

**Resolution for Consideration at the 2014 Annual Business Meeting
Middle East Studies Association (MESA)**

Whereas, Members of various academic associations in North America have sought to organize forums for discussion and debate of the 2005 Palestinian civil society call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel; and

Whereas, A number of academic associations have held membership votes on whether to endorse the BDS call; and

Whereas, We acknowledge that members of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) have differing views on the necessity or productivity of such actions; and

Whereas, Individual scholars and academic associations organizing, participating in, or commenting on such discussions, debates, and votes have been subjected to efforts to silence and/or punish them; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the MESA membership

Affirms that calls for institutional boycott, divestment, and/or sanctions are protected free speech and legitimate forms of non-violent political action; and

Affirms the right of MESA members to engage in open and transparent discussion of the boycott of Israeli academic institutions in the context of the Annual Meeting and other forums; and

Affirms the right of the memberships of all organizations to discuss, debate, and endorse or not endorse the BDS campaign; and

Deplores the measures of intimidation directed against the American Studies Association, the Association for Asian American Studies, the Critical Ethnic Studies Association, and the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, among other associations, and some of their individual members, as we MESA members uphold the principles of free speech that protect the expression of such views and actions; and

Strongly urges MESA program committees to organize discussions at MESA annual meetings, and the MESA Board of Directors to create opportunities over the course of the year that provide platforms for a sustained discussion of the academic boycott and foster careful consideration of an appropriate position for MESA to assume.

Signatures

Lila Abu-Lughod
Ziad Abu-Rish
Nadje Al-Ali
Barbara Aswad
Asef Bayat
Joel Beinin
Marilyn Booth
Terry Burke

Charles
Butterworth
Elliott Colla
miriam cooke
Molly Greene
Bassam Haddad
Sondra Hale
Jens Hanssen

Mervat Hatem
Suad Joseph
Hasan Kayali
Mark LeVine
Melani McAlister
Isis Nusair
Roger Owen
Stephen Sheehi

Majid Shehade
Peter Sluglett
Joshua Stacker
Suzanne
Stetkevych
Christopher Stone
Judith Tucker
Jessica Winegar