

The Reut Institute Update on Action and Impact September-October 2010

The Challenge of Delegitimization

Introduction

This update covers the Reut Institute National Security Team's impact-oriented activities during the month of October, and also over the working days in September in-between that month's concentration of Jewish holidays. Within this period, our key focus has been on progressing on our project in London. Additional activities include engaging with globally spread NGOs and government agencies, participating in international forums, and pursuing novel approaches to branding Israel's delegitimizers. Although our impact updates represent only tangible examples, we are also aware that our work serves as the conceptual platform for delegitimization-combating initiatives of several Jewish organizations in North America and Europe.

London as a Case Study

The team is in the final stages of completing its case study of London as the most prominent of a few global hubs of delegitimization. In September, the team conducted its fourth field visit in London, and met with non-identifiably Jewish or pro-Israel NGOs, individuals advancing boycotts of Israel, policy figures, and Israel's official representation.

Meetings and Roundtables

During this period, Reut's efforts to promote structural and institutional changes required in Israel and the Jewish world to meet the delegitimization challenge included participating in two meetings of an inter-agency forum on the delegitimization issue. A leading government agency has solicited our input regarding their ongoing reform efforts. In addition, we held several meetings with leading intelligence and security agencies on the issue of delegitimization.

We also conducted meetings furthering various levels of cooperation with anti-delegitimization activists, including with a global Jewish world umbrella organization, a North American campus organization, individuals and organizations focused on the 'lawfare' arena, and elements in the Bay Area.

Finally, as the Israeli-Palestinian political process reaches another political crossroad, the Reut team has been briefing several foreign diplomats stationed in Israel on this issue.

Participation in International Forums

In September, National Security Analyst Team Leader Eran Shayshon participated in the seminar "Equity and Justice in a Globalized World" of the International Academy for Leadership of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, in Gummersbach, Germany.

In October, Shayshon participated in the Ambassador's Round Table, convened by the Anglo-Israel Association and held in London. In the forum, which convenes British opinion leaders, policy figures, Shayshon spoke on the topic of delegitimization versus criticism of Israeli policy.

Branding Israel's Delegitimizers

A key Reut response principle calls to confront delegitimizers by exposing their true agenda, and we are involved in related projects/experiments pioneering innovative approaches. In October, we significantly advanced in a collaborative project to produce a series of video YouTube clips targeting liberal audiences and aimed at exposing the illiberal agendas underlying key delegitimization campaigns. Additionally, we held a meeting with a leading Israeli political strategist to elicit approaches regarding potential government strategies aimed at branding delegitimizers.

Media Citations

Interviews – [Galei Israel](#), an Israeli radio station, interviewed Analyst Team Leader Eran Shayshon on the flotilla campaign (10/19/10). Reut Founder and President Gidi Grinstein was interviewed extensively regarding the negotiations, with key citations appearing in the Media Line (10/13/10), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/08/10), and [Bloomberg](#) (10/01/20).

Opinion pieces – Gidi Grinstein published an opinion piece in the [Jerusalem Post](#) opposing the 'all-or-nothing' approach of a permanent status agreement in the context of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations (09/15/20). National Security Team Analyst Calev Ben-Dor published an opinion piece in [YNet](#) explaining how the division of negotiation issues could help move peace talks forward (09/15/10).

Citations – [New Voices](#), a U.S.-based national Jewish student publication, extensively cited Reut's conceptual framework on [Building a Political Firewall against Israel's Delegitimization](#) in a piece on Jewish students who support Israel divestment campaigns (09/27/10).