

From: Ismail Zayid [mailto:izayid@eastlink.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 5:42 PM
To: Leslie, Megan, MP.
Subject: The Tory Motion, by Tim Uppal, agaist Israel Apartheid Week.

March 9, 2010.

The Hon. Ms. Megan Leslie, MP.

The House Of Commons.

Dear Ms. Leslie:

We hear of the Tory motion put before The House, by Tory MP. Tim Uppal calling for the condemnation of the public demonstration at many universities across this country and over 40 cities across the world, titled: " Israel Apartheid Week". This motion reads:

"That this House considers itself to be a friend of the State of Israel; that this House is concerned about expressions of anti-Semitism under the guise of "Israeli Apartheid Week"; and that this House explicitly condemns any action in Canada as well as internationally that would equate the State of Israel with the rejected and racist policy of apartheid."

While this motion would have no legal effect, it would lend power to the campaign of McCarthyism aimed at IAW and its student activists, led by an ideologically-driven Conservative agenda bent on silencing criticism of Israel, particularly the 425-mile Israeli separation wall, averaging 20-feet high, that has expropriated 12 per cent of Palestinian land, driving Palestinians into further displacement and poverty - having their homes bulldozed and economy decimated because of the time and expense required to get to their fields and markets because of the separation wall. (In 2004, the [International Court of Justice](#) found the "illegal" separation wall "constitutes breaches by Israel of its obligations under humanitarian laws" and "cannot be justified by requirements of national security.")

This motion and the campaign against this legitimate academic activity are clearly in violation of the right to freedom of speech and academic freedom in this country. This academic activity is to express criticism and opposition to the racist activities practiced by Israel, against the Palestinians in the illegally Occupied Palestinian Territories, and against Muslim and Christian citizens of the state of Israel. The claim by Israel's apologists that this activity is a form of anti-Semitism is baseless. The practices of the Israeli state must be open to criticism like those of all nations across the globe. The opposition that these Israeli apologists make, for the description of these Israeli policies as apartheid, is again baseless. Distinguished men and women of honour in Israel, South Africa and across the universe confirm that Israeli policies against the Palestinians even exceed in their horror the activities practiced by the then apartheid regime in South Africa:

"I've been very distressed in my visit to the Holy Land; it reminded me so much of what happened to us blacks in South Africa. I have seen the humiliation of the Palestinians at checkpoints and roadblocks, suffering like us when young white police officers prevented us

from moving about...The current divestment effort is the first, though certainly not the only, necessary move in that direction. {Archbishop Desmond Tutu, The Guardian, April 29, 2002}

On, [Nov. 29, 2006], the Atlanta Journal-Constitution ran the following op-ed, by Dr. John Dugard, a South African former anti-apartheid leader. He is currently the Special Rapporteur on Palestine to the United Nations Human Rights Council. He not only compares Israeli policies to apartheid, but says that in many ways Israeli policies are worse than South African apartheid was.

"... Israel came to resemble more and more apartheid South Africa at its zenith – even surpassing its brutality, house demolitions, removal of communities, targeted assassinations, massacres, imprisonment and torture of its opponents, collective punishment and the aggression against neighbouring states." – Former South African Intelligence Minister Ronnie Kasrils from a speech at Israel Apartheid Week 2009.

Shulamit Aloni, the former Minister of Education, in Israel. under Yitzhak Rabin, [wrote](#): "The state of Israel practises its own, quite violent form of apartheid with the native Palestinian population."

Michael Ben-Yair, Israel's attorney general from 1993 to 1996, [described](#) Israel's approach to the Palestinian territories captured in 1967 as apartheid in 2002.

Ms. Judy Rebick, the distinguished Canadian human rights activist wrote an article last week, titled: " Israel is an apartheid state and that is why they are losing legitimacy". This link displays this article:

<http://transformingpower.ca/en/blog/israeli-apartheid-week-and-freedom-speech>

To sum up, we trust that you and your principled colleagues will not submit to this pressure and oppose this motion vehemently.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.