



THE ISRAEL/PALESTINE MISSION NETWORK
of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A)

www.theIPMN.org

Divestment: It's not that hard...

In the Spring of 2012, those opposed to churches divesting their funds from companies profiting from the Israeli military occupation of Palestine have ramped up their rhetoric. But it just isn't that hard to get it right:

- ◆ Some say “the situation is complex” but it is rather simple:
 - There are occupiers = oppressors
 - There are occupied = oppressed
 - We must not be paralyzed by “complexity.”
Our Church has consistently sided with ancient Jewish prophets and a Rabbi named Jesus in opposing oppressors, and in proclaiming release to the oppressed.
- ◆ Some say we should not take sides and remain balanced, but ...
 - The relationship between the Israeli government and the Palestinians could not be more unbalanced. Power rests with Israel.
 - *As Christians we cannot remain “balanced” when it comes to choosing between justice and injustice.*
- ◆ Some say that boycotts are ineffective, but boycotts...
 - Forced the United States to address civil rights for all Americans
 - Helped bring an end to apartheid in South Africa
 - Ended the suffering and death of infants in developing nations caused by the sale of Nestle baby formula
 - Ended exploitation of farm workers in Florida
 - Convinced companies to stop doing business with ALEC, American Legislative Exchange Council
- ◆ Some say that divestment discriminates against Israel unjustly, but...
 - Divestment overtures coming before the 220th General Assembly are about U.S. companies profiting from “non-peaceful pursuits” and not about targeting Israel. There are plenty of U.S. companies doing business in Israel that are not on the divestment list.
 - *Our General Assembly has consistently supported boycott and divestment as ways to seek the end of exploitation and oppression of the poor, the confiscation of their resources, and the occupation of their lands.*
- ◆ Some say that to oppose Israeli government policy is to be anti-Semitic, but the Rabbis of Jewish Voice for Peace say,
 - Discrimination is not a Jewish value (Hewlett-Packard)
 - Defending stolen property is not a Jewish value (Motorola Solutions)
 - Destroying homes is not a Jewish value (Caterpillar, Inc.)
see: Rabbisletter.org
WE AGREE!

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