

3 April 2014

Stephen Hodder  
President  
Royal Institute of British Architects

**The complicity of Israeli architects in settlement building deserves RIBA's  
censure**

We are writing to express our support for the recent decision of the RIBA Council to move to suspend the Israeli Association of United Architects (IAUA) from the world body of architects, the International Union of Architects (UIA). The parallel decision of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland gives this initiative great force.

We are aware of the difficulties liable to be faced by any body which voices public criticism of the Israeli government. The determination of RIBA and RIAS to take a principled stand on this issue is, in this context, particularly worthy of support. We are sure that you will face attacks – but much of it will be from predictable sources which will raise the spectre of antisemitism in response to all criticism of Israeli government policy, especially when such criticism attracts wide attention.

We understand that you have taken this action because members of IAUA have been closely involved in the design and building of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and also in the construction of the Apartheid Wall that runs deep into the illegally occupied area. Despite previous resolutions passed by UIA on this topic, IAUA has taken no action to discipline its members who have collaborated in these breaches of international law.

Many people, Jewish and non-Jewish, architects and non-architects, will be heartened by this example of a respected body taking up its ethical and professional responsibilities in so resolute a manner.

(signed)

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Prof Mona Baker  
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Neave Brown RIBA	
David Calder	actor
Prof Michael Chanan	Roehampton University
Julie Christie	actor
Caryl Churchill	playwright
Jeremy Corbyn MP	
Ted Cullinan, OBE,RIBA	
Mike Cushman	London School of Economics
Prof James Dickens	University of Leeds
Prof Laurence Dreyfus FBA	Oxford University
Brian Eno	composer
Jane Frere	artist
Ronan Gallagher	author
Lord Tony Gifford QC	
Nasser Golzari	architect
Antony Gormley	sculptor
Trevor Griffiths	playwright
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Charles Jencks	architect, historian
Dr Ghada Karmi	University of Exeter
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