



# Boycott Israel Network Newsletter

Newsletter 1: May 2013

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## CHURCH of Scotland

A new Church of Scotland [report](#) *The Inheritance of Abraham? A report on the 'promised land'* will be debated this week in Edinburgh. It calls for the end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the siege of Gaza, an end to Israel's illegal settlement building, for the right of displaced Palestinian refugees to return and/or compensation. It calls for safe rights of access to the sacred sites for the main religions in the area. The report also calls for the UK Government and the European Union to use pressure to stop further expansion of in Israeli settlements and remove existing illegal settlements in the Occupied West Bank.

The proposal to be debated by the Church General Assembly is likely to become Church policy. It explicitly condemns the acquisition of Palestinian land "by settlement expansion, the separation barrier, house clearance, theft and force" and the use of the Hebrew Bible to "sanction...occupation of land which involved the displacement of some 750,000 people living there".

The report condemns Christian Zionism as an emanation from an earlier era of European colonialism.

More information here  
<http://www.scottishpsc.org.uk>

## Protest - G4S Shareholders Annual General Meeting

June 6th from 1pm Salters' Hall, 4 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DE

The last twelve months have seen G4S voted third '[Worst Company of the Year](#)' in the global Public Eye awards, they also face a UK [parliamentary inquiry](#) into their disastrous handling of an asylum housing contract and will soon give evidence at the inquest into the death of [Jimmy Mubenga](#) who died while being restrained by G4S staff. Not that you would know it from the self-congratulatory tone of G4S' latest [Corporate Responsibility Report](#).

Across Europe, G4S are becoming a pariah company as [trade unions](#), [charities](#) and [faith groups](#) take a public stand in opposing its drive to put private profit above human rights. Organisations in the Middle East have called for a boycott of G4S due to their [complicity](#) with Israel's repression and detention of Palestinians including children.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> the company returns to the City of London for its annual corporate jamboree. Stop G4S campaign are calling for a Europe-wide demonstration of outrage as they congratulate themselves on another year of profiteering at the expense of human dignity. Bring banners, flags and drums; bring yourself and your friends. Refuse to be taken in by their whitewashing of abuses, join us at the AGM to hold G4S to account. Email: [stop-g4s@riseup.net](mailto:stop-g4s@riseup.net) to get more information.

## Red Card Israeli Racism Protest at UEFA annual congress 24<sup>th</sup> May Grosvenor House Hotel

The Red Card Israeli Racism campaign is escalating its activities as the June 5-18 dates for UEFA's under-21 men's football final in Israel draw near.

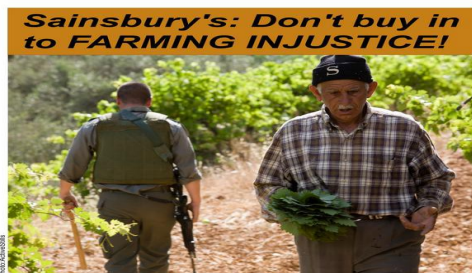
The London-based campaign is now part of a European coalition of groups working to expose the folly of staging a major competition in a state which shows contempt for the rights of Palestinian football players and supporters. Beyond June, Red Card has the potential to develop into a long-term challenge to Israel's membership of UEFA – the overarching body for European football.

The June tournament will probably still go ahead, but the case against it has gained prominence over recent months. Frederic Kanoute and 51 other leading professional players issued a statement deploring Israel's attacks on Gaza in November, saying they called into question holding the games in Israel. In January, a well publicised action at the UEFA offices in Nyon, Switzerland, forced UEFA president Michel Platini to give pro-Palestinian protesters a hearing after two years of turning a deaf ear to the campaign. Read more [here](#)

## Sainsbury's End trade with Israel

Call for [monthly protests](#) on first Saturday of the month:

- Call for protest at the Sainsbury AGM: Wednesday 10th July – London



Speak to the store manager & tell them you want Sainsbury's to cease trading with companies that operate in & finance the expansion of Israeli settlements contrary to international law.

## Stop The JNF

The Charity Commission to investigate whether JNF racial discrimination is legal.

The Charity Commission has replied to the Stop the JNF submission. The Commission is investigating whether the stated discrimination of the JNF is compatible with the Equalities Act 2010. Strangely, in the meantime it has ruled that the JNF and its associated Charities are exclusively for charitable purposes.

The JNF has a history of ethnic cleansing, racism and even a previous JNF director believes that it is an obstacle to peace.

The Stop the JNF campaign is consulting legal opinion to see how best to proceed. One disturbing aspect is that the Charity Commission is continuing with the idea that that the JNF UK is a separate organization from the JNF in Israel. This is in spite of all the evidence. As well as the legal case Stop the JNF will continue to campaign in the court of public opinion.

Go to <http://www.stopthejnf.org/> for the full report, and what we can do about it.

## Stephen Hawkins



For information about the decision by Stephen Hawkins go to <http://www.bricup.org.uk>