



Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

www.fswc.ca

AVI BENLOLO, PRESIDENT AND CEO, CANADA

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MY BLOG

Annapolis: Canadian Palestinians Have a Different View.

Well below the radar screen in Canada was a letter to Mahmoud Abbas issued by eighteen Palestinian Canadian groups on October 27, 2007 at the Palestinian National Voice Preparatory Conference in Hamilton, Ontario. The letter, now named the “Hamilton Declaration” was in preparation of this weeks’ Annapolis peace conference and can be found on the home page of Palestinehouse.com.

The Declaration is harsh and counterintuitive to the accepted global view of a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians. It calls for a one state solution (the effective destruction of the State of Israel) and “cautions” Abbas “against any recognition of Israel as a Jewish state”. The Declaration shamelessly accuses Israel of “Zionist ethnic cleansing of 1948”, forgetting the inconvenient truth that it was the Arabs who attacked Israel on all fronts after having rejected the UN partition plan of November 29, 1947.

Through this declaration, the eighteen Palestinian groups who signed this declaration have not only opposed the global status-quo and that of the current and previous Canadian governments, but also that of the President of the Palestinian Authority. Speaking on CNN on November 25th, just ahead of Annapolis, Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat stated unequivocally that he was there to discuss a two-state solution.

If anything, the Hamilton Declaration is a clear indication of how far off these Canadian Palestinians are from reality and the accepted direction of the world community; and how close they are to the positions on Annapolis held by Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas.

FSWC Survey Reveals Opposition to Funding of Anti-Israel Groups

FSWC commended the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) for rejecting the motion put forward at last week’s national general meeting to investigate the feasibility of a boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign against Israel.

The results from the vote clearly reinforce the sentiments from a new study released last week by FSWC. The study results are based on surveys of almost 900 students at the University of Toronto and Ryerson University. By a margin of 8:1, the study found

overwhelming opposition to student funding of anti-Israel groups. Almost no students believe that compulsory fees should be redirected to the anti-Israel Apartheid activists.

The study also found overwhelming support for university presidents, Sheldon Levy and David Naylor, in their opposition to Israel boycotts. By a margin of 9:1, students opposed boycotting Israeli academics.

The results demonstrate that student unions that are pursuing anti-Israel activism are not representing the very students who elected them to power. It appears that by challenging the sensibilities of their student bodies who understand that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East – providing equal rights to its Arab, Jewish and Christian citizens – student unions will isolate themselves.

In seeing the destructiveness and human rights violations of many Arab states, most people will quickly see through this veil of deception – the apartheid lie. It is highly reminiscent of other libelous claims and conspiracy theories like *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* which is today a best seller in the Middle East.

The Spirit of Hope Benefit – May 29, 2008

FSWC is now ramping up for the biggest and best event in the city – The Spirit of Hope Benefit. If you wish to join the Campaign Committee and get involved in a worthy cause, call our campaign headquarters at 416-864-9735 ext. 21 or email tsteyn@fswc.ca.

Adoption of Canadian Sponsored UN Resolution on Human Rights in Iran

Canada successfully brought forth a resolution at the UN again this year to call attention to the continuing deterioration of the human rights situation in Iran. The resolution calls upon Iran to address the continued use of torture; cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; public executions; stoning as a method of execution; violent repression of the defenders of women's human rights; discrimination against minorities; restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms; and the persistent failure to uphold the right to due process of law.

FSWC Delegation Spent 12 Powerful Hours in D.C.

The delegates came to Washington from Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal to connect with leaders and exchange meaningful dialogue about the problem of Iran, terrorism, antisemitism and Canada's role in the international arena. Highlights of the day included a visit with Senator Joe Lieberman at his office and a meeting with James Woolsey, former CIA Director. The delegation also met with officials at AIPAC and the Canadian Embassy.

FSWC Announces New Tools Donor

The “Bon-voyage” orientation session for teachers who are going on the next Tools for Tolerance programme became an occasion to celebrate. Dr. Max and Gianna Glassman made a substantial contribution to fund teachers, police, students and others who will be traveling to the Museum of Tolerance to participate in this world-renowned programme. The programme has been renamed “The Max and Gianna Glassman Tools for Tolerance Programme”. We thank Dr. and Mrs. Glassman for their meaningful contribution.

900 People to Attend FSWC Screening This Week

FSWC will be hosting a complimentary screening for donors and new members of the film, “I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal. The expected attendance is an incredible testament to the community’s support of the work of FSWC. For tickets, contact Jared at 416-864-9735.

Let Them Go!

Canadian designated terrorist organizations, Hamas (Gaza Strip) and Hezbollah (Lebanon) are still holding captive Gilad Shalit, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev. We have not forgotten them. They must be freed immediately and returned to their families.

To become a member of FSWC, Call 416-864-9735 or toll free– 1-866-864-9735 or email tsteyn@fswc.ca. Thank You.

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