



August 4, 2016

Dear Editor,

In an article published in the Daily Telegraph (August 3,2016) entitled: *Israeli anger as Qatar backs campaign for global boycott*, the author makes several contentious and far-fetched assumptions which are not true.

The Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies is an independent academic center that has established itself as one of the region's most distinguished institutes comprising some of the Arab world's best researchers, brightest academics and critical thinkers. We maintain our academic independence and integrity by not adopting or representing any government's perspective.

Since our establishment in 2010, we have published over 150 academic titles and organized numerous conferences in Qatar and the Arab world covering a wide range of topics, such as: democratic transition, human rights, authoritarianism, sectarianism, and Middle East relations with the rest of the world. We invite you to visit our website (www.dohainstitute.org) for further information about what we do.

Our workshop titled “Boycott as a Strategy against Israeli Occupation and Apartheid: Present-day Realities and Aspirations” which starts today, is an academic seminar that brings together scholars from different countries to present analytical peer reviewed papers on boycott strategies and its future prospects. The conference will study parallels between the current boycott movement against Israel and the past boycott movement against apartheid South Africa.

The fact that we hold a strictly academic activity and not a political conference does not mean that we as social and political scientists should remain neutral in addressing and studying human rights, democracy, self-determination and racial separation issues. As such, we support BDS and believe it is an effective non-violent tool to resist the longest running occupation in modern history and express our solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to learn about our activities, events and publications through our website. We look forward to engage with you in any matter within our expertise.

Sincerely,

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