

## News from Norway on the Petroleum Issue

The Norwegian City of Trondheim boycotts Israeli settlements

**November 17** the Trondheim municipality decided to boycott all goods and services that are produced by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories: <https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ryan-rodrick-beiler/norwegian-city-boycotts-israeli-settlements>

The boycott resolution also mentions the petroleum issue by saying that the university college of Trondheim, NTNU, ought to ensure that it does not support or contribute to any activities in occupied territory. This comes in a time when NTNU is thinking about entering a cooperation with the Israeli university Technion, which would enable Israel to become better at petroleum extraction, including from occupied territories.

As a reaction to the boycott resolution, the Foreign Minister of Norway, Børge Brende, said that the Norwegian government intends to look into legality of the resolution in regards to Norway's international commitments. It is interesting that Brende points to "international commitments" as a way of arguing against this resolution. By doing so, he implies that international law is on his side of the argument, that commitments to international law on trade is superior to avoiding Norwegian complicity in international crimes such as occupation, colonialism and apartheid. Brende expresses the Norwegian government's position in writing in this reply: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Sporsmal/Skriftlige-sporsmal-og-svar/Skriftlig-sporsmal/?qid=67257>

Demonstration in front of the Norwegian Parliament

**November 29**, The Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Palestine Committee of Oslo organized a demonstration in front of the Parliament. One of the main messages of the demonstration was against Norwegian-Israeli cooperation on petroleum. Among the speakers where a parliamentarian representative from the Labour Party, Stine Renate Håheim. Among the organizations who stood behind this message were Norwegian People's Aid, Norwegian Union of Social Educators and Social Workers, Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees, and Norwegian YWCA-YMCA.

Academic Boycott Resolution by the Student Parliament at the University of Oslo

**December 1**, the Student Parliament at the University of Oslo (UiO) voted in favor of a particular academic boycott resolution. It states that the Student Parliament supports the call for no cooperation between Norwegian and Israeli universities on the issue of petroleum and petroleum technology: <http://www.studentparlamentet.uio.no/Dokumenter/resolusjoner/2016-2017/nei-til-norsk-israelsk-samarbeid-om-petroleumstekn.html>

The resolution refers to a particular petition, which is supported by student organizations, unions and several professors from different Norwegian universities [see English version at the bottom of the petition page]: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/oppromot-norsk-israelsk-oljesamarbeid-i-akademia>

The resolution echoed much of the content of the petition, where the main argument against the petroleum cooperation is as follows: "To assist Israel with academic expertise in petroleum technology will strengthen the strategic and economic position of the Israeli occupation at the expense of the rights of the Palestinians."