

# AUSTRALIANS FOR PALESTINE

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## MEDIA RELEASE 31 9 August 2011

*Prepared by SS/AFP*

### AFP refutes Jewish group's comparison of BDS protests to Nazi anti-Semitic acts

## Providing a Voice

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Press Release No 31 – 09 August 2011*

The AJDS in its recent statement deploring the “Max Brenner” protests quoted from Australians for Palestine’s website prompting us to respond.

We are dismayed by the AJDS’s use of our name to lend legitimacy to its own arguments while drawing a wedge in pro-Palestinian activism. Let us be absolutely clear for the umpteenth time on public record that we, Australians for Palestine, support peaceful protests against the Max Brenner chain as part of our support for the Boycott Divestments and Sanctions global campaign.

While it is true that our organisation may not agree on tactics used by other solidarity groups within the BDS campaign in Australia, we take issue with any group that tries to paint the protesters as anti-Semitic or worse, as is the case in the AJDS’s press release which implies that the protesters are like Nazis.

The AJDS’s attempt to once again regurgitate the line that these protests are reminiscent of the anti-Jewish activities in Europe during the 1930, is abhorrent and unacceptable.

It is ironic that the press release suggests that “a supporter of Palestinian rights might better seek to engage Jews without stereotyping their affiliation or politics, rather than alienating them” and in the same breath, the release takes a shot at the BDS campaign and paint brushes all protesters as Nazis. This deliberately misrepresents the focus of the protests and takes them out of their real context: Israel’s violations of Palestinian rights and freedoms.

This is a familiar tactic often used by Israel’s apologists in order to exonerate the state of Israel of its crimes.

BDS is a tool of non-violent protest issued by Palestinian Civil Society and embraced by many around the world. It is a tool based on international humanitarian law and the rejection of all forms of racism including anti-Semitism. What the AJDS and others have done is to attack the tool and give it their own twisted interpretation rather than deal with the substance of the message.

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**END**

