

MEDIA ADVISORY
-For Immediate Release -
**The Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid hosts
The Struggle Continues!
Boycotting Israeli Apartheid Conference
Oct 6-8, 2006 - Toronto**

WHAT: The three-day conference will develop local, national and international understandings, strategies and networks related to opposing Israeli apartheid and building solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for self-determination. It will also provide space for different sectors (including campus groups, unions, community and faith-based organizations) to consolidate a plan for a boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign in Canada and Quebec.

WHY: In July 2005, 171 Palestinian civil-society organizations launched a call for a comprehensive Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) strategy as the centerpiece of international solidarity efforts with the Palestinian people. They called for the BDS campaign to be maintained until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with the precepts of international law.

The Canadian government provides extensive political and economic support to the Israeli apartheid regime. Canadian corporations profit through investments and joint operations with Israeli companies and Canada has a Free Trade Agreement with Israel. Prime Minister Harper offered unqualified support for the Israeli government's aggression during the war in Lebanon and the assaults on Gaza this summer.

In response, the BDS campaign in Canada has begun to take shape in powerful ways. For example, in May the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE-Ontario) passed a resolution in support of a BDS campaign explicitly targeting Israeli apartheid.

This conference will provide a space for various sectors in Canada to strategize and coordinate their efforts, and to build on recent local, national and international successes of the BDS campaign.

WHO: The conference will bring together activists from Toronto and across Canada and Quebec with BDS campaigners from Palestine and the UK, and anti-Apartheid organizers from South Africa.

Keynote speakers include **Jamal Juma'** of **Stop the Wall Campaign**, Palestine; **Salim Vally**, a campaigner with the **Palestine Solidarity Committee** in South Africa; and **Rafeef Ziadeh**, from the **Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid**. The conference will close with a plenary with **Co-Chief Robert Lovelace of Ardoch Algonquin First Nations**, and **Adam Hanieh**, of the **Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid**.

WHEN/WHERE:

<p>Friday, October 6</p> <p>1030 Opening Press Conference **</p> <p>Speakers: Jamal Juma' (<i>Stop the Wall Campaign</i>), Salim Vally (<i>Palestine Solidarity Committee, SA</i>), Betty Hunter (<i>Palestine Solidarity Committee, UK</i>), Navyug Gill (<i>CAIA</i>) and Khaled Mouammar (<i>CAIA</i>)</p> <p>19:30-21:00 Public Forum **</p> <p>South Africa to Palestine: Building an Anti-Apartheid Movement</p> <p>Speakers: Jamal Juma' (<i>Stop the Wall Campaign</i>), Rafeef Ziadah (<i>CAIA</i>)</p>	<p>Steelworkers Hall 25 Cecil St Toronto ON, CANADA</p> <p>Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) 252 Bloor St W</p>
<p>Saturday, October 7</p> <p>9:30 - 10:30 Inside the Apartheid Wall **</p> <p>Speaker: Jamal Juma'</p> <p>10:45-11:45 Supporting and Fundraising for Apartheid: "Israel Advocacy" in Canada **</p> <p>12:45-14:00 Perspectives on Resistance Lessons from the South African Struggle **</p> <p>Speakers: Salim Vally (<i>PSC</i>)</p> <p>14:15 - 16:00 Workshops</p> <p>1900-22:00 Biladi Cultural Evening **</p> <p>Performers: Bassam Bishara, Faith Nolan, Spin, Rafeef, Bighead, and Bill Shawanda</p>	<p>Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) 252 Bloor St W</p> <p>Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St</p>
<p>Sunday, October 8</p> <p>10:00-16:15 Workshops and Strategy Sessions</p> <p>16:30-17:30 Closing Panel **</p> <p>Speakers: Co-Chief Robert Lovelace, (<i>Ardoch Algonquin First Nations</i>), and Adam Hanieh, (<i>CAIA</i>).</p>	<p>Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) 252 Bloor St W</p>

NOTE TO JOURNALISTS: Only sessions marked ** are OPEN to the media.

For more information and to schedule interviews with CAIA spokespeople and/or keynote speakers: **(647) 831-5516** or **media@caiaweb.org**.

The Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid (CAIA) was formed in January 2006 as part of a growing, global movement against Israeli apartheid. We believe Israel is an apartheid state that resembles South African Apartheid. We are a network of concerned Palestinian, Jewish and other individuals and organizations working to end this system. We believe that justice will not be achieved without equal rights for everyone in the region, regardless of religion, ethnicity or nationality.

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