

-----Original Message-----

From: Ismail Zayid [mailto:izayid@eastlink.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 2:08 PM
To: 'laytoj@parl.gc.ca'
Subject: Israel Apartheid Week - reply Jack Layton

Dear Mr. Layton:

I find your response disappointing and not in conformity with the principled stand that we expect from the National Democratic Party.

You state you do not like to use the term "apartheid" in dealing with this conflict. Do I understand that you are not even willing to express an objection and condemnation of the Israeli racist practices that are being committed in the daily violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people and their daily humiliation? These practices have been confirmed, by distinguished South African authorities and international and Israeli human rights organisations, to exceed the apartheid practices that were prevalent in Apartheid South Africa.

It was our understanding that the NDP stands against the violation of international law and stands in support of human rights and freedom of expression as promoted in the campaign of Israel Apartheid Week [IAW], in universities in Canada and over 40 cities around the world.

I would appreciate your response.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.

-----Original Message-----

From: laytoj@parl.gc.ca [mailto:laytoj@parl.gc.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 11:52 AM
To: laytoj@parl.gc.ca
Subject: Israel Apartheid Week - reply Jack Layton

Thank you for your email regarding Israel Apartheid Week. Your comments have been helpful in our work.

New Democrats have long been vocal and passionate advocates for a peaceful end to the Israel-Palestine conflict. We have consistently said that Canada can play a positive role in bringing Israeli and Palestinian

representatives to the negotiating table in order to chart a path towards a negotiated peace, which ensures Israelis and Palestinians can live safely, side by side, in independent states with secure borders.

We know that extraordinary goodwill is required to achieve such peace. We deeply yearn for such a result and that is just one reason why "apartheid" is not a word I use when talking about this complex and difficult issue.

Last week, various motions were presented regarding IAW for adoption by unanimous consent with no opportunity for debate. There has been a consensus in the House that all motions seeking unanimous consent, on any subject, must be given due consideration by all parties. When the motions were presented, there were objections from various Members of Parliament. As a result, the motions did not proceed.

We invite Canadians of all political and religious stripes to join us in strongly condemning anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, and intolerance in all its ugly forms.

Again, thank you for contacting me. All the best.

Sincerely,

Jack Layton, MP (Toronto-Danforth)
Leader, Canada's New Democrats