

Palestine mourns Stephane Hessel

The Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC) is a wide coalition of the largest Palestinian mass organizations, trade unions, networks and organizations.

BNC member organizations:

Council of National and Islamic Forces in Palestine

Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)

Palestinian Nat'l Institute for NGOs

Global Palestine Right of Return Coalition

Palestinian Trade Union Coalition for BDS (PTUC-BDS)

Federation of Indep. Trade Unions

Gen. Union of Palestinian Workers

Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions

Gen. Union of Palestinian Women

Union of Palestinian Farmers

Gen. Union of Palestinian Teachers

Gen. Union of Palestinian Writers

Palestinian Federation of Unions of University Professors and Employees (PFUPE)

Union of Professional Associations

Gen. Union of Palestinian Peasants

Union of Public Employees in Palestine-Civil Sector

Grassroots Palestinian Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign (STW)

Nat'l Committee for Grassroots Resistance

Palestinian Popular Struggle Coordinating Committee (PSCC)

Pal. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI)

Nat'l Committee to Commemorate the Nakba

Civic Coalition for the Defense of Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem

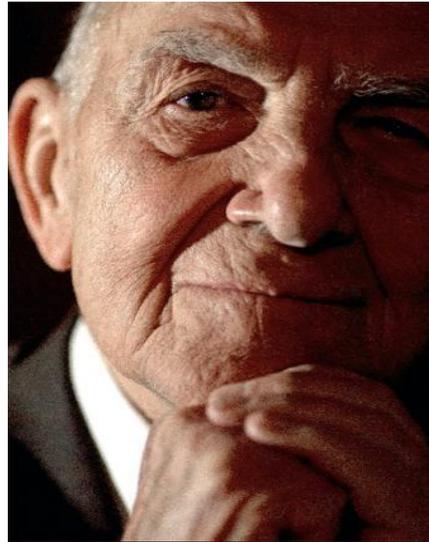
Coalition for Jerusalem

Union of Pal. Charitable Organizations

Palestinian Economic Monitor

Union of Youth Activity Centers-Palestine Refugee Camps

Occupied Palestine and Syrian Golan Heights Initiative



Stephane Hessel
 Co-author, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

“[BDS] campaigns around the world present the most promising way to overcome the failure of world governments to stand up to Israel's intransigence and lawless behavior.”

Occupied Palestine, 27 February 2013 -- The BDS National Committee (BNC) mourns the tragic loss of our comrade, partner, and dear friend Stephane Hessel.

A thoughtful and principled supporter of the global, Palestinian civil society-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, Stephane Hessel exuded hope and inspiration.

As a co-author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, he deeply appreciated the necessity of advocating for equal rights for all humans, regardless of identity. This and the fact that he is a Holocaust survivor were crucial factors behind his endorsement of BDS despite the high price he had to pay. He wrote:

“[BDS] campaigns around the world present the most promising way to overcome the failure of world governments to stand up to Israel's intransigence and lawless behavior.”

Israel and its well-funded lobby groups vilified him, applied pressure on universities to censor him and did everything possible to silence his unique moral voice. His thought and principles, after all, negated their brutal occupation, colonialism and apartheid. Palestinians will dearly miss Stephane.

BDS National Committee (BNC)