

[The Reut Institute Update on Action and Impact:](#)

[National security team, April 2011](#)

[Letter sent earlier this week by Gidi Grinstein:](#)

Dear Friends and supporters,

Last weekend in Washington DC, Reut and the American Jewish Committee brought together a global network to fight against the campaign to de-legitimize Israel: 275 leader-activists from twenty countries (across the USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Brazil, Argentina, UK, Spain, Germany ,Belgium and more); from dozens of organizations; and from all the major theaters of confrontation including labor unions, campuses, media, and academia ([click here](#)).

The objective was for 2011 to be the first year when we begin a global and systemic offensive, punching back and turning the tables on the de-legitimizers. Our underlying logic has been that 'it takes a network to fight a network', and that networks get bolstered by enhancing their existing links and by creating new links among their nodes. Therefore, we created a first-of-its-kind opportunity for people from leading organizations to fringe groups, from the left to the right, from the Jewish 'establishment,' and from the Government of Israel to interact, share insights, teach one another, and collaborate to confront the political and diplomatic assault on Israel.

Over the past year, and especially following Reut's study visit to the Bay Area in February, it has become clear that the response to the assault on Israel's legitimacy must begin with internal Jewish deliberation: we have to broaden our tent, as well as establish red-lines; we have to work together across the political spectrum ,with the Government of Israel and with both establishment and non-establishment groups; and we have to transform the education on Israel (see my recent piece in the Jewish Week [here](#)).

Our conference dovetailed with the AJC Global Forum, during which I was honored to both participate and contribute. I especially enjoyed participating in a panel chaired by Alan Reich, alongside Lorna Fitzsimons (BICOM, UK) and Rafael Bardaji (Spain, Friends of Israel Initiative) ([click here](#) for the video).

Last week's conference marked the culmination of a year-long effort by Reut to realize the vision first articulated in the conceptual framework it published in January 2010 (see below). We are deeply grateful to our partners at the AJC, and particularly, to David Harris, Rebecca Neuwirth ,and the AJC's lay leaders from Los Angeles, as well as our other partners: the Israel on Campus Coalition (ICC) and the Jewish Labor Committee. This entire project was made possible by the outstanding vision, generosity, patience, and commitment of the Lisa and Michael Leffell Foundation, and its Director, Stacey Popovsky, as well as by the generous donors of the American Friends of the Reut Institute .

As you know, the Reut Institute has been committed to responding to the challenge of the de-legitimization of Israel since the fall of 2008. Our team, led by Eran Shayshon, has worked to catalyze an effective response to this challenge in Jewish communities including in London, Orange County and the Bay Area, as well as in the Government of Israel. Reut's conclusions are summarized in a trilogy on de-legitimization (each can be skimmed in 10-15 min through the bold sentences): Building a Political Firewall Against Israel's De-Legitimization ([click here](#)); The Gaza Flotilla – The Collapse of Israel's Political Fire Wall ([click here](#)); and London as a Case Study ([click here](#)). In addition, we published a document on the BDS movement ([click here](#)), which exposed its de-legitimizing character. This paper informed the following YouTube clip produced by StandWithUs ([click here](#)).

Media coverage

- Eran Shayshon, [Our Egyptian Revolution against the Assault on Israel](#), **The Jerusalem Post** (4/25/11) – Published in the build up to the Reut-AJC conference, arguing that if the attack on the Jewish state's right to exist is a threat, it is also an important opportunity to close ranks and launch our own offensive.
- Kenneth Bandler, [On my Mind: Preparing for the Tsunami](#), **The Jerusalem Post** (5/3/11) – Published in the follow-up of the Reut-AJC conference, arguing that Israel and the Diaspora must work together to confront the delegitimization campaigns alone.
- [PSC and MEMO statement on event](#) – Our rivals feel the ground moving under their feet and attribute this to our work. "...it is clear that the recommendations of the Israeli think tank The Reut Institute, published in December 2010, to attack and split the solidarity movement in London and worldwide are being put into effect..." MEMO (The Middle East Monitor) is a PR and opinions website which is sympathetic to Hamas and the Muslim brotherhood and operates in London.
- Eran Shayshon, [Israel is a normal country struggling to survive in an impossible reality](#), **Mondoweiss** (4/15/11) – Eran Shayshon's response to Ben White, in which he offers "alternatives to the traditional pro-Zionist ideology as a basis for American Jewish identity."
- Eran Shayshon, [Preparations for a Tsunami](#), **Haaretz**, (4/24/11) (*Hebrew*) – Israel must regroup and lead the political process by promoting its own political initiative, which includes goals, benchmarks and a clear schedule. Doing that, Israel may find a rare window of opportunity to break the deadlock in the political process.