

Sa'ed Atshan

Sa'ed Atshan is a leading activist in the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement, which spreads lies about Jews and Israel and seeks to destroy the only Jewish state. He also claims to advocate for LGBTQ rights; however, he demonizes the only country in the Middle East (Israel) that supports gay rights, while he ignores actual human rights abuses against the LGBTQ communities in Arab countries.

Atshan supports BDS, which hurts Palestinian-Arabs, Israelis, and peace prospects.

- Atshan voices support for numerous pro-BDS organizations, such as PACBI¹ (Palestinian Campaign for the Academic & Cultural Boycott of Israel), alQaws,² and PQBDS³ (Palestinian Queers for Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions).
- The BDS movement harms Palestinian-Arabs working in Israel by boycotting products they produce, eliminating their places of work and sources of income. **If BDS succeeds, roughly 100,000 Palestinian-Arabs will lose their jobs.**⁴
- BDS undermines peace negotiations by encouraging Palestinian-Arab leaders to not associate or negotiate with any Israeli. It also distorts reality by demonizing Israel and insisting it is to blame for problems in the Middle East.
- Freedom House ranks Israel as the *only* completely free country in the Middle East, yet BDS only targets the Jewish state.⁵ BDS ignores countries (Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Syria, etc.) with the worst human rights records.
 - This qualifies as anti-Semitism according to the U.S. State Department's definition of the term because it spreads lies about the only Jewish state and it holds it to a double standard.⁶

Atshan spreads false propaganda about the only Jewish state.

- Atshan falsely claims that Israel is an 'apartheid' state and speaks at anti-Israel campus events titled "Israel Apartheid Week." He says, "In Israel/Palestine, the displacement of Native Palestinian Christians and Muslims continues in an Israeli campaign to maintain a "Jewish state" privileging one ethno-religious group and institutionalizing segregation and discrimination with impunity."⁷
 - **In reality, Israel has always given all its citizens equal rights under the law. All ethnicities, genders, religions, etc, enjoy full rights and opportunities.**
 - In fact, former South African Member of Parliament Kenneth Meshoe describes growing up in *real* apartheid in South Africa and explains how calling Israel an "apartheid state" is wrong.⁸
 - "It is inaccurate and it is malicious and it will not help to promote peace and harmony in the Middle East. Its only purpose is to demonize Israel and to isolate her in an attempt to delegitimize Israel's existence. And **because it is so inaccurate, it betrays the memory of those who suffered through a real apartheid.**"
 - "But having been to Israel on a number of occasions, I know that nothing is happening in that country that I've either seen or read that can be compared to apartheid in South Africa."
 - "If South African Apartheid was what people are seeing in Israel, there would never have been any need for an armed struggle. There would never have been any need for

¹ PrettyQueer.com. "Palestinian Trail of Tears: Joy Harjo's Missed Opportunity for Indigenous Solidarity". Sa'ed Adel Atshan. December 12, 2012.

² Watson Institute International & Public Affairs Brown University. "Sa'ed Adel Atshan"

³ PrettyQueer.com "About Sa'ed Adel Atshan".

⁴ "EU Survey: Palestinians working for Israelis are paid double those working for Palestinians in the West Bank and triple those in the Gaza Strip." Itamar Marcus and Nan Jacques Zilberdik. Palestinian Media Watch. February 26, 2015.

⁵ Freedom House: Middle East and North Africa, Countries and Topics.

⁶ U.S. Department of State. "Defining Anti-Semitism." June 8, 2010.

⁷ PrettyQueer.com. "Palestinian Trail of Tears: Joy Harjo's Missed Opportunity for Indigenous Solidarity". Sa'ed Adel Atshan. December 12, 2012.

⁸ PragerUniversity. "A Black South African on Israel and Apartheid." Kenneth Meshoe

Nelson Mandela to go to prison because he would have had all of the rights Arabs in Israel have.”

- Moreover, Israel’s Declaration of Independence specifically clears a path for the equality of all Arab citizens, stating “WE APPEAL... to the **Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace** and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of **full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.**”⁹

While Atshan claims to support the LGBTQ community, he attacks the only country in the Middle East with gay rights.

- Israel is the only country in the Middle East that provides a safe haven for LGBTQ members running from persecution, while surrounding Arab governments make homosexuality a “crime” punishable by prison, torture, or death.¹⁰
 - Every other country in the Middle East either executes LGBTQ individuals (such as Iran, Hamas, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, etc), tortures them (areas under the Palestinian Authority, Iraq, and Turkey), or sends them to prison (Egypt, Syria, etc).¹¹
- **Atshan’s goal of destroying Israel through the BDS movement would result in further persecution of the Palestinian-Arab LGBTQ community.** The destruction of Israel would take power away from the country that supports gay rights, while giving more power to dictatorial regimes that persecute and kill members of the LGBTQ community.

⁹ Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. “Declaration of Establishment of State of Israel.”

¹⁰ CAMERA on Campus, Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, “LGBTQ Rights.”

¹¹ HuffingtonPost. “‘Pinkwashing’ Deconstructed.” Scott Piro. February 20, 2012.