Join **OVER 200 WRITERS, LITERARY FIGURES AND PUBLIC INTELLECTUALS** calling on PEN American Center to

# DROP ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SPONSORSHIP

> "As a PEN member, I want this organization that is supposed to be a champion of writers' rights to stand up for Palestinian writers, academics, and students who are suffering under a repressive Israeli regime that denies their right to freedom of expression."
>
> ALICE WALKER

Despite Israel's decades-long suppression of Palestinian voices and Palestinian human rights, PEN American Center has accepted Israeli government funding for its 2016 World Voices Festival, and recognized the Israeli Embassy as a Festival "Champion." Over 200 members of the literary community–including **Angela Davis, Junot Díaz, Louise Erdrich, Richard Ford, Francisco Goldman, Eileen Myles, Michael Ondaatje, Alice Walker and Cornel West**–are calling on the Center to reject this partnership with the Israeli government. **Join them by reading and signing the letter to PEN American Center at adalahny.org**.

**On refusing to do business as usual:** In 2005, Palestinian civil society called for people of conscience around the globe to use boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) as a tactic aimed at pressuring Israel to end its violations of international law and Palestinian human rights. One element of this effort addresses the field of cultural production. The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel has created clear guidelines regarding cultural boycott, stating that **the boycott targets institutions, not individual Israeli cultural workers**.

## Tell PEN: DON'T PARTNER WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

SIGN THE LETTER NOW:
adalahny.org

# PEN MEMBERS SPEAK OUT:

**Gillian Slovo, Former President of English PEN 2010-2013**

"I watched how the cultural boycott on South Africa successfully put pressure on ordinary white South Africans to think about what their government was doing in their name. This request for solidarity from Palestinians is more sophisticated than the South African boycott ever was: instead of censoring individual artists it asks for a refusal of money from the Israeli state. Let PEN America invite as many Israeli writers as it wants to - just make sure that the people who pay their fare and their living expenses are not part of a state that systematically breaks international laws."

**Marilyn Hacker, PEN Member, 2010 PEN/Voelcker Award, 2009 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation**

"The call for boycott comes from Palestinians seeking a peaceful end to the occupation -- and from numerous Israeli peace and pro-Palestinian activists as well. It is a nonviolent way of calling attention to an untenable situation. It is not aimed at Israeli writers, artists, academics, but at the Israeli government's attempt to coopt their participation, while repressing the voices of Palestinians and dissident Israelis. Why boycott Israel and not numerous dictatorships elsewhere? Because activists on the ground there have called for it… and if they do in Egypt, or Hungary, or China, we will listen to them."

**Dr. Ahmad Qatamash, Palestinian author and subject of PEN International alert when detained without trial by Israeli government**

"I was imprisoned by Israel for eight and a half years without trial under 'administrative detention,' as have been thousands of Palestinian detainees, a situation comparable to Franz Kafka's novel 'The Trial.'  Accepting any form of sponsorship from Israel is like PEN America Center endorsing such Israeli policies and supporting the theft of Palestinian land and water, which has left Palestinians with access to only 12% of their ancestral home."

**Geoff Dyer, PEN Member**

"The Israeli government deliberately uses the arts and culture to divert attention from its repression of the Palestinian people. PEN should state clearly that it will not accept Israeli government sponsorship and serve Israel's strategy. The participation of Israeli writers is welcome, but without their government's sponsorship."

## TO READ MORE SIGNATORY STATEMENTS AND SIGN THE LETTER, VISIT ADALAHNY.ORG