

Hello, my name is Maria Barahona and I'm a member of Jewish Voice for Peace.

6 months ago I visited Palestine and witnessed the catastrophic situation of the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. As a result of this experience I have become a supporter of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

I experienced the occupation through the many checkpoints where Palestinians stood in line for hours as part of their daily routine, through the separation wall and road blockades that divided communities, families, workers, and even our team.

Perhaps what most impacted me was my visit to the Nassar's family farm, roughly about 100 acres, 6 miles southwest of Bethlehem.

In 1991, the Israeli government declared the surrounding area including the Nassar's portion as Israeli 'state land'. The Nassar family has all the original land registration papers from 1916 and has cultivated and reregistered the land throughout the Ottoman, British, Jordanian, and even Israeli governance; clearly demonstrating that the Israeli government has no right to declare it theirs..The family been fighting a legal battle to keep hold of this land accruing many legal expenses, continuing to pay taxes on their farm and being punished at the same time.

On May 14, 2014 at 4am bulldozers arrived and destroyed the entire orchard of fruit trees and grape vines. By the time the Nassars started working in the fields at 8am, the trees were all gone. But the Nassars were resilient and continued.

Since then they have created an environmental peace center on their farm called Tent of Nations. They provide children's summer camps, a women's empowerment project and offer volunteer opportunities to internationals.

The most impressive about the Nassar family is their resiliency. They have become a fully operating self sustainable farm mostly because they had no choice.

Since the family cannot get permits for running water, they built 15 cisterns enough to hold 200,000 gallons of water during a good rainy season is sufficient for the year.

Since the family cannot get permits for electricity, they had a German engineer who was volunteering to help them install solar panels.

And when you first enter their farm, the first thing you see is a big slab of rock with the words engraved on it " WE REFUSE TO BE ENEMIES"

So I keep coming back to the WHY?

When a country repeatedly violates human rights and does not respond to decades of pressure through diplomatic efforts and international law or rulings, the logic would be that another level of pressure is needed, right?

BDS is a clear, organized non-violent movement to resist discrimination and an illegal occupation.

Free Speech is in jeopardy under the Trump administration. If the Israel Anti-Boycott Act is passed, it would have chilling implications not only for supporters of Palestine but also for anyone who cares about the right to dissent in the Trump era.

So while I am not asking for your endorsement of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions I am asking City Council to pass a resolution opposing the Israel Anti Boycott act and support the right to Boycott.

Thank you.

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Maria Barahona <barahonam@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2017 4:55 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Re: City council January meeting

I will be speaking about BDS. - *Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement.*

Sent from my iPhone
Maria Barahona

> On Nov 3, 2017, at 4:47 PM, Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

>

> Hello Maria Barahona,

>

> Thank you for your request to address the Portland City Council. There is space available on the Communication's portion of the Wednesday, January 10, 2018 agenda but, for me to place your name on that day's agenda, I will have to have what it is you will be speaking about.

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> Communications are the first item on the official agenda and we start at 9:30 a.m. You will have three minutes to speak but you may also submit written material, please provide seven copies.

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> Communications allow the Council to hear issues that interest our community members but does not allow an opportunity for dialogue.

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> Council takes place at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave., 2nd floor, Council Chambers.

>

> Regards,

> Karla

> Karla Moore-Love |Council Clerk

> City of Portland |Office of the City Auditor

> 1221 SW 4th Ave Rm 130

> Portland OR 97204-1900

>

> email: Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov

> Testimony Email: cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov

> phone: 503.823.4086

> Clerk's Webpage: www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/councilclerk

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Maria Barahona [mailto:barahonam@comcast.net]

> Sent: Friday, November 03, 2017 11:30 AM

> To: Council Clerk - Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov>

> Subject: City council January meeting

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> I would like to request a spot at the city council meetings either in January 3rd or prefer 10th please.

> Thank you,

>

> Maria Barahona

> 503-539-5451

Request of Maria Barahona to address Council regarding ~~Bureau of~~
~~Development Services~~ (Communication)

the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement

JAN 10 2018

PLACED ON FILE

Filed JAN 02 2018

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By *Susan Parsons*
 Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		