

Bahraini MPs against contacts with Israel

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The boycott of Israel rang in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday, with deputies cutting across party lines to lobby for the termination of all contacts with Israel. Al Wafaq Islamic Society, took the lead with most of its members also joined by those from Al Asala supporting this view.

MPs brandished pictures of a woman being attacked by an Israeli police dog and Israeli policemen holding a Palestinian in custody.

"The atrocities of the Israeli security forces has crossed all humanitarian tolerance limits," said the MPs. "We in the Arab world cannot be passive onlookers," they said.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, while expressing solidarity with the chamber on the need to desist from having any relations with Israel said that Bahrain went along with the Arab League and the Arab Parliament.

Isa Ahmed Abu Al Fatih, said: It is important for the Arab region to have its own agenda for negotiations with Israel, a concrete agenda and not one that shifts. The Riyadh Initiative, if that is paramount, should be stuck to."

Al Wafaq was strong in its opposition. They said that the nation and its representatives had to agree with the opinions of the people, "which on this subject, is against any relationship with the Israelis. Any relationship would need Israel to accept and return Arab East Jerusalem as the Palestine capital. They would have to allow the return of refugees, sharing of waters and the land for peace."