varia's family (father, mother and brothers) still live according to Muslim traditions and his decision has not been received with approval from his friends and his fiancée. After his army service ends, he plans to enrol in the university. Worth mentioning is also the following observation: "*The Arab sector thinks it's second rate here [in Israel, comment by A. A.], but to get privileges one has to give and not just receive. The state [Israel, comment by A. A.] protects its citizens even if they don't serve – my parents live off income support [he means the support provided by the state, Israel, to all unemployed citizens, no matter whether they are Jews or Arabs; comment by A. A.]. You must contribute to the country you live off. What other country would have an Arab Knesset member, who is being paid by the state, promoting the interests of the Islamic movement and screwing the promotion of the sector he is supposed to represent?*". **Apartheid !?!**



LINA MAKHULI

born in 1993 in Russia. Her father is a Muslim Palestinian Israeli, while her mother is a Russian Christian. When she was five years old, her father returned to Israel, taking her mother and her with him. At the age of 18, she applied for alternative voluntary national civil service. She is serving the voluntary service at the *Rambam* hospital in Haifa, helping children with cancer.

In 2012, Lina Makhuli won the Miss Israel contest as the most beautiful girl and **the same year** she **represented Israel** at the Miss Universe 2012 beauty pageant in Las Vegas, USA. **Apartheid !?!**





ASHRAF BRIK

an Arab Palestinian, born in 1973. He graduated in chemistry from the state-run Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba (southern Israel) and earned an MA degree in 1998 at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, University of Haifa. He acquired his PhD degree in 2001 in the USA, working on a joint project of the Technion and The Scripps Research Institute in California, USA.

Brik returned to Israel in 2007 and got employed as an assistant professor at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. In 2011, he was

appointed full professor at the Department of Chemistry at the Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba.

In 2011, he received the Israel Chemical Society Prize for Outstanding Young Scientists. He is now a full professor at the state-run Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. **Apartheid !?!**



LINA MAKHOUL

a Christian Arab Lebanese, born in 1994 in southern Lebanon. She now lives with her parents in the Israeli town of Acre, on the Mediterranean coast. When Israel withdrew from the Security Zone in southern Lebanon in 2000, about 6,000 Lebanese Christians trying to escape the followers of the Muslim movement Hezbollah accompanied the Israeli army. All of them have settled in Israel.

Lina completed a medical school in Israel, and she now works as a nurse at the Magen David Adom (national aid society of Israel).

In 2013, Lina Makhoul performed three songs at the popular music competition *The Voice Israel*. She sang them in Arabic (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9CbtErFcSY>), French and English, and she made it to the finals, where she won singing Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*

(<http://vimeo.com/62539174>). The show and voting drew a record audience of the Israeli television: about 40 percent, i.e. about 1.5 million potential voters. **Apartheid !?!**



DR. AZIZ DARAWSHE

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), born in 1962 in the Arab village of Iksal in northern Israel. Although his mother was illiterate and his father had only primary education, in a family of 12 children, Aziz acquired both primary and secondary education thanks to the free education system in Israel. Having completed his studies of medicine at the University of Sofia, in Bulgaria, he returned to Israel and began to work at the Medical Center in Ashkelon (port and town in southern Israel). He earned his master's degree at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba.

In 1989, Dr. Darawshe began to work at the Ha'Emek Medical Centre in Afula, a town in northern Israel, to be appointed **Head of the Department of Emergency Medicine** five years later. According to him, more than 40 percent of the patients of this state-run Israeli hospital, as well as a significant number of its medical staff, are Arabs (Palestinians).

In 2010, Dr. Darawshe was elected **Chairman of the Israel Society of Urgent Medicine**.

In 2013, he was appointed **Head of the Department of Emergency Medicine of the Israeli most famous and renowned medical centre – the Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Center in Jerusalem**. **Apartheid !?!**



JAMAL ZAHALKA

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), born in 1955. He studied pharmacy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he graduated and earned his MA and PhD degrees.

Zhalka was first elected to the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, in 2003, and was re-elected in 2006, this time as the leader of the Balad party, one of the three Arab parties which have their representatives in the Israeli parliament.

Zahalka is a **member of several committees in the Knesset: the Committee on Education, Culture and Sports; the Anti-Drug Committee and the Committee on Economic Affairs and Cooperation**. **Apartheid !?!**

It must be pointed out that Zahalka took an active part as a participant, guest and speaker at the "Israeli Apartheid Week" held in Montreal, Canada, in

2007. On that occasion, he criticized Israel for the treatment of Palestinians on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, arguing that *"there was an apartheid system already in place, and that Palestinians lived in territories separated as 'cantons' and were required to carry permits in order to travel between those territories"*. Mr. Zahalka has apparently forgotten that such measures have been taken because of terrorist and suicide attacks performed by Palestinians from these territories. These attacks resulted in about 2000 civilian deaths – from a three-month baby to an 89-year old man – over the past seven or eight years. He also seems to have forgotten that such a situation can be resolved only by a comprehensive political solution in which the Arab world, and particularly the Palestinians, would abandon their maximalist, intolerant political ambitions and demands and accept that the state of Israel as the historic homeland of the Jewish people on its own soil does exist and has the right to exist. The Arabs' right to a nation state is fulfilled through the existence of as many as 22 Arab states. And he has forgotten then they may enjoy the same privileges that he has enjoyed as a non-Jew, throughout his life, both in his education and his political and business career. These are the rights that many non-Arabs do not have in the 22 Arab countries worldwide. In these countries, even the Arabs, and particularly the female population, are deprived of many political, educational and social status rights.

Summary

The Israeli Parliament (Assembly) – Knesset has 120 members. At the latest elections, held on January 22, 2013, representatives of twelve political parties were elected to the Knesset. Representatives of three purely Arab parties, of an Islamist and nationalist orientation, are among them: the United Arab List – Ta'al (four deputies), Hadash (four deputies) and Balad (three deputies). This makes a total of eleven Arab deputies, plus one Jew on the Arab list (the image below).



Hamad Amar Afu Agbaria Dov Kenin Hana Suaid Muh.Barakeš Taleb el Sana



Ibrahim Sarsur Ahmed Tibi Masud Džanaim Said Nafa Džamil Zahalka Hanin Zoabi

Apartheid !?!

In addition to these eleven Arab deputies from three Arab parties, six Muslim Druze deputies were also elected to the Knesset; all of them come from some of the nine "Jewish" parties. Out of the total number of eligible voters among the Arabs, 53 percent voted at the 2013 elections (compared to 75 percent at the 1999 elections), compared to the 68-percent total voter turnout. A total of 348,919 voters supported the three Arab parties.

It is interesting to note that the Elections Preparation Committee received on December 19, 2012, a petition demanding the disqualification of the Arab Palestinian candidate Haneen Zoabi because of her public "*support to terrorism and negation of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state*". Although the Committee decided to disqualify her, the Supreme Court of Israel overturned the disqualification and approved her nomination. **Apartheid!?!**

Another characteristic of Israel's political and social reality is the existence of the ***Islamic Movement in Israel***. This organization was created in 1971. The Movement advocates the dissemination of Islam among Israeli Arabs. It operates on three levels: religious (Islamic education, religious services), social (social help and welfare) and anti-Zionist (opposition to the concept of Israel as a state and support to Palestinian nationalism). The movement is divided into two branches: the hardliners – the so-called northern branch, and the moderates, the so-called southern branch.



RAED SALAH

a Muslim Arab (Palestinian), born in 1958 in the Arab town of Umm al-Fahm, on the border between Israel and the West Bank. He is the leader of the northern, hardline branch of the Islamist Movement.

He was elected mayor of his hometown of Umm al-Fahm three times: in 1989, 1993 and 1997.

Accordingly, for those 12 years he was a high-ranking Israeli official who

received a salary from the state of Israel.

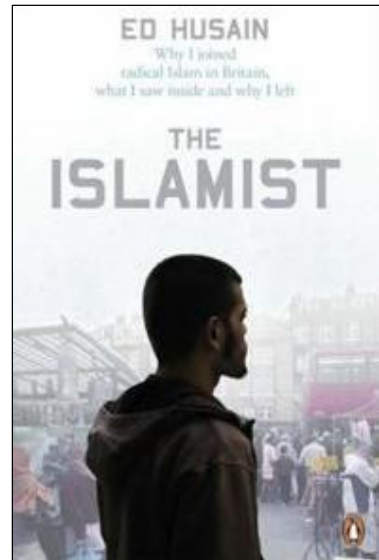
Salah was convicted because of his publicly expressed anti-Zionism, public funding of the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas in Gaza, and contacts with members of the Iranian intelligence service, and he served two years in prison, from 2003 to 2005. In 2010, he was convicted and sentenced to a five-month imprisonment for organizing and leading violent demonstrations and attacks on police.

In an interview to the Al-Jazeera Arabic television network, on September 21, 2012, he said: "*You haters, you midgets, you little insolent people – whether in America, in France, or in Denmark...You are slaves to global Zionism...to Protestant Zionism...to the Crusader hatred. You should know that we are coming to you with the compassion of Islam to deliver you from the ignominy of your slavery, [...] the subjugation of your minds to the enterprise of*

Theodor Herzl and David Ben Gurion [he refers to Israel as a state, comment by A. A.]”.

A man of such views and attitudes is a free citizen of Israel!
Apartheid!?!

In order to ensure a better understanding of the facts discussed in this text, we recommend you to read the following text and comment by **Mohamed Mahbub Husain** (Ed Husain, born in 1974), a Muslim from Bangladesh and a British citizen, the author of the book “*The Islamist*”. The book is an account of the five years he spent as an Islamic activist in the organization [Hizb ut-Tahrir](#).



Husain graduated from the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London and earned his MA degree in Middle Eastern Studies; he also studied Arabic at the University of Damascus (Syria). He lived in the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia, and he now lives in New York, USA, and works as a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a US non-profit, non-partisan organization, publisher and think-tank specializing in American foreign policy and international relations.

We carry the full text of his comments, published on 6 March 2013. in “*The New York Times*” which can be read on the following link http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/07/opinion/global/end-the-arab-boycott-of-israel.html?_r=1&, entitled:

“END THE ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL”



"On Jerusalem's ancient walls hung old fans that made a rattling, windy noise. There was no money for air-conditioning. The carpet for worshipers was old and ragged. I was inside one of the world's most significant buildings, but scaffolding and clutter prevented me from seeing the center of the [Dome of the Rock](#).

Water leaks, disheveled shoe shelves, and unclean antique tiles brought a sense of disharmony to Islam's third most sacred site. No, this was not the fault of the Jews or the West, but we Muslims who claim to fight daily for "liberating Jerusalem" and yet neglect the very heart of this city. Why? And how can this change?

I recently visited Israel and the West Bank for the first time. I am Muslim and in Muslim communities around the world to visit Israel is to support "the Zionist entity" and therefore risk social isolation. Not only is this mind-set outdated, it is self-defeating.

The Arab League began its [boycott](#) of Zionist goods back in 1945 and later created a Central Boycott Office to ensure minimal Arab contact with Israel. In reality, the Gulf states and others circumvent this policy, but the Arab and Muslim masses have yet to break free from the mind-set of boycotting all things Israeli.

A prominent cleric, [Yusuf al-Qaradawi](#), in addition to justifying suicide bombings against Israelis, regularly upholds his fatwas urging Muslims to avoid contact with Israel from his Al Jazeera podium. Recent attempts by European Marxist academics to boycott Israel have given support to this counterproductive attitude.

In many mosques and universities this view might bolster the superiority complex of some academics and Muslim clerics. But the main victims of this boycott are not Israelis, but Palestinians. Israel's economy is booming, while Palestinians languish in abject poverty. The decades-long Arab boycott has failed miserably. An estimated [70 percent](#) of Palestinian families in East Jerusalem live below the poverty line.

Arabs from neighboring countries do not visit Jerusalem because of the boycott, but many Arab men do not have that luxury: They find jobs as cleaners and porters in the city's hotels, or with Jewish-owned businesses, or travel to the West Bank to find work.

Many people condemn Israeli settlements and call for an economic boycott of their produce, but I saw that it was Arab builders, plumbers, taxi drivers and other workers who maintained Israeli lifestyles. Separatism in the Holy Land has not worked and it is time to end it. How much longer will we punish Palestinians to create a free Palestine?

I abandoned Muslim groupthink and went to Israel because there is a new momentum in the region. Egypt's former grand mufti, Ali Gomaa, and the prominent scholar Habib Ali al-Jifri, broke ranks with Qaradawi and [went to Jerusalem](#) last April. They justified their visit on scriptural grounds, citing the Prophet Muhammad's encouragement for believers to visit the Holy Land. Their trip was facilitated by Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad bin Talal of Jordan, the principal religious adviser to King Abdullah II.

Muslim leaders in Jerusalem welcomed both men and Palestinian imams called for the end of the Arab boycott on Al Jazeera Arabic and other media outlets. This was a direct challenge to radicals like Qaradawi and his supporters in the Muslim Brotherhood in Cairo and the Islamist party Ennahda in Tunis. Why do they want to continue the boycott?

Turkey's free-trade agreement with Israel, which is yielding results for both countries, Jordan's cordial relations with the Jewish state, and the new show of leadership from two prominent scholars shows us that not all Arabs and Muslims are dedicated to confrontation.

President Obama is due to visit Israel and Jordan this month. Talk of renewing peace negotiations is once more in the air, but talks will fail again unless there is a wider change in attitudes. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, for all his faults, is correct in identifying a wider strain of intolerance of Israel. The nations of the Arab Spring cannot be serious about wanting democracy when they are banning their citizens from visiting Muslim (and Jewish and Christian) holy sites.

The voice of the Palestinian imams who want to see an end to the boycott needs to be amplified. Religious leaders at Al Azhar seminary in Egypt or the University of Medina in Saudi Arabia who advocate peace are often ignored by policymakers, even though they have vast popular influence. A peace agreement underwritten by moderate imams like these would have broad political and religious clout.

Without a shift in attitudes, Israel's security concerns will never be allayed. Humanizing Israel to Arabs — by bringing together America's Muslim allies, by addressing anti-Semitism in school textbooks and in sermons at mosques, by permitting Arab citizens to visit and trade with Israel — are requisite first steps.

To be credible in Muslim eyes, any peace agreement requires backing from major Sunni powers, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt. With Islamist organizations of various hues in power in Ankara, Tunis, Gaza, Cairo and on the rise in Libya, Yemen, Syria and Jordan, the West cannot continue to ignore religious dimensions to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Unless we tame the Islamist tiger, a decade from now we will look back and lament."

Author: **Ed Husain** (Mohamed Mahbub Husain) is a senior fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

At the end, it will be shown a picture from some other country, an Arab country – Saudi Arabia!

This is the official traffic sign on the highway leading to the town of Mecca and it says: "**Muslim only**" and "**For non-Muslims**"!!! (pictures on the next page)



NOW, THAT IS APARTHEID !!!

**The text was written and the images were selected
by Aron Albahari**