

Malaysia Needs To Double Efforts In Promoting BDS Against Israel

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By Soon Li Wei

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia needs to double its efforts in promoting the BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) campaign against Israel, says Viva Palestina Malaysia (VPM) chairman Datuk Dr Musa Mohd Nordin.

He said the BDS movement was the best tool to call Israel to account over its inhumane treatment of the Palestinians.

"We need to expose to our people on the violence of Israel Zionist regimes towards the Palestinians, how the Israelis destroy their (Palestinians) homeland and kill the children and women.

"It is important for every one of us to make a small difference in our daily lives, so that the BDS would have a far-reaching impact," he told Bernama after the International Conference of BDS at the University of Malaya (UM) here Saturday.

He said an incident where a fast food outlet was attacked last year should not have happened as BDS was a very peaceful campaign, and did not involve any violence or vandalism.

International Conference of BDS chairman, Prof Mohd Nazari Ismail said according to the Israel Finance Ministry's report, a complete boycott of Israel by the European Union had caused the country to lose nearly USD23.3 billion in exports.

"It also cut nearly USD10.2 billion from gross domestic product and cost them some 36,500 jobs.

"Therefore, BDS efforts have a very strong potential to end the injustices and atrocities committed by the Israeli Government," said Nazari, who is also UM's former dean of the faculty of business and accountancy.

The one-day conference titled 'BDS For Justice' featured talks from prominent Palestinian rights advocates, including Electronicintifada.net co-founder Ali Hasan Abunimah, United States Palestinian rights activist Anna Baltzer and Palestinian author and playwright Samah Sabawi.

Ali Hasan said BDS was about pressuring businesses to cease their relationship or change their business policies with a government that violated the rights of an entire people.

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