



## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **Thinking Together About the Cultural Boycott**

## **Talks, Workshops & Screenings**

**Marseille | 8–11 July 2026**

From 8 to 11 July, a wide range of Marseille-based associations and organisations will host four days of discussions, workshops and film screenings dedicated to the cultural boycott of Israel.

As the genocide in Palestine continues with complete impunity, and as the Israeli state's colonial and expansionist policies intensify in Lebanon and Syria, it is essential to continue organising wherever possible.

Recent debates surrounding the upcoming edition of FIDMarseille (7–12 July), the mobilisation around filmmaker Nadav Lapid, his widely publicised public statements, and the accusations of censorship they have prompted all illustrate the misunderstandings and oversimplifications that continue to surround the cultural boycott in France.

Initiated by the collective La Palestine sauvera le cinéma ("Palestine Will Save Cinema") and FRACBI (the French Coordination for the Academic, Cultural and Sports Boycott of Israel), the event will bring together filmmakers, researchers, activists and cultural professionals to create a space for discussion, exchange and learning on the political, ethical and practical dimensions of the cultural boycott. Its aim is to refocus the debate on what the boycott actually is: a tool of political mobilisation and resistance, rather than an act of censorship or an attack on artistic freedom or programming autonomy.

Across the world, numerous campaigns have advanced the cultural boycott of the Israeli state. From Hollywood to the United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands, where the No Business as Usual campaign brought together thousands of signatories and hundreds of cultural institutions, support for the boycott has grown significantly. Why, then, does France remain an exception?

Culture is not only a space for artistic creation, dialogue and encounter. It is also a site of political representation and legitimisation. The cultural boycott does not target artists as individuals, nor people on the basis of their nationality. Rather, it targets

institutions, events and productions supported or funded by Israeli cultural institutions that are implicated in policies of colonisation and apartheid, as well as the processes of normalisation that they sustain.

Why should oppressed peoples be expected constantly to justify their use of the boycott, one of the principal forms of non-violent action available to them? Why are appeals from Palestinian artists so often regarded as problematic by European cultural institutions? How is it that boycott is considered a legitimate tool when applied to certain states, yet denounced as an attack on freedom of expression when it concerns Israel? Conversely, how might it be understood as an important political and ethical response to contemporary violence and the rise of authoritarianism?

It is precisely to open up these discussions that this event has been organised.

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## Event Overview

An event organised by the collective La Palestine sauvera le cinéma ("Palestine Will Save Cinema") and the French Coordination for the Academic, Cultural and Sports Boycott of Israel (FRACBI).

In partnership with Cinema Siba, Cris écrits, Cultures en lutte 13, Decolonial Film Festival, éditions mètèque, Festival Ciné-Palestine, Festival Les Instants Vidéo, FID Off, La BaaM, La Courte Échelle, éditions transit, Lamalef, Le Gyptis, Le Port a jauni, Les Presses séparées de Marseille, Maan For Gaza, Mare, Ola Radio, Sawt Palestine, Shed Publishing, Tsedek!, the French Jewish Union for Peace (UJFP), and Union Palestine Marseille (UPM).

## Programme Highlights

The full programme is available at: <https://lapalestinesauveralecinema.com/programme-marseille/>

### Wednesday, 8 July

**Friche La Belle de Mai**  
41 Rue Jobin, Marseille

**5:00 pm** – Triangle-Astérides: Guided visit of Mona Benyamin's exhibition

**6:00–9:00 pm** – *Politics of Refusal and Spaces of Resistance*, followed by a Palestinian meal hosted by Sawt Palestine

Discussions: "Yes, Cinema Is Political » / Building a Political Film Programme

With filmmakers mobilized around FID Marseille and cinema workers.

## **Thursday, 9 July**

### **Shed Publishing**

9 Rue Albert Chabanon, Marseille

**2:00–6:00 pm** – Cultural Boycott Training Workshop with FRACBI (*registration required*)

<https://www.eventbrite.fr/e/repondre-a-lappel-palestinien-comprendre-le-boycott-culturel-tickets-1992626363092>

**7:00 pm** – Launch of the third issue of *La Pastèque* journal

### **Studio Théâtre**

43 Rue Curiol

**9:00 pm** – FID Off film screenings

## **Friday, 10 July**

### **Réformés**

**5:00 pm** – Information table at the bandstand

**Venue to be confirmed**

**7:00 pm** – Film screenings

## **Saturday, 11 July**

**Venue to be confirmed**

**2:30–5:30 pm** – **Why Boycott Culture?**

Talks and discussions with Sbeih Sbeih and Samah Karaki; Eyal Sivan and Michèle Sibony; Rafik Chekkat.

### **Studio Théâtre**

43 Rue Curiol

**From 8:00 pm** – Performance and FID Off evening event

Practical information is available on the websites of La Palestine sauvera le cinéma and FRACBI, as well as on the Instagram pages of both collectives.

<https://lapalestinesauveralecinema.com/>

<https://fracbi.org/>

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## Further Reading

Statement by the filmmakers mobilized around FID

<https://lapalestinesauveralecinema.com/oui-le-cinema-est-politique/>

Statement by the *Palestine Will Save Cinema* collective on FID Marseille

<https://blogs.mediapart.fr/lapalestinesauveralecinema/blog/080626/le-boycott-culturel-est-un-acte-politique>

Video: *The Cultural Boycott of Israel Is Legitimate! The Nadav Lapid Case*, with Eyal Sivan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt4h2wi8EgU>

*What Boycott Means: Challenging Common Misconceptions About the Cultural Boycott* (Sylvain George)

<https://lapalestinesauveralecinema.com/argumentaire-contre-les-idees-recues-sur-le-boycott-culturel/>

The "No Business as Usual" campaign

<https://www.cultureleboycotisrael.nu/accueil.html>

FRACBI (French Coordination for the Academic, Cultural and Sports Boycott of Israel)

<https://fracbi.org/>