

Elvis Costello, Art, and Boycotts

Posted At : May 19, 2010 5:41 PM | Posted By : Tara Bognar

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Elvis Costello is the latest in a line of celebrities to **cancel his Israel concerts** for political reasons. Israeli Culture Minister, Limor Livnat, not surprisingly, thinks this is a bad thing:

A singer who boycotts Israeli fans "is not worthy of performing in front of them."

Canadian writer **Margaret Atwood**, who traveled to Israel to receive a prize from Tel Aviv University, is another dissenter:

We don't do cultural boycotts... Artists don't have armies. What they do is nuanced, by which I mean it is about human beings, not about propaganda positions.

Atwood specifically takes a stance as an artist, but economic boycotts are also a perennial issue for Jewish communities. The San Francisco Jewish community recently issued a **new policy** to, among other things, prevent its grantees from supporting any kind of Israel boycott movement. The JCPA report - **The Battle for Divestment from Israeli Securities in Somerville**, analyzes another local struggle that had wider impact on the Jewish community.

Ben Cohen's 'The Ideological Foundations of the Boycott Campaign Against Israel' offers a broad analysis of this phenomenon, and **Divestment from Israel, the Liberal Churches, and Jewish Responses: A Strategic Analysis**, another discrete example.