

# **US Forces Norway Minister To Renounce Israeli Boycott**

Aftenposten English Web Desk/NTB  
1-14-6

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice threatened Norway with "serious political consequences" after Finance Minister and Socialist Left Party leader Kristin Halvorsen admitted to supporting a boycott of Israeli goods

The reaction was reportedly given to the Norwegian embassy in Washington DC, and it was made clear that the statements came from the top level of the US State Department, newspaper VG reports.

VG claims that two classified reports promised a "tougher climate" between the USA and Norway if Halvorsen's remarks represented the foreign policy of the new red-green alliance of the Labor, Socialist Left and Center parties.

Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jonas Gahr Støre, responded immediately with written explanations to both Israel and the USA, clarifying the government's stance, while Halvorsen distanced her party's policy from that of the government's.

## **Minister Apology Over Boycott Backing**

By TJ Reporter

1-12-6

Finance Minister Kristin Halvorsen withdrew her support for the action following intense criticism from fellow politicians, Israel and the US. But she insisted the decision to make the public apology was entirely her choice.

She told Norwegian television: "I regret that I supported the initiative to boycott Israel. It was my mistake as a member of government to make a political statement in a way that opposes the policy of the majority of the government.

Halvorsen, whose Socialist Left Party is part of a coalition government, had said last week she would like to see wider support for an Israel boycott passed recently by the region of Sor-Trondelag.

She urged consumers "to decide to drop products and services from Israel, and make other choices in the shops.

Norway's Prime Minister Jan Stoltenberg immediately made clear the boycott was contrary to government policy, adding that a letter to that effect had been despatched both to Halvorsen and the Israeli embassy.

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre has condemned the Sor-Trondelag boycott as "a continuation of Norway's collaborationist history during the nazi era.

It added that the boycott placed the Oslo government in the camp of "the forces of terrorism.

[Disclaimer](#)

[Email This Article](#)

---

**[MainPage](#)**

<http://www.rense.com>

**[This Site Served by TheHostPros](#)**