

## South African Kashmir Action Group Kashmir Centre for African Union

Tel 011-804 2422 Fax 011-804 2939 Cell. 082 691 6048 salkhan1@yahoo.com NPO Registration No. 46-254-NPO www.kashmir.co.za

## **OPEN LETTER TO BDS South Africa**

19th Sep 2018

This letter bears reference:

BDS PRESS ALERT (circulated on 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 2018) Picket in support of Lammie the 39 year old elephant at Joburg Zoo by BDS.

"Staff of the human rights and Palestine solidarity organization, BDS South Africa, including our chairperson, Professor Farid Esack (who also serves on the board of the environmental justice organization GroundWork), will participate in a lawful picket at the Johannesburg Zoo (Jan Smuts entrance) tomorrow Thursday 20 September 2018 at lunchtime (12h00) Please refer to the fwd email from BDS".

It is Amazing that the life of Animal is dearer to BDS management and directors than 14 million lives of innocent Kashmiris those are oppressed by Indian fascist regime.

There is no condemnation or uproar from a usual fiery BDS on every act of Israel Support. There is no objection nor a Boycott of Indian when there is confirmed news of top Bollywood stars presenting during culture event in Israel. It just shows the double standards and dichotomy of PRO-INDIAN lobbyist group BDS which is fully captured by Mohammed Desai, Professor Farid Essack and rest of the board of directors, management and members.



SAKAG South Africa Kashmir Action Group deplore such act of double standards by so call Muslim or Merchant class Muslims, those who value their economic gains and umbilical cord more dearer to India than their religion and moral value.

SAKAG demand an immediate release of BOYCOTT BOLLYWOOD and Indian products campaign by BDS for their participation in Culture week in Israel. It is in the same context how BDS aggressively protested when Shashi Naidoo commented: "In her social media post, Naidoo referred to Gaza as a "shithole" during a debate with an Instagram user. She later admitted that the response was "copied and pasted" from a friend who she thought had a more "educated" viewpoint."

BDS advocate that Israel and its supporters should be boycotted until it ceases to exist as a Jewish state and vacate the land of Palestinian people.

If remain silent that then it will be all chalk and cheese and it will be proven that they are more Indian Muslim than South Africa Muslim and either case they cannot or should not divorce from the main issue of protecting Human Rights for one Muslim cause and turn the blind eyes on another and show no solidarity with people of Kashmir and decided to stay Pro-Indian, the time will only tell.

I hope and pray sanity will prevail and BDS will issue an immediate press release in this regards and take a firm position for their quietness on the India and Bollywood Israel presentation and why they have not launched a Boycott India and Bollywood Campaign.

Some of the biggest names in Bollywood will be heading to Israel next month for an unprecedented event celebrating Indian culture and celebrity.

Among the close to 80 actors, singers and dancers who will perform at the Rishon Lezion Live Park on October 9 are some huge stars including Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit and Shilpa Shetty. These stars are all tabloid mainstays in India, with huge social media followings: Kumar has 28 million Twitter followers, while Shetty has 7 million Instagram followers and Dixit has 25 million fans on Facebook.

"In all of Israel's history there has never been a Bollywood show of this size including acting, music and dance. This show is a salute to Israel, and reflects the strong connection that exists between the cultures."

Over the past two years – in particular since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel last year and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to India in January – the governments have been urging cooperation in the film industry. Earlier this year, Modi and Netanyahu signed a film cooperation agreement that would classify films produced under the deal as national productions, making them eligible for incentives. Last year, portions of the upcoming Bollywood film Drive were shot in Israel, believed to be the first Hindi film set in the Jewish state.

This is will be test of the BDS for its principles for Human Rights or if they remain silent that then it will be all chalk and cheese and it will be proven that they are more Indian Muslim than South Africa Muslim and either case they cannot or should not divorce from the main issue of protecting Human Rights for one Muslim cause and turn the blind eyes on another and show no solidarity with people of Kashmir and decided to stay Pro-Indian, the time will only tell.

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You can write letter of condemnation and object to BDS <u>administrator@bdssouthafrica.com</u> or Chairman Muhammed Desai <u>mdesai@bdssouthafrica.co.za</u>

Aluta Continua Victorie de certe.

In Struggle,

Salman Khan.
Chairman SAKAG.
Salkhan1@yahoo.com
Founder & Chairman
SAKAG "South Africa Kashmiri Action Group".
KCAU "Kashmiri Center for Africa Union".