

AUSTRALIANS FOR PALESTINE

PO Box 2099
Hawthorn VIC 3122
Melbourne - Australia
Tel: 03 9818 5080
Fax: 03 9818 5009

info@australiansforpalestine.com
www.australiansforpalestine.com

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Prepared by SK/AFP

Marrickville opens the door for debate on BDS

Providing a Voice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release No 27 – 20 April 2011

In response to Marrickville's decision to no longer pursue BDS, Australians for Palestine is calling for a Press Conference at 10.30am, 20 April 2011 at The Tree of Knowledge behind the NSW State Parliament.

We wish to thank the Marrickville councillors who took personal ethical positions last year to support the BDS call by Palestinian civil society to help the oppressed and disenfranchised Palestinians and maintained their stance on truth and justice, despite the campaign waged against them. Their determination and constancy helped put BDS on the public agenda.

Throughout the furore and scaremongering though, the Palestinian voice in Australia was noticeably missing.

Australians for Palestine public advocate Samah Sabawi said: "There has been a deliberate drive to keep the Palestinian perspective out of the debate which has prevented the Australian public from developing an informed opinion on boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS).

"We should all be concerned by the tactics used to prevent ordinary citizens from speaking and forming opinions without perversion of the truth, especially when those behind that drive are serving foreign interests."

She added: "Australians for Palestine is here to provide a Palestinian voice and to give support to Marrickville Council for taking that first principled step towards freedom and justice for the Palestinians. We do not see the decision to overturn the BDS resolution as a loss, but rather as an opportunity on which to build a stronger BDS advocacy campaign in Australia.

We urge the media to hear the reasons for the BDS call and why Australians should support it.

For further information contact:

- Samah Sabawi 0427 444 747
- Moammar Mashni 0419 999 773

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