

Stuart Laing
President,
British Society for Middle Eastern Studies

Cc. Vice President, Zahia Smail Salhi; Executive Director, Robert Lowe; Secretary,
Louise Haysey

4 June 2019

Dear Stuart,

We, the undersigned BRISMES members, believe that it is time for our Society to resolve to endorse the long-standing call to boycott Israeli academic institutions.

We wish therefore to bring a resolution to this effect to the Society's Annual General Meeting of 24 June 2019.

In accordance with BRISMES' procedure, we hereby submit the below resolution at least 14 days in advance of the AGM for inclusion on the agenda.

The resolution is proposed by Professor John Chalcraft (LSE) and seconded by Dr Rafeef Ziadah (SOAS).

The text of the resolution is as follows:

Resolution to Endorse the Call to Boycott Israeli Academic Institutions

Whereas, the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) is committed to encouraging and promoting the study of the Middle East in the United Kingdom and, specifically, to bring together teachers, researchers, students, diplomats, journalists and others who deal professionally with the Middle East;

Whereas, in the occupied West Bank, the continued construction of the Wall, illegal settlement enterprise and a network of military checkpoints are creating an irreversible reality of permanent military occupation, while Israel's siege of Gaza has condemned its inhabitants, who live in a vast open air prison, to poverty and the constant threat of military force;

Whereas, Israel has obstructed Palestinians' right to education by destroying Palestinian universities and schools, arresting students, raiding and forcing Palestinian universities to close, and restricting Palestinians' movement;

Whereas, Israel has restricted international academics from accessing Palestinian universities, including long-term travel bans to the occupied Palestinian territories;

Whereas, Israeli universities are playing a key role in planning, implementing and justifying Israel's illegal military occupation and are maintaining a close and supportive relationship with the Israeli military, including involvement in developing weapon

systems, providing justification for military actions and extra-judicial killings, rewarding students serving in the occupation forces, designing and delivering special programmes for soldiers and officers, building on occupied land, and systematically discriminating against non-Jewish students;

Whereas, Palestinian civil society, including the Palestinian Federation of Unions of University Professors and Employees, has called on people of conscience around the world to join them in carrying out campaigns of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) as a form of non-violent pressure on Israel until it complies with international law.

Be it resolved that:

BRISMES will show solidarity with our Palestinian colleagues living under military occupation and siege by endorsing the call for a boycott of Israeli academic institutions until these institutions publicly end their support and complicity in violating Palestinian rights as stipulated in international law;

BRISMES will facilitate educational events, discussions and debates among its membership on the boycott of Israeli academic institutions, including through its publications, conferences and relevant events;

BRISMES will educate its members about ways to apply the boycott of Israeli academic institutions in their own professional practice, and encourage them to do so. This boycott pertains to Israeli academic institutions only and not to individual scholars.

BRISMES will support the rights of scholars to engage in research about, to publish work about, and to speak publicly in support of, the boycott of Israeli academic institutions.

Maha Abdelrahman, Reader in Development Studies and Middle East Politics,
University of Cambridge

Reem Abou-El-Fadl, Lecturer in Comparative Politics of the Middle East, SOAS,
University of London

Marta Agosti Pinilla, PhD, SOAS, University of London

Sabrien Amrov, Doctoral Researcher, Department of Geography, University of
Toronto

Raymond Bush, Professor of African Studies, School of Politics and International
Studies, University of Leeds

John Chalcraft, Professor of Middle East History and Politics, London School of
Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Fabio Cristiano, Doctoral Researcher, Department of Political Science, Lund
University

Marwan Darweish, Principal lecturer in Peace Studies, Coventry University

James Dickins, Professor of Arabic, School of Languages, Cultures and Societies,
University of Leeds

Sai Englert, Visiting Lecturer in Politics & International Relations, New College of the
Humanities, London

Khaled Fahmy, Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'id Professor of Modern Arabic Studies,
University of Cambridge

Neve Gordon, Marie Curie Fellow and Professor of International Law, Queen Mary,
University of London

Adam Hanieh, Reader in Development Studies, SOAS, University of London

Aula Hariri, Research Officer, Middle East Centre, London School of Economics and
Political Science (LSE)

Tim Jacoby, Professor, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester

Laleh Khalili, Professor in Middle Eastern Politics, SOAS, University of London

Dina Matar, Reader in Arab Media and Political Communication, SOAS, University of
London

Vivienne Matthies-Boon, Assistant Professor in the International Relations of the
Middle East, Department of Political Science, University of Amsterdam

Martha Mundy, Professor Emerita of Anthropology, London School of Economics
and Political Science (LSE)

Jacob Norris, Senior Lecturer in Middle East History, University of Sussex

Hussein Omar, Lecturer in Modern Global History, University College Dublin

Nicola Perugini, Senior Lecturer in International Relations, University of Edinburgh

Sharri Plonski, Lecturer in International Politics, Queen Mary, University of London

Nicola Pratt, Reader in International Politics of the Middle East, University of
Warwick

Mezna Qato, Junior Research Fellow, King's College, University of Cambridge

Ruba Salih, Reader in Gender Studies, SOAS, University of London

David Seddon, Professor, Department of Geography, University College London

Patricia Sellick, Associate Professor, Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations,
Coventry University

Andrea Teti, Senior Lecturer in International Relations, University of Aberdeen

Teodora Todorova, Teaching Fellow in Sociology, University of Warwick

Lewis Turner, Postdoctoral Researcher, Arnold Bergstraesser Institute, University of
Freiburg

Elian Weizman, Lecturer in Middle East Politics, SOAS, University of London

Mark Zeitoun, Professor of Water Security and Policy, School of International
Development, University of East Anglia

Rafeef Ziadah, Lecturer in Comparative Politics of the Middle East, SOAS, University
of London

Signatures of BRISMES Members added since 4 June 2019

Lucia Ardovini, Research Fellow, Swedish Institute of International Affairs

Erika Biagini, Postdoctoral Researcher, Dublin City University

Marilyn Booth, Khalid bin Abdullah Al Saud Professor for the Study of the
Contemporary Arab World, Oriental Institute and Magdalen College,
University of Oxford

Catherine Cobham, Lecturer, Head of Department of Arabic and Persian, University
of St Andrews

José Ciro Martínez, Research Fellow, Trinity College, University of Cambridge

John Moreton, Part-Time Tutor, Arabic and Turkish, School of Languages, Cultures
and Societies, University of Leeds

Dalia Mostafa, Lecturer in Arabic and Comparative Literature, University of
Manchester

Bill V. Mullen, Professor of American Studies, Purdue University

Aya Nassar, Teaching Fellow, Department of Geography, University of Sussex

Katie Natanel, Lecturer in Gender Studies, University of Exeter

Paola Rivetti, Assistant Professor in the Politics of the Middle East and International
Relations, Dublin City University

Janet Watson, Professor, School of Languages, Cultures and Societies, University of
Leeds

Endorsements by Potential Members of BRISMES since 4 June 2019

Gilbert Achcar, Professor of Development Studies and International Relations,
SOAS, University of London

Jamie Allinson, Lecturer, University of Edinburgh

Omar Al-Shehabi, Director of the Gulf Centre for Development Policies, Associate
Professor in Political Economy at the Gulf University for Science and
Technology, Kuwait

Mona Baker, Professor Emerita of Translation Studies, School of Arts, Languages
and Cultures, University of Manchester

Luke Bhatia, Lecturer in International Politics, University of Manchester

Haim Bresheeth, Professor, SOAS, University of London

Stephanie Cronin, Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Research Fellow at St Antony's
College, University of Oxford

Fawaz Gerges, Professor of International Relations, London School of Economics
and Political Science (LSE)

Vahideh Golzard, Lecturer in Persian Language and Audio-Visual Culture, University
of Leeds

Rebecca Ruth Gould, Professor, Islamic World & Comparative Literature, University
of Birmingham

Tajul Islam, Lecturer in Islamic Studies, University of Leeds

Ruba Khamam, Lecturer in Arabic, University of Leeds

Nur Masalha, Professor, Centre of Palestine Studies, SOAS, University of London

Mazen Masri, Senior Lecturer in Law, City, University of London

Professor Ilan Pappé, Professor of History, Director of the European Centre for
Palestine Studies

Hicham Safieddine, Lecturer in the History of the Modern Middle East, King's College,
London

Myriam Salama-Carr, Honorary Research Fellow, School of Arts, Languages and
Cultures, University of Manchester

John Sidel, Sir Patrick Gillam Chair in International and Comparative Politics,
Department of Government, London School of Economics and Political Science
(LSE)

Rasha Soliman, Lecturer in Arabic Language, University of Leeds

Lucia Sorbrera, Senior Lecturer, Chair of Arabic Studies Department, University of
Sydney