

AN OPEN LETTER TO LEONARD COHEN

Dear Leonard Cohen,

We are Jews, Palestinians, Israeli citizens, who hold your poetry and music in high esteem, and it is because of this respect for your artistic contributions and your moral Buddhist commitment to "save all beings" that we hope that our appeal to you to cancel your planned performance in Israel will not fall on deaf ears.

Israel is facing one of its most immoral historical moments. Its ruthless, criminal bashing of the Palestinians has met with little international criticism or curbing. The silence of most of the world's governments continues to embolden successive Israeli governments to commit more violent acts. Israel has violated numerous international laws, but so far for Israeli Jews life in Israel goes on as if nothing happened. Indeed, your people, Cohen, have built "a new Dachau, And call it love, Security, Jewish culture", as you have so perceptively put it yourself in 'Questions for Shomrim',¹ but only a few voices have been raised against these injustices.

It is left for us, citizens of the world, to condemn Israeli atrocities and crimes against humanity. Dissociating ourselves from Israel's brutal policies is the only non-violent way now to avoid becoming complicit in the killing, the wounding and the maiming, and the robbing of Palestinians. Faced with all this and more, Palestinians are calling on all people to support their struggle for their basic rights. Unfortunately, recognizing Palestinian rights will require a fundamental shift in Israeli society. We suspect that this change will be achieved only via external pressure. The least that one can do in such a situation is not act as if it is business as usual. We see our society becoming more and more calloused and racist and given your longstanding, vocal commitment to justice, we cannot envision you cooperating with continued Israeli defiance of justice and morality; we cannot envision you playing a part in the Israeli charade of self-righteousness. We appeal to you to add your voice to those brave people the world over who boycott Israel. We urge you to cancel your planned performance in Israel.

Sincerely,

¹ http://www.auphr.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=54&Itemid=84

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2. Adv. Ahmad M. Amara
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9. Yossi Bartal
10. Eldad Benary
11. Ofra Ben Artzi
12. Farid Bishara
13. Prof. Daniel Boyarin
14. Efi Brenner
15. Prof. Haim Bresheeth
16. Prof. Victoria Buch
17. Shai Carmeli Pollak
18. Smadar Carmon
19. Ron Cohen
20. Sivan Cohen
21. Nathalie Cohen
22. Adi Dagan
23. Elias Davidsson
24. Prof. Uri Davis
25. Dr. Aim Deuelle Luski
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27. Diana Dolev
28. Aliza Dror
29. Dr. Judit Druks
30. Shai Efrati
31. Prof. Nomi Erteschik-Shir
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33. Eli Fabrikant
34. Naama Farjoun
35. Emmanuel Farjoun
36. Yossi Farjoun
37. Amir Farjoun
38. Eva Ferrero
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42. Racheli Gai
43. Prof. Rachel Giora
44. Angela Godfrey-Goldstein
45. Neta Golan
46. Vardit Goldner
47. Tsilli Goldenberg
48. AdAr Grayevsky
49. Amos Gvirtz
50. Tal Haran
51. Rosamine Hayeem
52. Iris Hefets
53. Shir Hever
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55. Dr. Tikva Honig-Parnass
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91. Prof. Fanny Michaela Reisin
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93. Sandra Ruch
94. Dr. Ilan Shalif
95. Sami Shalom Chetrit
96. Yonatan Shapira
97. Ehud Shem Tov
98. Hagit Shlonsky
99. Dr. Kobi Snitz
100. Kerstin Sodergren
101. Inbar Tamari
102. Ruth Tenne
103. Amir Terkel
104. Sahar M. Vardi
105. Tirza Waisel
106. Erica Wayburne Melzer
107. Elian Weizman
108. Einat Weizman Diamond
109. Adi Winter
110. Beate Zilversmidt