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RZA CONDEMNS BRITAIN'S BOYCOTT OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA

British policy prejudices negotiations, applies a troubling double standard and risks harming Palestinians as well as Israelis

NEW YORK, September 9, 2026 — The Religious Zionists of America-Mizrachi (RZA) today condemned the British government's decision to ban imports from Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria and to impose additional sanctions on individuals and businesses connected with those communities.

"Britain says it is acting to advance peace. In reality, it is attempting to dictate through boycotts and sanctions the outcome of issues that Israelis and Palestinians themselves agreed must be resolved through negotiations," said RZA Chairman Stephen M. Flatow.

"The Oslo Accords specifically identified settlements, borders, Jerusalem and other questions as permanent-status issues to be negotiated between the parties. Britain cannot strengthen the prospects for peace by unilaterally deciding those questions for them."

RZA also rejected the British government's effort to treat entire Jewish communities as legitimate targets for economic punishment.

"We unequivocally condemn violence against innocent civilians, whether the victims are Palestinians or Israelis, and those responsible for criminal acts should be investigated and punished," Flatow said. "But individual wrongdoing does not justify blacklisting entire communities, their residents and the businesses operating within them. Collective economic punishment is not a substitute for individual accountability."

RZA noted that Britain's policy also raises serious questions about consistency.

Under Britain's trade arrangements with Morocco, products originating in Western Sahara under Moroccan customs control have received preferential tariff treatment, notwithstanding the unresolved international dispute over that territory. Britain has now chosen the opposite approach toward Judea and Samaria: not merely withholding preferences, but barring products altogether.

"If Britain is applying a universal principle of international law, that principle should be universal," Flatow said. "Applying one commercial standard to Western Sahara and another to Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria looks much less like principle and much more like the discriminatory singling out of Israel."

The boycott may also harm the Palestinians Britain says it wants to help.

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, approximately 17,600 Palestinians were employed in Israeli communities and businesses in the settlements during the second quarter of 2026. Economic separation threatens jobs and the daily commercial relationships between Israelis and Palestinians that should be encouraged rather than dismantled.

The Religious Zionists of America (RZA), established in 1913, is one of the oldest and most influential Zionist organizations in the United States. It helped create pioneering Jewish communities in the Land of Israel, campaigned for the establishment of Israel, and has inspired numerous American Zionists to make aliya. Today the RZA is on the front lines of pro-Israel activism and religious Zionist education.

The RZA is not affiliated with any American or Israeli political party.

“A policy supposedly designed to promote coexistence should not begin by putting barriers between Israelis and Palestinians who work together every day,” Flatow said.

As a Religious Zionist organization, RZA proudly supports the Jewish communities of Judea and Samaria and the profound historical, religious and national connection of the Jewish people to the region.

“Judea and Samaria are not foreign places suddenly discovered by Jews in 1967,” Flatow said. “They contain Hebron, Shiloh, Beit El and other places at the very heart of Jewish history. One can debate borders and political arrangements without pretending that Jewish life in the cradle of Jewish civilization is somehow illegitimate.”

RZA called upon the British government to reconsider the boycott and return to policies that encourage direct negotiations, economic cooperation and mutual recognition rather than sanctions directed at one party to the conflict.

“Peace will ultimately require Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate difficult compromises with one another,” Flatow concluded. “Britain should be encouraging them to sit across a table—not deciding in London what the outcome of those negotiations must be.”

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