

From: Ismail Zayid [mailto:izayid@eastlink.ca]

Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 8:07 PM

To: 'CIC - Ministerial Enquiries Division/CIC - Service de renseignements ministeriels'

Subject: RE: Israel Apartheid Week

Dear Mr. Vizcaino:

Thank you for your letter, of June 11, 2010, responding to my letter of Feb, 27, 2010.

I am very pleased to hear your affirmation of the rights of all Canadians to express their thoughts and beliefs freely.

My letter was to express concern that students at our universities are being denied the right to express their opinions freely about the racist and apartheid policies practised by the state of Israel. These reflections express accurately the racist and apartheid nature of Israeli policies, against Palestinians in the illegally Occupied Palestinian Territories, as confirmed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who knew what apartheid is all about.

We, as Arabs and Muslims, condemn anti-Semitism and racism vigorously. In Palestine, Jews and Arabs lived in peace together for centuries, until the arrival of Zionism. Anti-Semitism is abhorrent to us and there is no better recognition of that than the statement by Chaim Weizman, Israel's first president:

" I would not like to do any injustice; the Muslim world has treated the Jews with considerable tolerance. The ottoman Empire [of which the Arabs were a major part], received the Jews with open arms when they were driven out of Spain, and the Jews should never forget that." [Chaim Weizman, Israel's first president, in a testimony, in 1946, at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, before the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry on Palestine]

Unfortunately, some Jews are not taking Weizman's advice and have forgotten that.

As to Israeli racist policies, the late Professor Israel Shahak, a Holocaust survivor , stated as the Chairman of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights:

"It is my considered opinion that the State of Israel is a racist state in the full meaning of this term: In this state people are discriminated against, in the most permanent and legal way and in the most important areas of life, only because of their origin. This racist discrimination began

in Zionism and is carried out today mainly in cooperation with the institutions of the Zionist movement. [The Racist Nature of Zionism and of the Zionist State of Israel Pi-Ha'aton (the weekly newspaper of the students of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem) 5 November 1975].

Our message is that Israel is a state and its policies must be open to criticism, like those of any other country, including Canada. Such criticism has nothing to do with anti-Semitism and our criticism is shared by many Jews in Canada, Israel and all over the world, as affirmed by principled groups like Independent Jewish Voice in Canada and internationally, and other Jewish groups here and all over the world.

Thank you for your attention and I trust you will communicate my message to the Hon. Lawrence Cannon and the Hon. Jason Kenney.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.