

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. It is important to recognize that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a two sided and not unilateral issue. And it is also critical to recognize that hatred existed long before the establishment of Israel. Massacres of Jews during the 30's, who had dwelled in the Levant for millennium speaks to the pre-Israel nature of the hatred. If there is to be a resolution by the Burlington Council, it should specifically address the need for peace and acceptance from BOTH side.

The BDS movement is not designed as a peaceful attempt at conflict resolution. Instead, it has this goal as its mantra

- Ending its occupation and dismantle the Wall, and allow ALL refugees to return

This BDS goal may seem noble on the surface, but once even minimally analyzed, show the lack of justice it otherwise suggests. When Israel independence was declared in 1948, Jews, who lived in neighboring Arab majority countries were subject to pogroms and were being killed in the streets. (I know this first hand. My father in law, born in Baghdad to a family who lived there for centuries was forced to flee.) This coincided with the Palestinians fleeing their homes as the Arab armies assured them that they could return once

technology” embarked on a project in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip to provide generators that could produce up to 6,000 liters a day to Palestinians in the enclave who face a chronic water shortage.

Peace with Israel is entirely possible. Separating Israelis and Palestinians seems to be the only current solution to preventing murder on each side to the other. The BDS plan does not promote peace but rather **REQUIRES** Israel giving up the only protection it has against ongoing violence. This is asking the Israelis to commit suicide. The single comment which typifies this conflict is: If the Palestinians were to give up their arms today, tomorrow there would be peace in the area. If Israel were to give up their arms today, tomorrow there would be no Israel. The Middle East is a complex region. Trying to build bridges rather than tear them down is essential for peace to prevail. The Burlington City Council could resolve that peace between the two sides be mutual and with equal respect, thus helping build that bridge. Following the BDS principles does not accomplish this goal.