

Letter

Britain: Over 100 artists announce a cultural boycott of Israel

Sunday 15 February 2015, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 13 February 2015).

Along with more than 600 other fellow artists, we are announcing today that we will not engage in business-as-usual cultural relations with Israel. We will accept neither professional invitations to Israel, nor funding, from any institutions linked to its government. Since the summer war on Gaza, Palestinians have enjoyed no respite from Israel's unrelenting attack on their land, their livelihood, their right to political existence. "2014," says the Israeli human rights organisation B'Tselem, was "one of the cruellest and deadliest in the history of the occupation." The Palestinian catastrophe goes on.

Israel's wars are fought on the cultural front too. Its army targets Palestinian cultural institutions for attack, and prevents the free movement of cultural workers. Its own theatre companies perform to settler audiences on the West Bank – and those same companies tour the globe as cultural diplomats, in support of "Brand Israel". During South African apartheid, musicians announced they weren't going to "play Sun City". Now we are saying, in Tel Aviv, Netanya, Ashkelon or Ariel, we won't play music, accept awards, attend exhibitions, festivals or conferences, run masterclasses or workshops, until Israel respects international law and ends its colonial oppression of the Palestinians.

To see the full list of supporters, go to artistsforpalestine.org.uk.

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P.S.

* The Guardian, Friday 13 February 2015 16.51 GMT:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/13/cultural-boycott-israel-starts-tomorrow>

artistsforpalestine.org.uk