

No cooperation between the Robert-Bosch-Stiftung and the JNF

Dear supporters of the appeal to the Robert-Bosch-Stiftung (RBS) against cooperation with the JNF

Thanks to your active engagement we were able to send an open letter with a long list of signatories to the directors of the RBS, Ms. Dürig and Prof. Rogall. We thank you for your support.

The names in the list of signatories demonstrate competence and knowledge of the issue. Among them are many Jews, Africans and Indians who know exactly what they are protesting against.

Unfortunately, the answer of the Robert-Bosch-Stiftung – signed in this case by the two managing directors of the organisation – was just as vague as their answer to the protest letter of the Institute for Palestine Studies (IPK) in Bonn. In short: there is no collaboration with the JNF stemming from the December meeting between the two sides. The RBS mentioned no reason for this.

Shortly afterwards, Rainer Kruse, a member of our Palestine Committee in Stuttgart was able to meet with managing director, Ms. Dürig. The meeting was originally planned to discuss a major project of the Nobel prizewinner Kailash Satyarthi to combat child labour. Rainer let Ms. Dürig know that he also wanted to discuss the matter of the JNF. The outcome of this discussion was encouraging. We conclude that the RBS has distanced itself clearly from the JNF. Rainer's report of the meeting follows this letter.

The struggle against child labour is, of course, relevant to our the Palestine Solidarity movement and offers a further argument for demanding a boycott of the Jewish National Fund which is significantly involved in the construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank; Human Rights Watch has documented the problem of child labour in this connection.

Report on the discussion with Ms. Dürig

Dear fellow campaigners for the interests of Palestine "There is no cooperation with the Jewish National Fund and there will be none in the future." So there are no longer any ifs and buts in this matter.

I stressed again that the very short answers to the letters of the Stuttgart Palestine Committee had caused real irritation in the Committee and among the signatories. In addition there was uncertainty whether, in its letter to the Institute for Palestine Studies, the Robert-Bosch-Stiftung was committing not to cooperate with the JNF in future. I pointed to the enthusiasm shown by participants at the meeting in the Robert Bosch villa which made us seriously apprehensive about strengthening the disturbing work of the JNF through cooperation with the RBS.

I also pointed out that the answer to our letter was inappropriate, since the committee had not asked about reasons for their rejection of cooperation with the JNF. Be that as it may, (our appeal) led to serious consideration by the leadership of the Robert-Bosch-Stiftung that led to a decision not to enter into cooperation with the Jewish National Fund. We can only speculate about the reasons. I am certain, however, that the letter of the IPK and the supporting, more extensive appeal of the Stuttgart Palestine Committee played an important role. In my opinion, the Robert-Bosch-Stiftung showed real courage in backing down. I only wish the SPD (Social Democratic Party) had shown similar courage when they collected donations for the Jewish National Fund's SPD-Forest in Israel.

I clearly understood Ms. Dürig's statement that the work of the Robert-Bosch-Stiftung is directed towards reconciliation and international understanding as the underlying reason for their rejection of cooperation with the JNF. I have complete faith in the words of Ms. Dürig.



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