



[A Group of Students at Georgetown University Successfully Block Funding for an Itrek Trip to Israel in Solidarity with Social Justice for Palestinians](#)

A group of Georgetown University students have taken part in an initiative that has successfully blocked institutional funding for an Itrek trip to Israel in solidarity with social justice for Palestinians. The students highlighted the legitimate concerns with the trips and how they serve to try and de-emphasize Israel's mistreatment and human rights abuses against Palestinians. These include the systematic discrimination and denial of rights to Palestinians, unlawful military occupation of Palestinian territory, and land seizures for illegal settlement expansion, among others. The group of Georgetown students touched on these issues when providing the reasoning for their effort to halt the use of student tuition funds for subsidizing the trip. They also outlined their grievance with the nature of the partnering entity, Itrek, who seeks to whitewash the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine. The students have been commended by social justice and rights advocacy organizations for standing up in support of Palestinians and urging accountability for longstanding Israeli human rights violations.

Several prominent human rights organizations including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch now recognize Israel as an apartheid state because of its discriminatory policies and practices. As such, the group of Georgetown University students listed the destination of the Itrek trip to such a state that "enforces military rule on millions of Palestinians and occupies their land" as one of the major reasons behind their initiative. The illegal Israeli occupation has forced Palestinians from their generational homes and tried to control nearly every aspect of daily life. Palestinians have been subjected to human rights violations for decades, and those living in the illegally-occupied areas suffer from restriction of movement, suppression of protests, and land confiscation. Others who fled the illegally-occupied territories are also denied the right of return. All of these aspects of the illegal Israeli occupation are blatant violations of international law.

The action undertaken by the students has received broad support from social justice entities and groups, such as The Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement. The BDS movement is a collective that advocates for Palestinian rights. They do this by encouraging the boycott and divestment of all Israeli and international companies that are engaged in or complicit in the violation of Palestinian human rights. BDS also encourages governments to sanction Israel for their human rights violations by banning business with illegal Israeli settlements, ending military trade agreements, and suspending Israel's membership in the international forums. This would help hold businesses accountable and make it less profitable to operate within the illegally-occupied zones. The BDS movement includes unions, refugee networks, academic organizations, and other grassroots initiatives. They are currently attempting to push forward an effort that would stop all European trade with illegal settlements in occupied territories.

The group of Georgetown University students is just one of the increasing number of collectives that are speaking out against Israel's mistreatment of Palestinians. Multiple international organizations, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and the United Nations, have released comprehensive findings documenting this and labelling Israel an apartheid state. The action taken by the Georgetown students also highlights the growing criticism levied toward Israel for its behavior, particularly among the younger generation, in both the United States and around the world.