

## **On the Palestinian BDS MOVEMENT Potential**

Sadly, those in political power, both in the US and in Israel, seem to have no desire or plan for peace. There is undeniable evidence for this, some of which I will mention Here.

### **Israel's wars ~**

The genocide and atrocities now threatening Palestinians, and in fact anyone in the middle east, are not the result of a clash of religious considerations, but a political movement of the Israeli government to occupy Palestinian land, hiding behind the Jewish faith, and supported by the US government. The violence has already gone beyond Gaza and the West Bank.

Israeli leaders have fixated on the idea of Eretz Israel -- greater Israel. This is the idea that Israel should fill its biblical boundaries. This was the strategic goal of the father of Israel and its first prime minister David Ben Gurion, in 1948, after Israel became a state. He said: *we should go on the offensive and smash Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, and if Egypt dares to resist, Isreal will bomb Cairo.*

Lebanon is now under attack.

### **US war profiteer interests ~**

Israel's wars are driven by powerful US economic interests. Literally hundreds of businesses within the US enrich themselves by making and selling weapons to Israel.

See <https://afsc.org/gaza-genocide-companies>

### **The Israeli Lobby ~**

Because of the Israeli lobby, and specifically its money, the US government is largely controlled by Israel, especially in matters of budget, foreign affairs, and the military. Because of this control, every tax paying citizen in the US has no choice but to help supply weapons to continue the Israel genocide.

### **Palestine's solution ~**

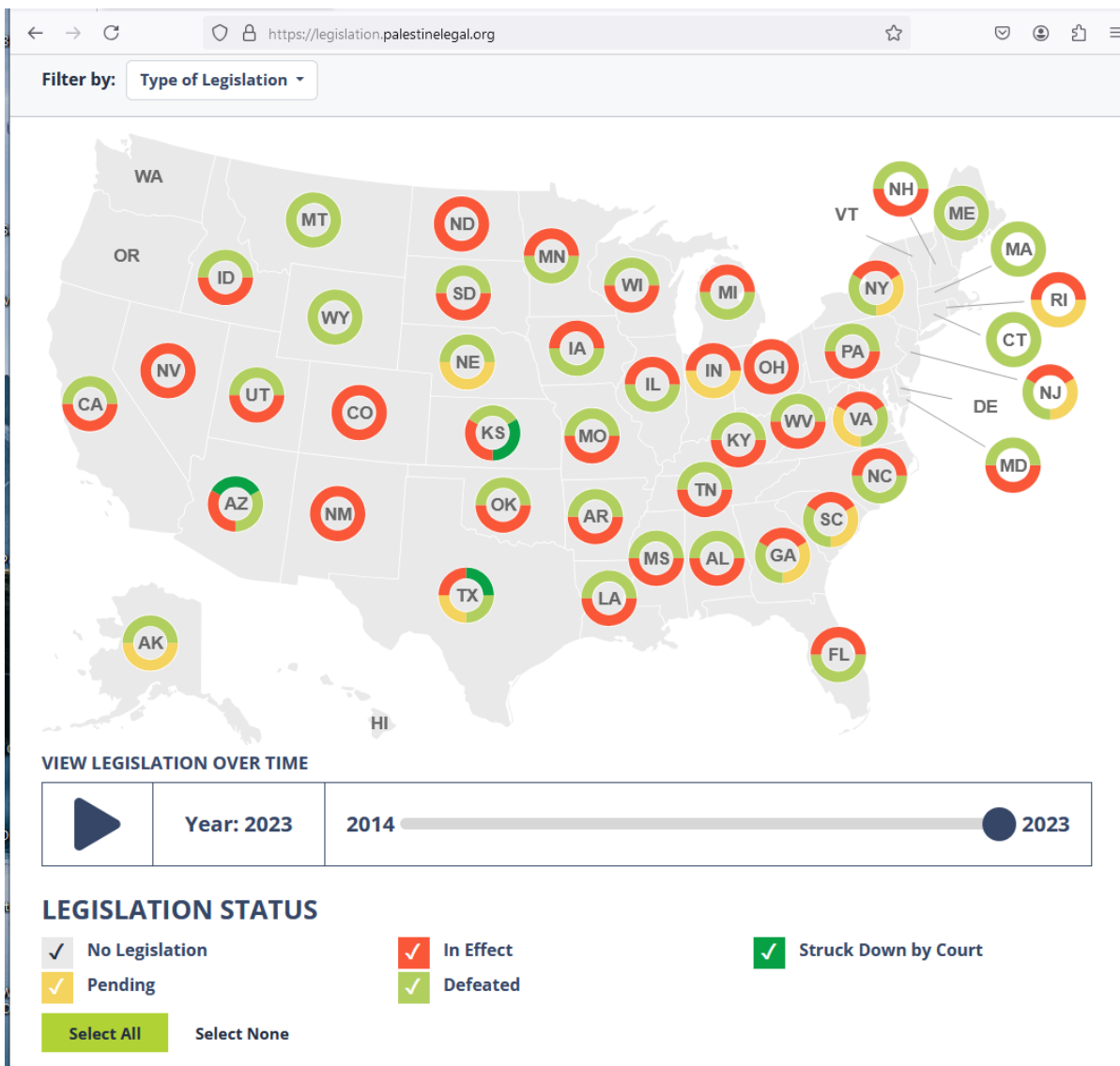
The Palestinians themselves found an effective non-violent strategy to resist Israel's occupation. It's called the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction campaign, or BDS. This strategy is based on the same model as that used during apartheid in south Africa, which was very effective.

## Israel is fighting the BDS movement ~

The BDS movement poses a significant threat to the Israeli occupation, especially when supported within the US. The fallout from a successful BDS campaign is not just economic. Israel could lose not only a steady stream of weapons, but also be forced to compete with other pressing internal US needs. For this reason, Israel has mounted a major covert as well as overt campaign within the US to defeat the BDS movement.

For Covert, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZA6V7Fa5aw>

Beginning in 2014, state laws have been introduced in almost every state, which place state penalties on any organization which attempts to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel or its US business partners. As you can see from the map, almost all states have some form of anti-BDS legislation. (Except Washington and Oregon.)



## **US Colleges and Universities complicit ~**

US colleges and universities are complicit in the ongoing Palestinian genocide in 3 major ways: Direct investment, employee investment, and collaboration between school and business. Last spring, many US college students tried to pressure their schools to divest from the war industry. This was the primary reason for encampments. Contrary to mainstream media, these campus protests have been non-violent and well disciplined.

By and large, these student efforts have been unsuccessful, not only because of economic dependence of the school on war industries, but also because many colleges and universities in the US receive state funding, which they could lose by even attempting to divest if the state has passed anti-BDS laws. What this says is that Profit and US law are both enabling the ongoing Palestinian genocide.

## **The BDS movement opportunity ~**

The BDS movement offers an opportunity for peaceful intervention into a situation rapidly spiraling out of control.

Individual or Institutional participation comes in several steps.

- 1) Agreeing to divest and doing so.
- 2) Approving a resolution supporting the BDS movement.

That is, formally calling for other institutions to divest from Israel and companies that profit from Israel's occupation and or genocide.

- 3) Actively Participating in BDS activities.

## **Sanctions:**

The US government and US war industries are breaking a number of federal and international genocide laws by selling war materials to Israel. Because genocide is the crime of crimes, individuals cannot hide behind a company name; they may be found personally guilty and prosecuted.

With the help of activist attorneys, Veterans for Peace volunteers have crafted and delivered letters detailing the breaking of these laws to Department of State offices around the US, as well as some companies in the war industry, notifying them that individual employees are guilty of breaking these laws, and could be prosecuted. These letters have been hand delivered as well as sent by certified mail.

In some cases, Veterans for Peace have filed a request with the Department of Justice calling for a Grand Jury to hear evidence. These efforts have been publicized, especially in the alternative media.

The point here is to put the war industries on trial in the court of public opinion. The public needs to become aware of what is happening.