

PRESS STATEMENT

South African Church backs Palestinian struggle and adopts BDS boycott of Israel



Reverend Thulani Ndlazi, Secretary of the UCCSA South African Synod

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The human rights and Palestine solidarity organisation BDS South Africa warmly hails the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) for its support of the oppressed Palestinians.

The UCCSA, at its recent 8th South African Synod Conference in George this past weekend, passed a robust resolution in support of the Palestinian struggle and the international BDS boycott of Israel. The UCCSA resolution reads:

"We recognize that the Palestinian struggle is not simply a conflict, but an asymmetric struggle between an oppressor and the oppressed. The oppression entails a decades' long institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians in the occupied territories of Palestine and also against those within Israel and those in the diaspora who are not allowed by Israel to return.

We do not take an anti-Semitism position...we call on all Christians to read the Bible responsibly so as to not trample on the human rights and the dignity of the Palestinians.

We ask Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land to meet with and to listen to the Palestinians in Bethlehem, East Jerusalem and other cities in the occupied Palestinian territory.

We acknowledge with gratitude the support of our Palestinian sisters and brothers in South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle.

With this resolution we join other churches in the world...with them we stand in public solidarity with the Kairos Palestine's appeal for help and the Palestinian civil society's call for creative non-violent resistance.

We pledge our support to the international Boycott Divestments Sanctions (BDS) campaign."

The UCCSA, importantly, draws attention to the conflation between "the Biblical Israel with the modern state of Israel" and between Israelites (of the Bible) and Israelis (of the modern Apartheid State of Israel created in 1948).

The UCCSA has over 1000 local churches across South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Botswana.