

“The Soldier and the Refusenik”

Eran Efrati and Maya Wind are activists who travel to universities and synagogues, advocating for the anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and spreading lies about the only Jewish state.

- **The Soldier:** Eran Efrati, who now makes a living off of spreading fallacies about Israel, was the chief researcher for Breaking the Silence, an organization that demonizes the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) through unsubstantiated testimonies of alleged crimes from a miniscule minority of soldiers.ⁱ
 - The group’s anti-IDF testimonies are often from anonymous sources that comprise of **less than 0.005 percent** of the IDF.ⁱⁱ
 - Breaking the Silence is viewed as a fringe group in Israel that consistently lies to spread its propaganda.
- **The “Refusenik”:** Maya Wind refused to serve in the IDF and now advocates for the anti-Semitic, anti-peace, and anti-Palestinian BDS movement.
 - She supports BDS despite the fact that the movement harms both sides.
 - The BDS movement harms Palestinian-Arabs working in Israel by boycotting companies that employ them. **If BDS succeeds, roughly 100,000 Palestinian-Arabs will lose their jobs.**ⁱⁱⁱ
 - BDS undermines peace efforts by encouraging Palestinian-Arab leaders to not associate or negotiate with Israeli peace partners.
 - Freedom House ranked Israel as the *only* completely free country in the Middle East, yet BDS only targets Israel.^{iv} **Why is BDS ignoring actual human rights abuses in the region and instead targeting the only Jewish state?**

The “Soldier and the Refusenik” spread lies about Israel in an attempt to demonize the only Jewish state. The following are just a few myths they spread:

Myth: “Racism is a key component of Israeli society.”

Facts:

- The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel says, “It will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex.”^v
- As mentioned above, *Freedom House* ranks Israel as the only completely free country in the Middle East.^{vi}
- Several Israeli-Arabs hold important positions in the Israeli government.
 - Salim Joubran, an Arab Supreme Court Justice, oversaw the latest Israeli elections.^{vii}
 - In the last election, 17 Arabs won parliamentary seats.^{viii}

Myth: “...the Palestinians are in the ghetto...my state is closing the Palestinians in walls.”^{ix}

Facts:

- Israel does not “close in” Palestinian-Arabs in Judea and Samaria (the “West Bank”); The Palestinian Authority (PA) controls nearly all Palestinian-Arabs living in the area. The PA denies Palestinian-Arabs basic freedoms, but this has nothing to do with Israel, as the PA runs a dictatorship over its citizens.^x
 - After years of Palestinian-Arab terrorist attacks and hundreds of Israeli civilians massacred, Israel had to place certain restrictions on the movement of Palestinian-Arabs living in Judea and Samaria.^{xi}
 - These restrictions, such as a security barrier and border crossings into Israel, proved to work, as terrorist attacks have nearly ceased since their implementation.^{xii} The following graph demonstrates this:



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- What Wind refers to as “checkpoints” are actually (in nearly all cases) border crossings between Israel and the Palestinian Authority that ensure the security of both Palestinian-Arabs and Israelis.
 - **These “checkpoints” are similar to those between the United States and Mexico, for example.**
 - Palestinian-Arab terrorists murdered hundreds of civilians (on both sides) before Israel implemented strict border crossings.

Myth: “...we have an entire slave economy of Palestinians...”^{xiv}

Facts:

- This is simply false; Israel has never had slaves. This is just another example of baseless demonization of the only Jewish state.
- In 2013, the Israeli Labour Court found that Palestinian-Arab employees in Judea and Samaria are covered by Israeli labor laws, meaning that **Israeli employers must pay Palestinian-Arab employees for vacation, sick leave, and all other benefits Israeli employees receive.**^{xv}
- Wind ignores the fact that as of 2014, the Israeli government gives more than 100,000 Palestinian-Arabs opportunities to work in Israel and that Palestinian-Arabs working in Israel make **at least double the amount of money** they would make in PA-governed areas.^{xvi}

ⁱ Honest Reporting. “Breaking the Silence: More Rumor & Hearsay.” July 15, 2009

ⁱⁱ CAMERA Ricki Hollander “Breaking the Silence and the British Media” July 17, 2009

ⁱⁱⁱ *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.

^{iv} Freedom House: Middle East and North Africa, Countries and Topics.

^v Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. “Declaration of Establishment of State of Israel.” May 14, 1948

^{vi} Freedom House: Middle East and North Africa, Countries and Topics.

^{vii} Jerusalem Post. Ariel Ben-Simon. “Israeli Arab Supreme Court Judge to oversee Israeli elections.” December 09, 2014

^{viii} Haaretz. Judy Maltz. “More women and Arabs, fewer Orthodox in next Knesset.” March 18, 2015

^{ix} Youtube: Penn for Palestine. “The Soldier and the Refusenik: Israeli Activists Speak Out.” December 10, 2013

^x Times of Israel: *Gay Palestinian to Court: Deport Me and I’ll be Killed*, May 25, 2012

^{xi} IDF Blog, *What’s the Truth Behind Checkpoints and Crossings in Judea and Samaria?*, May 6, 2013.

^{xii} Jewish Virtual Library, *Terrorism Against Israel: Number of Fatalities*.

^{xiii} Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Suicide and Other Bombing Attacks in Israel Since the Declaration of Principles (Sept 1993)*, 2013.

^{xiv} Youtube: Penn for Palestine. “The Soldier and the Refusenik: Israeli Activists Speak Out.” December 10, 2013

^{xv} YNet. Billie Frenkel. “Court: Palestinian employees covered by Israeli labor laws.” December 14, 2013.

^{xvi} Palestinian Media Watch. “Palestinians working for Israelis are paid double those working for Palestinians.” Itamar Marcus and Nan Jacques Zilberdik. February 26, 2015