

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 336

Urging the international community to reject a boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 8, 2002

Mr. CORZINE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Urging the international community to reject a boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions.

Whereas a campaign is underway by elements of the international academic community to limit cultural and scientific collaboration between foreign universities and academics and their counterparts in Israel;

Whereas a number of European academics have signed petitions calling upon the national governments of Europe, the European Union, and the European Science Foundation to sever contacts with Israeli academics, as well as issue a moratorium on grants to Israeli research centers and cultural institutions;

Whereas the Association of University Teachers and NATFHE, unions that represent professors and researchers employed by research centers and universities

in the United Kingdom, have passed resolutions supporting academic boycotts of Israel;

Whereas several institutions of higher education, such as the University of Lille in France, have refused to cooperate with Israeli Universities;

Whereas invitations requesting Israeli researchers to address academic assemblies have been rescinded because of anti-Israel sentiment;

Whereas Israeli scholars, including Gideon Toury and Miriam Shlesinger, have been dismissed from their positions on the editorial boards of academic journals solely because of their affiliation with Israeli institutions;

Whereas because of its location in Israel, the Goldyne Savad Institute in Jerusalem was denied scientific materials needed to develop effective treatments for anemic Palestinian children by a Norwegian school of veterinary medicine;

Whereas a campaign to limit academic ties between the United States and Israel is emerging, as demonstrated by a petition calling for an American academic boycott of Israel circulated by Mazin Qumsiyeh, a Yale University professor;

Whereas counter campaigns to oppose an academic boycott of Israel have gathered significant support in several countries, including France, Poland, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, and the United States;

Whereas Philippe Busquin, the Commissioner for Research for the European Union, issued a statement on April 23, 2002, maintaining that “the European Commission is not in favour of a policy of sanctions against the parties to the conflict but rather advocates a continuous dialogue

with them which is the best way to bring them back to negotiations”;

Whereas an open letter written by Paul Scham and Eva Illouz, academics associated with Hebrew University in Jerusalem, asserts that “the call to boycott Israeli academics shows unpardonable ignorance of the role played by scientists, intellectuals, and artists in challenging the political consensus and in creating the public debate that rages in Israel at all times, including now”;

Whereas an editorial in the May 2, 2002, issue of the respected British scientific journal *Nature* states that, “Israel is a research powerhouse that, given an eventual improvement of relations with its neighbors, could rejuvenate science and development in the region through collaboration and training. Rather than signing boycotts, which will achieve nothing, researchers worldwide can help the peace process concretely by actively initiating more . . . collaborations and encouraging their institutions to do the same.”;

Whereas foreign-funded research projects intended to foster cooperation between Israelis, Palestinians, and Arab academics in various disciplines including water resource management, desalinization, and cancer treatment, have continued despite current events;

Whereas Article 19, section 2, of the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that, “Everyone shall have the right to . . . receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice”;

Whereas any attempts to stifle intellectual freedom through the imposition of an academic boycott is counter-productive since research and academic exchange provide an essential bridge between otherwise disconnected cultures and countries; and

Whereas stifling scientific and cultural exchange would limit the substantial contributions the international academic community makes to humanity: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the international scholarly community, the
3 European Union, and individual governments,
4 should reject, or continue to reject, calls for an academic boycott of Israel and reaffirm their commitment to academic freedom and cultural and scientific international exchange;

5 (2) the worldwide educational establishment
6 should reverse actions taken to impede academic collaboration and free intellectual expression with
7 Israeli intellectuals and institutions; and

8 (3) the United States and the American scholarly community should continue to actively support
9 efforts to increase academic cooperation and encourage cultural and scientific exchange between the
10 United States and Israel.

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