

RELEASE  
IN PART  
B5,B6

**From:** Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 25, 2009 3:42 PM  
**To:** H; Shapiro, Andrew J; preines [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Edinburgh Film Festival israeli Boycott

B6

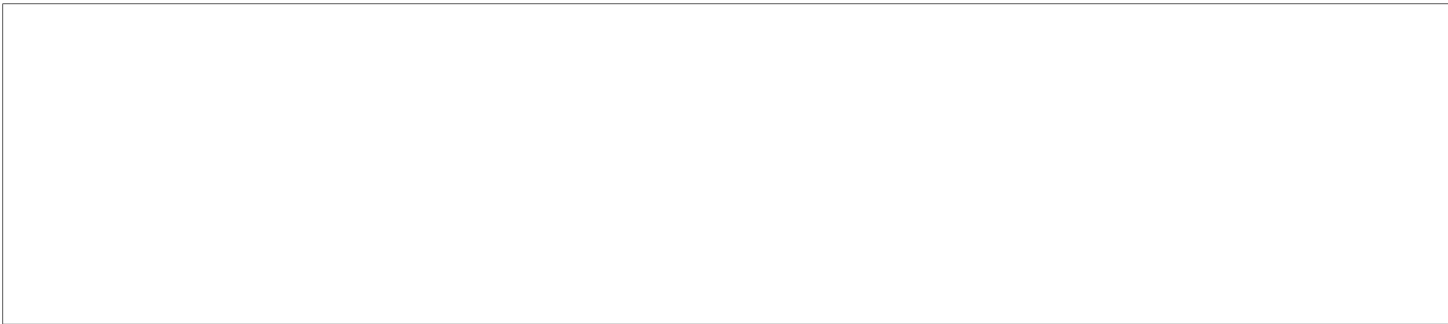
Here is the situation as I understand it.

The film festival returned funds that it had received from the Israeli Embassy, after protests from some UK film figures (Ken Loach) and Palestinian solidarity groups.

The Israeli director is now being funded directly by the festival.

The organizers issued a sort of apology today.

We have not been able to locate any State Dept response to similar episodes in the past (Israeli academics disinvented to a British conference).



B5

----- Original Message -----

**From:** H <HDR22@clintonemail.com>  
**To:** Sullivan, Jacob J; Shapiro, Andrew J; 'preines' [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sun May 24 21:25:02 2009  
**Subject:** Fw: Edinburgh Film Festival israeli Boycott

B6

Pls read Brian's message and all the email traffic below. What can we do about this? Let me know if you have ideas. Thx.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Brian Greenspun [redacted]  
**To:** H2  
**Sent:** Sun May 24 17:21:40 2009  
**Subject:** Fw: Edinburgh Film Festival israeli Boycott

B6

Hi hillary,

Please call me about this if you have a moment. The message is self-explanatory, apparently there is no american voice in place to speak out or lead on this issue so --there is no voice. I believe you know Bruce Ramer who is my brother-in-law, former president of american jewish committee and well-respected entertainment lawyer in la. And, he is right. Look forward to seeing you next week in washington. Best, brian

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Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

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From: Bruce M. Ramer [redacted]  
To: Brian Greenspun  
Sent: Sun May 24 14:08:16 2009  
Subject: FW: Edinburgh Film Festival israeli Boycott

B6

Brian, First, thanks for a nice family morning and for breakfast. Always fun, always interesting and always fulfilling.

Below is a sample of the kind of emails I sent to various people (studio heads; Dan Glickman; etc), which have started to generate concern, interest and action. AJC is also active on other fronts, as well.

Just below the email you will find the news item which first called this abomination to my attention.

I hope you can enlist Hilary's support (and please give her my personal best). We need, for many reasons, to have the US protest and condemn this outrageous boycott and to oppose the anti-Semitism inherent in it; cf Durban. The organizers of the festival must be convinced to reverse themselves. This, because of the inherent wrongness of it and that if it succeeds, it will encourage and motivate those who fomented the boycott to other, probably even worse, action. For example, there is in effect or pending (I am not certain which) a UK-Israeli treaty on film production; we should cut off at the pass any attempts to derail it.

Our Embassy in London does not yet have our Ambassador. The charge d'affaires is Robert Lebaron who I hope will receive appropriate instructions from DOS. If he acts quickly, it is likely that other nations will follow suit; again, compare Durban.

This is truly appalling and serious and I earnestly solicit your assistance with the Secretary, and through you my earnest solicitation of her assistance.

With appreciation and love, Bruce

PS Naturally, you are free to share this email.

Dear Michael, This is disgusting and outrageous.

If you have any films in the festival or can lean on anyone else who does, please get them withdrawn. We would not boycott the films of any other nation, even those we consider outlaws. Neither should they. And they should learn that boycotts beget boycotts.

Thanks for whatever help you can be.

Warmest regards. Bruce

May 20, 2009

Edinburgh film festival bows to pressure from Ken Loach over Israeli boycott

Mike Wade

A row threatened to engulf the Edinburgh International Film Festival yesterday after it bowed to pressure from the director Ken Loach and returned a £300 grant it had received from the Israeli Embassy.

Sir Jeremy Isaacs, the former chief executive of Channel Four, accused the festival's organisers of making "an appalling decision" and called on them to rescind it. Describing Loach's intervention as an act of censorship, he said: "They must not allow someone who has no real position, no rock to stand on, to interfere with their programming."

The grant was intended to enable Tali Shalom Ezer, a graduate of Tel Aviv University, to travel to Scotland for a screening of her film, *Surrogate*.

After days of protest against the award from pro-Palestinian organisations, Loach, an outspoken opponent of Israel's policies in Lebanon and Gaza, urged filmgoers on Monday to boycott Edinburgh.

"The massacres and state terrorism in Gaza make this money unacceptable," he said. "With regret, I must urge all who might consider visiting the festival to show their support for the Palestinian nation and stay away."

The intervention brought an immediate capitulation from the organisers. In a statement the festival said it accepted that Loach spoke "on behalf of the film community, therefore we will be returning the funding issued by the Israeli Embassy".

Sir Jeremy said that he was disgusted both by Loach's actions and by the capitulation of the festival organisers. "Ken Loach has always been critical of censorship of his own work, albeit it was many years in the past. The idea that he should lend himself to the denial of a film-maker's right to show her work is absolutely appalling," he said. He was "equally horrified" that festival organisers should accept that Loach was speaking on behalf of all British film-makers.

Sir Jeremy worked closely with Loach in the 1980s when, as chief executive of Channel Four, he commissioned a number of controversial documentaries from him. One, *A Question of Leadership*, was made in 1981 but never broadcast, leading to accusations of political censorship from Loach. The irony of the director's present position was all the more obvious, given the spirit of the Edinburgh festival, Sir Jeremy said.

"It must be good for cinemagoers at an international film festival to see films by Jews, Arabs, Israelis and Palestinians, to the benefit of all," he said.

"I have admired the Edinburgh International Film Festival for many years and would like to think that this appalling decision will be rescinded."

Loach's acclaimed new film *Looking for Eric* has made him the toast of the Cannes Film Festival. It is, uncharacteristically, a comedy, although its lead character is an authentic Loach creation — a Mancunian postman who goes off in search of his idol, the footballer Eric Cantona.

Ezer's film makes no reference to war or politics. It is a romance set in a sex-therapy clinic. It won the audience award at an international women's film festival in Israel recently.

Lord Janner of Braunstone, a Labour peer and former chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said that he was disappointed by the festival's decision. "By banning the Israeli Embassy from supporting a film-maker the festival is helping to exclude Israelis from British cultural life, something that is clearly unfair."

Last night a spokesman for the EIFF said that although it had returned £300 to the Israeli Embassy, the festival itself would fund Ms Shalom-Ezer's travel to Edinburgh out of its own budget