

## משרד לעניינים אסטרטגים והסברה

## **JVP Hate Conference**

The Jewish Voice for Peace conference this weekend will host a convicted terrorist and anti-Israel activists, all coming together to plan the next steps in the delegitimization and boycott campaign against Israel.

The conference is taking place following a series of failures of the BDS campaign.

\* This week, an additional US state, the 17th state in total, enacted legislation against BDS\*

Minister of Strategic Affairs Gilad Erdan: As a Jew, I am ashamed that a conference filled with hatred for Israel, and that is hosting a terrorist as a central speaker, is led by a Jewish organization.

This coming Friday, a Jewish Voice for Peace conference will be held in Chicago with an estimated attendance of 1,000 people. The conference will be held following a series of failures of the BDS movement, the latest of which is the legislation passed by Arkansas against BDS, the 17th state in the US that has passed laws against BDS.

One of the main speakers at the conference is Rasmah Odeh, a convicted terrorist who was active with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terror organization. Rasmah was convicted and imprisoned in Israel for her terrorist activities.

Other prominent speakers are leading individuals in the boycott and anti-Israel movement. These include: Linda Sarsour, a prominent anti-Israeli activist in the US, whose family members were imprisoned in Israel due to their links with Hamas; Bina Ahmad, an attorney who also worked for Al Haq and Badi; The lawyer, Dima Halidi, who was involved in the legal warfare against Moshe "Bogi" Ya'alon and Avi Dichter; Fadi Quran who in the past held a position in Al Haq, one of the leading delegitimization organizations in the Palestinian Authority. Fadi was arrested Hebron in 2012 following a physical altercation with an IDF soldier; Hatem Aboudiya an activist who was interrogated in the United States for possession of materials supporting terrorism.

This conference is dedicated to harming Israel and to the planning of boycotts, against the backdrop of a series of failures that the movement has suffered in the last year, in the legislative and economic spheres (closing bank accounts, growing foreign investments in Israel) and cultural activities (many prominent artists are planning to perform in Israel in the near future, despite the attempts by the BDS to threaten and bully them into canceling their performances). Among the topics to be discussed at the conference: The academic boycott; How to fight legislation against BDS; How to promote labor union boycotts; How to plan multi-front campaigns, etc.

Jewish Voice for Peace was established in 1996 and currently has 60 branches throughout the US. The organization is headed by Rebecca Wilkommerson, who lived in Israel for several years and was arrested in 2014 for trespassing on the FIDF offices in New York. The organization routinely collaborates with pro-Palestinian organizations operating against the State of Israel, including Students for Justice in Palestine, which works to boycott Israel on campuses, American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) and others.

Minister of Strategic Affairs Gilad Erdan: "The JVP is an anti-Semitic organization which incites against Israel. It regularly cooperates with extremist organizations which seek Israel's destruction. It is inexcusable that the organization chose to host at its conference a terrorist who was convicted for her involvement in murdering two Israeli students. I will continue to lead a determined struggle against those who seek to harm Israel and undermine its legitimacy. As a Jew I am ashamed that a conference that is filled with hatred for Israel, and whose sole purpose is to harm the homeland of the Jewish people, is led by a Jewish organization."