

From: Ismail Zayid [mailto:izayid@eastlink.ca]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 4:47 PM
To: CUPE Ontario. (cupeont@web.net)
Subject: Thank you for you principled stand.

Canada Palestine Association,

P.O.Box, 1085.

Halifax, NS, B3J 2X1

Feb. 23, 2009

Dear Mr. Sid Ryan and Ms. Janice Folk-Dawson:

Thank you for your principled stand in support of the basic human rights of the Palestinian people and their right to education and academic freedom.

The oppressive practices of the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people, denying them all elemental principles of human rights, and applying restrictive practices against their schools and universities, are elements of racism, identical with the notorious Apartheid practices that were encountered in the abolished Apartheid regime in South Africa. Many renowned authorities, like Archbishop Desmond Tutu and a number of Israeli intellectuals and human rights activists, have described the Israeli practices as even worse than those that were developed in South Africa.

Furthermore, it is sad and disappointing to point out that many Israeli academicians and universities collaborate with the Israeli governmental authorities in these illegal and inhumane activities or display a deafening silence in relation to the brutal practices of Israel in their illegal occupation of Palestinian territories and the denial of academic freedom to Palestinian academic institutions, not to mention the recent deliberate bombardment and destruction of the Gaza university.

Finally, we wish to express our gratitude for your courage and humanity in standing firmly with a basic principle of justice. Your stand, unlike that of some academic centres in Ontario which are imposing restrictive pressures on students and academicians, brings honour to Canada's name and reputation.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.

President, Canada Palestine Association.