

His Excellency Mr Andreas Michaelis
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany
Embassy of Germany
23 Belgrave Square
London, SW1X 8PZ

17th July 2020

REF: Trial of #Humboldt3

Dear Ambassador,

We condemn the German states prosecution of three BDS activists, the Humboldt 3, who are to appear at Moabit Court in Berlin on August 3rd.

The three defendants are: Award winning Palestinian journalist Majed Abusalama, a survivor of Israel's massacres in Gaza; acclaimed Jewish Israeli human rights defender Ronnie Barkan; and Dr Stavit Sinai, a Jewish Israeli scholar of the sociology of knowledge and postcolonial studies. They are being accused of interrupting a propaganda speech by Mrs Aliza Lavie, a representative of the Israeli government, at Humboldt University in Berlin on June 20, 2017.

Mrs Aliza Lavie, as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Israeli Parliament, directly oversaw the 2014 attack on besieged Gaza that resulted in 2200 Palestinians being slaughtered, including 551 babies and children. She bears a direct responsibility for what Amnesty International has described as war crimes committed in Gaza.

Rather than arrest Lavie as a war criminal, she was given an unchallenged platform by Humboldt University to promote her propaganda, whitewashing Israeli crimes against humanity. When the three activists in the audience challenged her propaganda by quoting from the United Nations ESCWA report which accuses Israel of practicing The Crime of Apartheid, defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as a Crime Against Humanity, they were attacked and thrown out, and later charged.

It is a damning indictment of Germany that today human rights activists who speak up about crimes against humanity become targets of political persecution by the state. In contrast, the three activists were praised in Denmark, and received the Copenhagen Courage Award from Copenhagen Mayor Ms. Ninna Olsen for speaking truth to power.

It is shameful that the German state has succumbed to blackmail of false allegations of antisemitism, of intentionally conflating Judaism and Jewishness with the political entity Israel, in order to silence criticism of Israel. Germany is today persecuting courageous men and women of conscience who have done their duty to give voice to the oppressed. It should be recognized that just last month, on June 11th, the European Court of Human Rights passed judgement that undermines the use of false allegations of antisemitism to give cover to Israeli crimes, by fully legitimising the political actions of boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel.

We stand in solidarity with the Humboldt 3, and urge Germany to look deeply at its own history to understand the dangers of turning a blind eye to Crimes Against Humanity and where this leads.

The Signatory organisations

- ❖ AhlulBayt Islamic Mission (AIM)
- ❖ Brighton BDS
- ❖ British Committee for the Universities of Palestine (BRICUP)
- ❖ Campaign Against Criminalising Communities (CAMPACC)
- ❖ Derry Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign
- ❖ Inminds Human Rights Group
- ❖ International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network (IJAN)
- ❖ Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC)
- ❖ Jewish Network for Palestine (JNP)
- ❖ Journalist Support Committee
- ❖ Lambeth & Wandsworth Palestine Solidarity Campaign
- ❖ Palestinian Forum in Britain (PFB)
- ❖ Revolutionary Communist Group
- ❖ Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network
- ❖ Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign
- ❖ 5 Pillars