

Dear Mayor Murray,

I'm a member of Jewish Voice for Peace Tacoma who is deeply disappointed to hear from a Seattle colleague that you are planning to go to Israel.

To do so would be to stand in support of illegal occupation, severe human rights violations, and crimes against humanity (apartheid, which Israel meets the definition of with its dozens of laws that apply to only one group of its citizens [Jews]).

There are MANY groups and organizations in Seattle and in fact, all over Washington, that support the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) on Israel until Israel complies with international and human rights laws. There is nothing else that has worked to hold Israel accountable.

Join us in boycotting Israel's brutal policies and practices. It's a time-honored tradition, and perhaps now the only nonviolent tool that can work to help make Israelis, Palestinians and Americans safer.

Please view this film Roadmap to Apartheid, free online www.hulu.com/watch/525957 . It's made by an Israeli filmmaker and a South African filmmaker, and it's narrated by Alice Walker. It will help you understand what you would be showing tacit support for if you were to go to Israel, and why BDS is so critical.

Not everyone who visits every country in which there is an oppressive government shows support for that government by visiting...but in the case of Israel, because the Palestinian civil society (trade unions, women's groups, all totalling about 170 civil society organizations) have asked the world to help them get their rights through the tool of BDS, going to Israel and disregarding the BDS call indeed is considered a blatant act of support for Bibi and all the extremists in Israel who are squeezing the life out of Palestinians one decade at a time.

Sincerely,