

May 7, 2011
The Hon. Mr Jack Layton, MP.

Leader of New Democratic Party.

Dear Mr. Layton,

I write to you as a concerned Canadian about the impending visit to Canada from May 8th - 10th by extremist Dutch politician Geert Wilders in Toronto, London and Ottawa.

In the past few Months, brave Egyptians, Tunisians and many other Muslim and Christian Arab citizens proved with their bare hands to people around the world that they regard freedom, dignity and democracy as universal rights.

It is therefore quiet disheartening to see Mr. Wilders visit to Canada taking place without the proper strong response to it from the New Democratic Party.

As the Arab World is rallying for tolerance, democracy and peace, let us hope that Canada does not become the rallying point for intolerance, hatred and bigotry.

Wilders is well-known internationally for spreading hateful rhetoric regarding Islam and Muslims. He has said that "Islam is not a religion" and that constitutional religious freedom should not be accorded to Muslims and Islam.

Wilders compares the Qur'an to Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and has demanded the Qur'an be banned in his home country, the Netherlands. Wilders has also called for the "voluntary repatriation" of Muslims from Western countries and the end to the construction of mosques.

See: [Geert Wilders IFA Friends Facebook Page](#): Geert Wilders' 10-Point Plan to Save the West
See: [Globe & Mail: "The scary world of Geert Wilders"](#), 05/3/2010 See: [The Huffington Post: "Three Questions to Ask Geert Wilders about Anti-Islam Hate Speech"](#), 22/4/2011

Although Mr. Wilders should be free to speak in Canada as long as he does not violate our laws, I respectfully ask that you and your Party publicly denounce the xenophobic views of Mr. Wilders who is bringing a message of hate to Canada that harms social cohesion and divides Canadians.

I eagerly await your response and leadership on this important matter. and I hope we have enough courage to stand up to what Canada has always been, a place that accepts and respects the rights of all citizens regardless of their ethnicity and religious belief.

Yours Sincerely

Ismail Zayid, MD.

President, Canada Palestine Association.