



Nobel Peace Prize Nomination for BDS Welcomed

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement for Palestinian rights has been nominated for the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize by the Norwegian MP and leader of the Red Party, Bjørnar Moxness. In a statement announcing the nomination, the Parliamentary Group, which includes a number of left-wing parties, said that the selection of BDS for a Nobel Peace Prize reflected "the growing international solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for justice, dignity and freedom from the Israeli occupation".

In South Africa, there was widespread jubilation and joy because it meant recognition for a movement, which quietly went about their work in peace. The Chairman of the Muslim Youth Movement, Mr Thandile Khona welcomed the nomination. It brings into sharp focus the oppression and dispossession of Palestinians by the apartheid Israeli illegitimate regime. "It is also worthy to note that amongst the recipients of the prize is Barack Obama, a man who oversaw the manifold increase in military aid to the Zionist apartheid Israeli government. That military aid came in handy to the Israelis in crushing any resistance to their usurpation of Palestinian lands. "It will not be a good thing for the BDS movement to be in the company of such a man. Once again, I wish to stress that the award is welcome only as far as it will help advance the just cause of the Palestinians."

Chairman of the Health Portfolio in the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature, Mr Yusuf Bhamjee called for the international community to nurture the support for BDS on all platforms. He commended the work they are doing to bring a resolution to the conflict in the Middle East. "We must all movements who are working to bring dignity to the Palestinian people. We can only be free, if all people in the world are free of oppression," said Mr Bhamjee. He added that this was also a compliment for South Africans, for the BDS people whom the anti-apartheid movement formed movement inspired.

Dr Farhana Paruk, director of Pearson Institute of Higher Education said the nomination was recognition for the tireless work done by people who are working for peace between Palestine and Israel. "Hopefully, it will strengthen the efforts to bring peace to one of the most conflict ridden areas in the world. BDS has engaged in a non-violent, rolling mass action movement to bring change," said Dr Paruk.

Mr Moxness said that as a member of the Norwegian Parliament, he proudly used his authority as an elected official to nominate BDS for the Nobel Peace Prize. "Nominating the BDS movement for this recognition is perfectly in line with the principles I and my party hold very dear. Like the BDS movement, we are fully committed to stopping an ascendant, racist and right wing politics sweeping too much of our world, and securing freedom, justice and equality for all people. Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement and the American Civil Rights movement, the grassroots, Palestinian-led BDS movement is a peaceful, global human rights movement that urges the use of economic and cultural boycotts to end Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights and international law," he said.

Dr. Lubna Nadvi, Lecturer in Political Science at the Howard College said the nomination was incredibly important. "The nomination of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) global campaign for the Nobel Peace prize 2018 is an incredibly important and significant one. The work done by BDS to support the cause of the Palestinian people to achieve self determination and liberation from



occupation and oppression by the Apartheid state of Israel has been instrumental in keeping the plight of the Palestinians in the public and international domain. This nomination signals and affirms the ongoing acknowledgement by the majority of the international community of the struggle by the Palestinians and its support of that struggle. There can be no candidate more deserving of being a recipient of the Nobel Prize than BDS."

Anti-apartheid activists throughout the country were delighted with the BDS nomination. A number of young South Africans joined the movement and sharpened their skills in becoming activists for a host of worthy causes. One of the most fervent supporters in South Africa was Mr Ahmed Kathrada who during a visit to Palestine in 2013 said, "it was the fulfillment of a 'lifelong dream.' I hoped that it would have been to a free Palestine. In our short stay here we have seen and heard enough to conclude that apartheid has been reborn here. In its reborn form it is however worse than its predecessor. Our struggle in South Africa had one great advantage, and that was the worldwide support of civil society and many governments. We are glad to witness the increasing support that your struggle is receiving."

Palestine Awareness Week - 70th Anniversary of Resistance

With the annual Palestine Awareness Week coming to an end, the 14th Annual Israeli Apartheid Week kicked off on February 19 with marches, meetings and workshops in various countries around the world.

Rolling mass action will continue until April 17 – highlighting the atrocities and the 70th anniversary of the resistance of the people of Palestine against oppression. A spokesperson said that an international series of events that seek to raise awareness of Israel's apartheid system over the Palestinian people and to build support for the growing Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. A report released earlier this year by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) proves beyond doubt that Israel has imposed a system of apartheid on the entire Palestinian people and calls for BDS measures to end Israel's apartheid regime. Inspired by the popular resistance across historic Palestine and struggles worldwide, IAW 2017 included a wide range



of events from lectures, film screenings, cultural performances, and BDS actions, to posters in metro stations, setting up apartheid walls on campuses, and many more. These actions took place in more than 200 cities across the world.

The coming year (2018) will mark 70 years of Palestinian popular resistance against the ongoing process of dispossession and ethnic cleansing, since the 1948 Nakba. The Palestinian people's resistance against colonization has in fact been longer than that. "From the Balfour Declaration of 1917 to the present moment- Palestinians have fought for their dignity, their rights, and their lands. IAW is an opportunity to reflect on this resistance and further advance BDS campaigns for the continued growth and impact of the movement. Despite Israel's legal and propaganda war on BDS internationally, IAW and the BDS movement continue to build linkages and solidarity with other struggles to achieve freedom, justice, and equality. For more information and support, please contact iawinfo@apartheidweek.org."

Mohamed Chohan aiming to make Durban a Cool Place to live



Durban is the next B-I-G thing when it comes to tech companies, even though at the present time, the city is way behind Cape Town and Johannesburg, according to Mohamed Chohan. The chief executive officer of Start-Up Grind in Durban said that presently there were tech companies, which were establishing themselves "behind the scenes."

Speaking during an interview on Radio Al Ansar's Friday night talk show, 90 Minutes he said that changes must come. Among the problems faced by tech companies was the high price of data and said that the four major providers demanded and got the highest prices in Africa. "Durban needs to get fast and inexpensive Internet services, fiber lines and a competitive prices for data. The city will in the future will be able to grow and major expansion will see Durban overtake the other cities to become the major tech center of South Africa," said Mr Chohan.

He said that there were talented people who emerged from Durban, some of them had to leave the city to secure jobs in which they could develop their skills and become major players in the fraternity. "The future for Durban is bright. It is very positive and

we have the people who are emerging with the capabilities and expertise to build a major industry in our city," he said.

Pietermaritzburg, he added was the "city of magic" when it came to start up businesses. "Anyone who starts up a business in Pietermaritzburg and makes a success of it, they will be able to do it in any other city in the country. There is something about that city which has produced so many successful start up companies," he said.

Mr Chohan who has hosted 40 extremely successful business people in Durban in his own style of talk show which is Google inspired and is held regularly at the Pavillion Hotel, say that high school and university drop outs seem to go onto becoming the most successful tycoons. "Most of the chief executive officers whom I have interviewed from the 40 in front of a audience of promising entrepreneurs and business people are street wise and do not hold university degrees. They are people who are able to perform without an education based knowledge and they have been able to observe other people around them and worked out solutions. In my experience, the most successful self made chief executive is Imtiaz Ebrahim of Honcho's Chicken. He started with very little and during his journey, he made mistakes, got hurt. But each time, he lifted himself and was able to carry himself forward. Like other chief executive officers whom, I have interviewed, Mr Ebrahim has persevered, thought out of the box and used the knowledge they gained being street wise in the business world and succeeded," he said.

These successful men and women, multi-millionaires and billionaires are extremely humble people. "They do not drive flashy cars or have exorbitant lifestyles. In fact those that attend our sessions in Durban they arrive driving a Toyota. Its not about money of wealth creation, it is about being a human being with qualities. When I applied to Google

for this job. I was interviewed several times, like they must have done with other candidates. Then finally, I was asked why I wanted this job. My response was that I was not in it to make money. I simply wanted to make Durban a cool place for people to live. That got me the job."

He pointed that the Apple Computer were at first not successful, then they went out and looked at the market. They found that the creative people had been left out. There was no computer on which they could work. "Apple created a computer for creative. They have now become the top computer company in the world."

Apart from the tech world, what other business would most likely succeed, especially in the Muslim community. Good Food!! "Muslims have always had a good food culture and now some of the women were capitalizing in this direction providing excellent dishes through catering companies which they have set up. Take the Chilli Chocolate which was started by two sisters in Durban and they have flourished. They are now providing the food for corporates and major family functions. I believe that there will be more companies like this emerging that will provide good food, at competitive prices and a brand of service which will make them extremely successful," said Mr Chohan.

His great grandfather, Mr Rasool came from Tageswar, Surat and settled in Durban. My great grandmother was born in Durban. My grandfather was Yusuf Chohan, he was also known as Aesop and Jerry. My father is Shabir Chohan and I am one of three children.

Finally, asked what was unique about Muslims in Durban in particular, he said that they were the only people who went out in the night and drank coffee. All other communities enjoy the beverage throughout the day and most coffee shops close at 4pm. Except those who have a Muslim clientele.

**Farook Khan - 90 Minutes - Radio Al-Ansar
2 March 2018**

Cape Couple strive to bring Islamic Knowledge to the community

The Islamic Forum hosted the 'Jannah Training' course on the 3rd and 4th of March at the Suleman Lockhat Auditorium attended by some 50 women. The course instructor, Sister Fadwa Solomon, is a hafidah, mother of three, trained Montessori teacher and a teacher of Quran and Arabic at the Qamar Institute in Cape Town. This combination of skills enabled her to develop a unique and relevant course for mothers, grandmothers and educators of young children. She imparted tools that could be used in everyday situations to lovingly create an awareness of Almighty Allah in young children. She also taught attendees about gentle and appropriate discipline, drawing inspiration from the Prophet (saw)'s beautiful interaction with young children. Many moving examples from her own experience as a daughter, mother and educator were shared with the eager participants. It was quite refreshing to attend a course that was interactive and practical with tools that could be used immediately

Sister Fadwa Solomon visited Durban for the first time with her husband Sheikh Yazeed Mohamed, who is also a teacher of Islamic knowledge. The couple are based in Schaapkraal, Cape Town and are hosting programmes for adults, teenagers and children to enable

them to acquire a profound knowledge of how to live according to Islamic teachings.

Sheikh Yazeed Mohamed is the coordinator of Education and Youth Development at the Masjid Khiedmatiel Islamia where for three nights every week, classes are held. "On Tuesday nights we have a programme entitled 'In the Footsteps of the Final Messenger'. On Wednesday evenings, 'Journey through the Quran' and on Thursday, Zikr." The classes attract between 100 and 200 people, both men and women across the age groups. Sheikh Yazeed is associated with the Mizan Institute for men and women and they are both with the Qamar Institute, founded by Sister Fadwa which is aimed only at women. "We try to make knowledge of deen easily accessible and we provide Islamic education with the hope and objective of strengthening future generations, by the permission of Allah." Said Sheikh Yazeed.

The couple who are both hafizul Quran completed their Islamic studies at Darun Naim in Wynberg, Cape Town. Sister Fadwa Solomon is in demand to host specialist classes in spreading Islamic education in South Africa. **You may contact the couple on 072 3791 858 or mail them at jannahtraining@gmail.com**