

SUPPORT PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS BOYCOTT ISRAELI APARTHEID!



Israel is a racist apartheid state with an appalling human rights record. It violates International law and defies over 60 UN Resolutions on a daily basis. It continues to steal Palestinian land and vital resources such as water, expand its illegal settlements in the West Bank and build its illegal apartheid wall. It enforces its brutal occupation through a policy of humiliation, discrimination, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, human rights abuses, ethnic cleansing, murder and War Crimes.



This year, some 60 Palestinians (including numerous children) have been killed by the Israeli military in Gaza, the West Bank and at the Syrian and Lebanese borders. In the same period 100s of Palestinians have been injured, and hundreds more (including children) have been detained.

Palestinian civil society and the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) seek a complete boycott of Israel, including a sporting boycott, similar to that which helped end South African apartheid.

We urge Irish football fans to stand against Israeli apartheid and show solidarity with the Palestinian people by joining our protest.

We also urge fans not to travel to Israel for the second leg of this tie. The Irish people helped end South African apartheid by supporting that boycott campaign. We can help bring an end to Israeli Apartheid and secure Palestinian freedom by supporting the campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel.



LOVE FOOTBALL - HATE APARTHEID!

While some people may suggest that sports and politics shouldn't mix, we believe there is no place in sport for racism or teams who act as ambassadors for racist or apartheid states.



While the Israeli team can travel and play freely, the Israeli government denies such basic everyday freedoms to the Palestinian women's football team. The Palestinian women's team needs to practice on concrete soccer pitches, since the only real soccer field in the West Bank is in Jericho, semi-inaccessible because of stringent Israeli military checkpoints.

Women players from Gaza have not been able to leave the strip and play with the rest of the team for many years now. Travelling abroad is fraught with difficulties, with Israeli authorities regularly refusing visas to Palestinian female and male footballers alike. In 2005 the coach of the Palestinian women's team resigned after being detained and interrogated for hours at the border by Israeli authorities; he found the experience too traumatic to repeat. Furthermore, in 2006 the football stadium in Gaza was bombed by the IDF.

In 2006, Israel bombed the Palestinian stadium in Gaza. In 2009 three male footballers, Ayman Alkurd, Shade Sbakhe and Wajeh Moshtahe were murdered by Israeli bombs during the month long 'Cast Lead' assault on Gaza.



Ayman Alkurd - murdered by Israel in 2009