

REMARKS

BY CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN

CONDEMNING THE DECISION BY THE UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE UNION
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO SUPPORT A BOYCOTT OF ISRAELI ACADEMIA

July 12, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, Anti-Israel propaganda has reached a new low, with a renewed campaign by a group of British academics to boycott Israeli academics and universities.

Spearheaded by the British University and College Union, the initiative calls on British academics to refrain from collaborating on research with Israeli counterparts or working with journals published by Israeli companies.

It is incumbent upon the United States to oppose this assault on academic freedom and stand against efforts to isolate Israeli institutions. While I am encouraged that there is little support for this initiative beyond a vocal and extreme minority, it appears that similar undertakings have been attempted by British unions representing journalists and government workers.

I welcome the bold statements by the UK Education Minister and university presidents across the United States condemning this misguided crusade. Those who sincerely believe in the cause of peace should encourage dialogue, cooperation, and the free exchange of ideas. It is disappointing that the Palestinian trade unions promoting these kinds of boycotts are more interested in promoting prejudice than in building a future of coexistence.

With this resolution, let us raise our voices in solidarity with Israel and reaffirm the fundamental values of academic freedom.