

# *African American Activists Announce Boycott of Israel*

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Washington, August 24 (RHC)-- More than 1,000 African American activists in the United States have expressed solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine and announced they'll join the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) global campaign against Israel.

In a recent letter signed by the activists, they "reaffirmed solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and commitment to the liberation of Palestine's land and people," Russia Today reported.

Senior civil rights activists, such as scholars Cornel West and Angela Davis, and Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors, signed the document. The activists established several connections between the plight of Palestinians living under the Israeli occupation and African-Americans facing discrimination in the United States.

They also drew parallels between Israeli troops and U.S. police, who they said train together. "Israel's widespread use of detention and imprisonment against Palestinians evokes the mass incarceration of Black people in the U.S., including the political imprisonment of our own revolutionaries," the letter reads.

"Soldiers, police, and courts justify lethal force against us and our children who pose no imminent threat," it adds. The letter went on to denounce U.S. and Israeli officials, as well as the mainstream American media, for "criminalizing" the existence of African Americans and Palestinians and for denouncing their

movements as "illegitimate" or "terrorism."

"These narratives ignore decades and centuries of anti-Palestinian and anti-Black violence that have always been at the core of Israel and the U.S.," the letter reads.

"We recognize the racism that characterizes Israel's treatment of Palestinians is also directed against others in the region, including intolerance, police brutality, and violence against Israel's African population," it states.

The letter comes as the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement against Israel, known as BDS, is gaining momentum on US college campuses and in many places in Europe.

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