



RIGHT TO BOYCOTT

Organizing resistance to NY Governor Cuomo's Unconstitutional Executive Order.

ON JUNE 5, 2016, New York Governor Anthony Cuomo signed an executive order requiring New York state agencies to divest from businesses that boycott Israel and to create a blacklist of organizations that support the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement for Palestinian human rights.

With just days left in the legislative session, Governor Cuomo circumvented the legislative process, drawing condemnation from civil liberties advocates including the

New York Civil Liberties Union, Center for Constitutional Rights, and Palestine Legal - all of whom recognize that boycotts are a Constitutionally-protected form of political speech.

We are very optimistic that this order will eventually be overturned by the courts. But in the meantime, our job is to extract a real political cost so other Governors decline to follow Cuomo's "lead." So we organized protests and made our voices heard in local, national, and international

media. Four days after the order was signed, over 400 protesters demonstrated outside Governor Cuomo's midtown Manhattan offices in a protest organized by JVP-NYC, Adalah-NY, and Jews Say No!. And a week after that, another 200 New Yorkers from across the state converged in Albany, delivering a petition signed by over 12,000 supporters of the right to boycott.

Then, on July 6, over 100 people united by the Freedom to Boycott Coalition marched on Governor

Cuomo's home in Westchester, NY. They carried a coffin signaling the death of the First Amendment and signs explaining that we will continue to boycott until there is justice for Palestinians.

JVP's actions have received widespread coverage, and JVP members have been heard expressing support for the right to boycott and the BDS movement on local TV, in online publications, and in national and international newspapers.

BY THE NUMBERS

8 legislative session days left

when Governor Cuomo decided the legislative process was “tedious” and he would sign an anti-BDS executive order instead, which led to actions where..

400 people showed up to protest

outside Governor Cuomo’s midtown Manhattan offices on June 9th, calling on him to recognize why we boycott. Less than a week later..

200 people from across New York and New Jersey

arrived at the statehouse in Albany on June 15th to demand Governor Cuomo rescind his executive order.

12,000 people signed

in support of BDS and the right to boycott.

Over 32 media hits

including articles, letters to the editor, op-eds, TV and radio interviews.

8 Governors (including Cuomo)

have signed the AJC’s “Governor’s United Against BDS” pledge.

UNKNOWN:

the number of organizations and companies that will be included on New York’s new BDS blacklist.



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

JVP voices are being heard.

Op-Eds

I’m Jewish, and I Want People to Boycott Israel, Rebecca Vilkomerson, JVP Executive Director, Washington Post, June 24, 2016

The Right to Boycott, and It’s Right to Boycott, Donna Nevel, Huffington Post, June 17, 2016

Andrew Cuomo’s Anti-Free Speech Move on B.D.S., Daniel Sieradski, The New York Times, June 12, 2016

Cuomo’s repressive anti-BDS crusade: New York’s Governor is waging war on political speech rights, Rebecca Vilkomerson, JVP Executive Director, New York Daily News, June 9, 2016

Letters to the Editor

Mr. Cuomo forgets that free speech and boycotts are protected by the Constitution, Jenn Gorelik, JVP-DC Metro, The Washington Post, June 15, 2016

Crushing Human Rights, Mary Buchwald, New York Daily News, June 11, 2016

Leave BDS Alone, Jeff Stirewalt, New York Daily News, June 11, 2016

BDS is the Alternative, Neil Hurtz, New York Daily News, June 10, 2016

News Coverage

BDS supporters demonstrated in Cuomo’s neighborhood, Albany Times-Union, July 7, 2016

Boycott activists protest New York governor’s anti-BDS edict, Times of Israel, June 16, 2016

Capital Tonight with JVP-Albany’s Mark Mishler and NYCLU’s Legislative Director Robert Perry, Time Warner Cable News, June 15

Protesters argue BDS order infringes on freedom of speech, Albany Times Union, June 15, 2016

Israel boycotts lead to protest at Gov. Cuomo’s office, CBS 6 News, June 15, 2016

Governor Cuomo to BDS: If you boycott Israel, we will boycott you, Al Jazeera Plus, June 10, 2016

“Shame on Cuomo”: New Yorkers protest “McCarthyite” blacklist of supporters of Israel boycott movement BDS, Salon, June 10, 2016

Debate: Is Cuomo’s Crackdown on BDS Unconstitutional McCarthyism or a Stand Against Anti-Semitism?, Rebecca Vilkomerson, JVP Executive Director, appearing on Democracy Now, June 9, 2016