

Open Letter Endorsing Selective Divestment by the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, and the Episcopal Church

<http://icahdusa.org/2012/03/open-letter-endorsing-selective-divestment/>

March 10, 2012

We, the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions-USA, write to you, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, and the Episcopal Church, to support and encourage you in your efforts to selectively divest from corporations that are complicit in Israel's ongoing policy of occupation and Jewish colonization of Palestinian land under Israel's control. We are pleased that you have taken a leadership role to divest in hopes of bringing peace to the people of Israel/Palestine.



We are concerned that the Jewish Council on Public Affairs (JCPA), the Israel Action Network, and similar groups, which claim to be the “voice of American Jews,” have launched a coordinated smear campaign to label your divestment efforts as divisive, anti-Israel, anti-Jewish, and anti-Semitic.

Although the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions-USA is an inclusive organization, we do have substantial Jewish representation. Our Board of Directors consists of fifty percent American Jews. To the degree that we are Jewish, we clearly state that the JCPA and the Israel Action Network do not speak for us.

It is our belief that the JCPA and Israel Action Network, rather than being the “voice of American Jews,” are actually acting in this matter on behalf of the Government of Israel.

The JCPA and Israel Action network, according to their own websites, are a part of the United Jewish Federation, which in turn is the parent organization of United Israel Appeal and partner of the Jewish Agency of Israel. Testimony at the 2011 Russell Tribunal Hearings in South Africa reveals that United Israel Appeal and the Jewish Agency of Israel are legally a part of the Government of Israel and serve as part of the central mechanism for Israel's system of apartheid. At a minimum, the JCPA and Israel Action Network have a responsibility to disclose to the public and to your churches this association and conflict of interest.

We all have a moral responsibility to end our own complicity in human suffering. We appreciate the steps your churches are taking to ensure that your investments are consistent with opposing oppression and restoring justice to Israel/Palestine.

In support of peace,

Tom Stern
Chair of the Board
Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions-USA