



# **BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS AUSTRALIA**

To: Kate Miller-Heidke

5 December 2018

Dear Kate

Congratulations on being a potential Eurovision contestant. However we wanted to let you know that there is a call by Palestinians to international artists to boycott the 2019 Eurovision event if it goes ahead in Israel, as planned.

This is because of the Israeli government's brutal human rights violations and its flagrant disregard of United Nations resolutions and international law.

You may not know that the Eurovision venue in Tel Aviv is just 50 kilometres from where indigenous Palestinian citizens are being shot and gassed in Gaza by Israeli snipers just for their non-violent protests demanding the right of return to their homes and lands and an end to the crippling 11-year blockade and siege of Gaza.

Just 50 kilometres in another direction, Palestinian Bedouin villagers from the Khan al-Ahmar area have recently been forcibly expelled from their lands. This is part of an ongoing Israeli operation of ethnic cleansing around illegal 'settlements' (colonies) that has been condemned internationally.

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Australia can provide you with a full briefing by Palestinians living in Australia if you would like to be more informed about the situation facing Palestinians in Israeli and throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and about the importance of the BDS movement worldwide. General information is available here: <https://bdsmovement.net/>

We hope you are able to make a fully informed decision, because many of your fans would be saddened if you decided to play in Israel, given what is happening to the Palestinian people there – living under siege, or occupation, as refugees, or as second class citizens.

Many people consider the situation the same as when black South Africans called on international artists, sportspeople and businesses not to go to apartheid South Africa in the

1980s. Just recently Nelson Mandela's grandson made the comparison and [called on ethical people](#) to boycott Israel until there is justice, equality and peace for Palestinians.

It is disappointing that SBS may not have informed you of the problem with Israel hosting Eurovision in 2019. We hope you will discuss this with your team and make the right decision for human rights.

Many artists already have done this by responding to the [call from Palestinian artists and journalists](#). Prominent musicians who have refused to perform in Israel so far include: **Lorde, Lauryn Hill, Chuck D, Massive Attack, Roger Waters, Patti Smith, Annie Lennox, Faithless, Brian Eno, The Pixies, Thurston Moore, Elvis Costello, Cat Power and Nick Seymour**. It is not too late to add your name to this growing international campaign for human rights.

Australia's **L-FRESH The LION** has joined our Australian campaign along with others, even though he was a judge with the SBS Eurovision event earlier this year.

*[He stated](#), "I stand with the people of Palestine. As an artist and musician, I don't see how Eurovision can achieve its goal of bringing the world together through music by having its 2019 competition in Israel, while Israel continues to violently occupy Palestine. In respecting Palestinian's call for a cultural boycott of Israel, I encourage my peers to do the same. We all have a part to play. We cannot remain silent or be complicit in the suffering of Palestinian people."*

Eurovision will happen again in 2020. We hope you will choose to be a contestant then rather than in Israel in 2019.

Yours with justice in mind,

BDS Australia.

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