

Declaration of the Jewish Anti-Zionist Congress

Vienna, 13–15 June 2025

Over 1,000 anti-Zionist Jews and non-Jews gathered in Vienna during three days of presentations and workshops at the <u>Jewish Anti-Zionist Congress</u>. While this was the first event of its kind in Europe, it has already set in motion the planning for a second congress in 2026.

We, speakers and organisers at the Congress, hereby issue this public call, reflecting the collective positions reached through the three days of deliberations.

As anti-Zionist Jews and allies, we stand together with all Palestinians—in Palestine and in exile—against Zionism and its crimes, including genocide, apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and occupation. We affirm the right of people under occupation to resist by any means, as is recognized by several UN provisions. It is vital that Jews of conscience everywhere unite in opposing Zionism, in collaboration and solidarity with the global movement for Palestinian liberation. We are committed to expanding our movement beyond its European roots to include anti-Zionist voices from around the world, including the global South.

We condemn without qualification all war crimes committed by Israel since October 7, 2023, including ethnic cleansing, militarised apartheid, urbicide, scholasticide, medicide, mass starvation as an instrument of forced expulsion of more than two million Gazans, as well as an extant genocide of hundreds of thousands—one of the worst war crimes of our time. These acts have already been recognised as such by the ICC and ICJ, though the State of Israel has rejected out of hand the demands of both courts. It has also rejected numerous calls from both the UN General Assembly and Security Council in the same manner. As a result, roughly two million civilians are now incarcerated in a tiny area of the Gaza Strip, without access to food, water, medicine, shelter, or medical care. These new crimes are but the latest additions to an impossibly long history of similar offences dating back to 1948. Despite repeated violations of UNGA and UNSC resolutions, as well as extensive reports by UN Special Rapporteurs, no sanctions have ever been imposed on Israel.

None of these war crimes and crimes against humanity could have been carried out or sustained without the active and enthusiastic support of Western powers—through military aid, financial backing, and political and diplomatic cover—led by the United States, European Union, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. By enabling and arming a criminal state committing genocide, these governments share legal and moral responsibility under the 1948 Genocide Convention. We call on all states and societies to fulfil their obligations under the Convention of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and to take all necessary measures to stop the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Sanctions must include the suspension of Israel from the United Nations General Assembly, as was done in 1974 with South Africa for its practice of apartheid. Clearly, Israel's crimes are even more horrific. While the UN has deployed international forces for decades to separate

combatants between Israel and Egypt, and Israel and Lebanon, it has never established a protection force to protect Palestinian lives from systemic oppression and terror by the Israeli state. We concur that the time has come to enact such a humanitarian measure. Without it, Israel will continue its mass murder of Palestinians.

We further demand that the European Union abide by its own laws and adhere to <u>Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement</u>, which obligates it to cease business ties with Israel and end its associate membership status in EU-funded programmes.

We call on all international societies, associations and organisations to expel Israel from membership until it complies with all UN and UNGA resolutions, ends its ongoing genocide in Gaza, and removes its military forces from all territories acquired by force in 1948 and 1967, as well as from all Syrian and Lebanese territories occupied since 1967. Israel must immediately and completely withdraw its forces from the Gaza Strip, lift the blockade that has been in place since 2006, and allow unrestricted access for all aid agencies to operate freely.

We call on all states, institutions, and civil society organisations to implement and uphold the demands of the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) National Committee. This includes severing all financial, academic, military, cultural, and diplomatic ties with the genocidal state until it meets the conditions outlined above as well as fulfilling the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.

We further call on the United Nations to impose immediate and comprehensive sanctions in response to Israel's unprovoked and illegal attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities, and the mass killing of civilians. These sanctions must also extend to the Western governments that aid and abet—through military and political support—in Israel's ongoing international crimes. The nuclear weapons of Israel—illegal as they are—must be decommissioned through a transparent process, supervised by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

We categorically reject the claim that Israel acts in the name of Jews, or that its criminal activity is supported by all Jews. We call on Jews worldwide to rise against the Zionist state—to deny it legitimacy and demand an immediate end to its criminal and depraved actions. This includes supporting the BDS campaign and severing cultural, political, and institutional ties with Israel until it complies with the conditions outlined above. Israel and Zionism act illegally and immorally while insisting that they do so in the name of Jews—thereby placing all Jews everywhere in harm's way. This insistence that Jews inherently support Zionism and the abhorrent Zionist state—that is real antisemitism.

We embrace all Israeli opponents of Zionism and call upon Israeli Jews to reconsider their allegiance to a regime which has denied Palestinian rights for over eight decades. Honouring the Jewish historical legacy and the principles of Judaism itself, we urge Jews of conscience all around the world to stand shoulder to shoulder with Palestinians in rejecting the racist ideology of Zionism and its inherent supremacy. Instead, we will act in collaboration, wherever we are, with the global movement for decolonization and liberation of Palestine. Let us unite and do all that we can to help build a future of equality, justice, and dignity for all who live in Palestine—a land where shared life and mutual respect can once again flourish.

Decolonize and de-Zionize. Freedom for Palestine and its people.

Signed,

Haim Bresheeth-Žabner

Descendant of survivors, filmmaker, Israel/UK

Ronnie Barkan

Israeli dissident, activist, speaker

Dalia Sarig

Descendant of Nazi-expelled family, Liste Gaza, Austria

Ghada Karmi

Palestinian physician, academic, author, UK

Ramzy Baroud

Palestinian author, journalist, Palestine Chronicle, US

Ilan Pappe

Israeli historian and author

Camille Lévy Sarfati

Curator and author

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Katie Halper

Political commentator, USA

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Social scientist, activist, Austria

Astrid Wagner

Lawyer, author, Austria

Roshan Dadoo

Human rights activist, BDS coordinator, South Africa

Rahma Zein

Journalist, Egypt

Wilhelm Langthaler

Author, activist, Austria

Stephen Kapos

Holocaust survivor, architect, UK

Irina Vana

Social scientist, Liste Gaza leading candidate, Austria

Marco Wanjura

Human rights advocate, BDS Austria co-founder, Austria

Naama Farjoun

Physiotherapist, Boycott from Within, Israel

Tony Greenstein

Author, activist, J-BIG co-founder, UK

Wieland Hoban

Composer, Jewish Voice for Just Peace, Germany

Donny Gluckstein

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Iris Hefets

Psychotherapist, Jewish Voice for Just Peace, Germany

Martin Weinberger

Germanist, candidate for Liste Gaza, Austria

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Neil Naiman – Independent Jewish Voices

Les Levidov – Jewish Network for Palestine, UK

Dr. Keren Tova Rubinstein

Rosalind Petchesky - Professor emerita of Political Science, Jewish Voice for Peace

Sid Shniad – Founding member, Independent Jewish Voices Canada

Vera Sharav - Founder of Alliance for Human Research Protection, USA

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Christine van Duuren – UK-Palestine Mental Health Network

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Haifa Hammami

Ouarda Kamboua

Nihad Ben Salah – Materials Engineering consultant

Cata Schwarz

Anna Michali – Global March to Gaza and other Palestine movements

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Shelley Rena Frydman – Organizer in Montréal

Fabian Schneider – Netzwerk Palästinasolidarität within Die Linke

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