



## **No support of Zionism celebrations by the city of Basel**

### **No trivialization of Israeli apartheid**

In the next few days, around the central Barfüsserplatz a large contingent of police and military will be deployed. The reason: Zionist organizations are celebrating the 125th anniversary of the first Zionist Congress, which took place in Basel in 1897.

It was here that the Zionist movement laid the ideological foundations of today's State of Israel. This state was founded with the deliberate expulsion of the Palestinian population from the year 1947. Until today Israel is characterized by countless laws and practices discriminating against the Palestinian population.

The expulsion of the Palestinian population from large parts of the country continues unabated.

Recognized human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International and representatives of the UN accuse Israel today of having established an apartheid regime and pursue settler colonialism. Also countless Jewish intellectuals in Israel and the world condemn the Zionist-Israeli self-image.

This state deprives Palestinians in Israel, the territory occupied by Israel, and in exile of fundamental rights in the name of its Jewish character.

At the end of June, numerous organizations and individuals sent an open letter the Basel government and asked it to withdraw its logistical and financial support for the celebrations.

The criticism is explicitly not against individuals, and certainly not against Jews in Israel/Palestine, in Basel, Switzerland or elsewhere. We are aware that Zionism was a reaction to the persecution of the Jews in Europe. But it was influenced by the colonialist thinking of that time and created, supported by the by the colonial powers of the time and the Soviet Union, a new injustice against the Palestinians.

For years, Palestinian civil society has been calling on people all over the world to condemn Israel for its violations of international law and human rights and to end cooperation with Israeli institutions and authorities([www.bdsmovement.net](http://www.bdsmovement.net) or [www.bds-info.ch](http://www.bds-info.ch)).

The Basel government ignores the criticism, instead praises Basel's importance for Zionism and Israel and welcomes Israeli President Isaac Herzog with open arms. In its reply to the open letter, the political leaders alarmingly downplayed the systematic violation of the basic rights of the Palestinians and the underlying Zionist policies. We once again urge the Basel government to withdraw from any involvement in the Zionism celebrations and to cease any cooperation with official Israeli institutions and representatives of the state.

## Events

Information on protest events and the open letter to the government of the canton of Basel-Stadt, which can be further supported: [no-to-apartheid.com](https://no-to-apartheid.com)

- Until 23.8., Mon. till Sat. 11-19, Sun. 13-19h, Blaukreuzhaus Münchenstein, Bruckfeldstrasse 3 (Tram 10 to Hofmatt)  
**Exposition «Frieden ist möglich – auch in Palästina»**  
[friedenundgerechtigkeit.ch/?p=2981](https://friedenundgerechtigkeit.ch/?p=2981)
- Wen. 24.8. 20h, Neues Kino, Klybeckstrasse 247  
"And there was Israel ..." (german) Film by Romed Wyder about the history of political Zionism. The author will be available for discussion afterwards. Organized by Palestine Solidarity Basel Region  
<https://palaestina-info.ch/>
- Sat. 27.8. 17h, Hall of the Trade Union House (Claraplatz)  
Panel event by Palestine Speaks with critical contributions on the situation in Palestine.  
e [gegenkongress.noblogs.org/](https://gegenkongress.noblogs.org/)
- Sun. 28. 8. from 15h gathering De Wette Park (near SBB train station).  
Protest rally against the Zionist Congress and its support by the government of the canton of Basel-Stadt  
The route will be coordinated with the authorities. Any expression of anti-Semitism is prohibited. Exclusively flags of Palestine are welcome.

For further information: <https://palaestina-info.ch/> ou [swiss-palestine-network.ch/fr/veranstaltungen/aktuell](https://swiss-palestine-network.ch/fr/veranstaltungen/aktuell)