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Roger Waters – getting a taste of his own medicine

Apparently, the abused has had enough of the abuser.

By [IDO AHARONI](#) MAY 24, 2020 22:26



ROGER WATERS

(photo credit: REUTERS/PIROSCHKA VAN DE WOUW)

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British musician [Roger Waters](#) (76) has made the headlines once again, this time complaining that he had been “banned” from Pink Floyd’s official site and social

media by his former band mate David Gilmour. In a 5-minute video released on

May 19th Waters shared his deep frustration with his former partners' refusal to let



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is a basic psychological defense mechanism that allows humans to deny the existence of certain feelings and tendencies in themselves while attributing them to others. In this case, Gilmour is the subject of the projection. This gifted, pleasant and well-mannered musician, who had never been associated with any controversy, is now being accused of using “banishment” as a legitimate tool in conflict resolution, and the very accusation is coming from the abuser himself. Projection 101.

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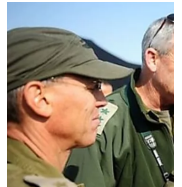
Some background: [Roger Waters](#), who left Pink Floyd in the mid-1980s, has in recent years become a compulsive preacher of the anti-Israel boycott tactic. He feels very strongly that Israel should be excluded from the family of nations because of its alleged treatment of the Palestinians. He wants to “punish” Israel for its “sins” by using banishment and exclusion.

He has called Israel an “apartheid state” accused its government of using “Nazi propaganda efforts,” and labeled Israel as “the worst human rights offender in the world” while conveniently ignoring the rest of the world. Almost every prominent musician who intends to perform in Israel is publicly “exposed” by Waters who routinely urges them to cancel their planned trips. Waters explains his fixation on Israel by his “deep care for human rights” although his voice had not been heard much regarding other lingering geopolitical, religious or ethnic crises.

Other than agitating the pro-Israel community, his obsession to boycott Israel has mainly brought him infamy.

He became an outcast in the music industry, condemned by his peers and the press, ridiculed by commentators and industry insiders (Wish You Weren't Here was the title of a 2017 documentary by Ian Halperin) and, more importantly, shunned by iconic performers who either totally ignored him or publicly exposed his hypocrisy:

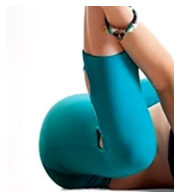
Radiohead's Thom Yorke blasted him for wrongfully misusing the term “apartheid” in the context of the conflict and severely criticized the patronizing tone of the “open letter” that he had co-authored; Australian musician Nick Cave described his stance on Israel as “cowardly and shameful,” doubting whether Waters even understands “what the purpose of music is;” his efforts to pressure Canadian performer Celine Dion to cancel her Israel tour led to a falling-out with AAR, a



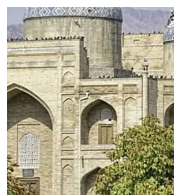
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respected Canadian anti-racism group, exposing his embarrassing inaccuracies; 41 finalists of the 2019 Eurovision song contest completely ignored his public plea to



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oppose Israel, Waters has become an acutely painful publicity disaster.

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Viewed within this particular context, the video he released on the 19th looks more like a desperate cry for help. The fact that it went unanswered by his former band mates only further emphasizes the depths of his mental predicament and distress.

Apparently, the abused has had enough of the abuser.

The writer is a lecturer of international relations at New York University, chairman of the Charney Forum for New Diplomacy, a member of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-APCO's International Advisory Council and is a former consul-general of Israel in New York.

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