

Subject: The CPCCA Program: CRITICIZE ISRAEL GO TO JAIL?

Sept. 8, 2010

To The Hon. Ms. Megan Leslie, MP.

We hear alarming and unbelievable reports about the campaign that the Canadian Parliamentary Coalition to Combat Anti-Semitism [CPCCA] is considering measures to criminalize any criticism of the policies of the state of Israel.

The state of Israel is conducting the most oppressive illegal occupation of Palestinian territories and imposing brutal oppressive measures that are in clear violation of international law and virtually every article of the Fourth Geneva Convention. These violations include extrajudicial assassination, holding thousands of prisoners without charge or trial, torture, denial of health care and basic human needs to Palestinians under occupation, demolition of thousands of homes and expropriation of property for the creation of illegal colonies [settlements]. These violations are identified by international law as war crimes.

These crimes are justly condemned by all international human rights groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, as well as Israeli human rights groups like B'Tselem and the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, and many Israeli and overseas and Canadian Jewish intellectuals, and many others of all faiths and nationalities..

These Israeli policies must be condemned by all those who have any regard for international law and human rights. Such criticism has nothing to do with anti-Semitism, which is abhorrent and must be condemned by all.

Canada which prides itself on upholding the UN Charter and human rights must not allow this manouver by Israeli apologists to invent this so-called "new anti-Semitsm", as a form of impunity for Israeli war crimes. We must be all able to express criticism of any state, including even our own country, Canada, if it violates international law. No state, across the world, is entitled to this impunity from criticism. Why

should Israel be allowed this unique protection from criticism of its policies, a protection that is not allowed to any government or state in the world?

Our alarm is engendered by the participation, in the CPCCA, of members of Parliament from major Canadian political parties, including the NDP.

I draw your attention to the article below, and the book by Michael Keefer, and I will look forward to your response to my statement and concern. It is my hope and expectation that you will stand in full support of free expression and legitimate criticism of any state that violates international law.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.