



Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center For Holocaust Studies

January 24, 2012

Patrick Deane, President
Office of the President
Gilmour Hall, Room 238
McMaster University, 1280 Main St. W.
Hamilton, ON L8S 4L8

Dear Dr. Deane,

I am writing to draw your attention to yet another anti-Israel speaker coming to McMaster University this week – an occurrence which has regrettably become all too common at the McMaster campus. On January 26 the group ‘Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War’ (HCSW), - an organization with a decidedly anti-Israel stance, is hosting a rabidly anti-Israel, pro-Iranian speaker, Zafar Bangash, who has repeatedly issued calls for the ‘liberation of Palestine’ as recently as this past summer at a Queens Park rally in Toronto (a rally in which he sneeringly referred to US President Barack Obama as, “... this black man in the white house...”)

Mr. Bangash has been quoted in the past advising Israelis to go “back where they came from: the U.S., Canada, Europe, Russia, whoever is willing to take them in,” warning, “The struggle for the liberation of Palestine will not be easy; it will demand an even greater price in blood than has already been paid. But nobody ever said that the Islamic movement will find anything easy.”

Despite ongoing threats by the Iranian regime to Israel, and Iran’s subjugation of its own people, Mr. Bangash is committed to the Iranian theocratic model, stating, “Muslims must strive to overthrow the oppressive systems in their societies through Islamic revolutions...;” he supports the imposition of shariah law and was captured on video shouting at the Queens Park rally, “Inshallah I see that day when we, the Muslims, will march on Palestine and liberate Palestine . . . under Islamic law.”

It is unclear to me why an organization whose name implies support for peace would choose to host an individual known for his hate speech, incitement to revolution and calls for the genocide of the Israeli people. It seems to me that the purpose of HCSW is not to encourage support for peaceful resolutions to conflict, but to support the 63 year old intention of the Arab world to eliminate the State of Israel and to disparage the Jewish community of Canada which is opposed to this genocidal goal.

Furthermore, I am at a loss to understand why the university continues to condone such virulent anti-Israel speakers and would like to pose the following questions: 1) Does the university support the statement and positions of Mr. Bangash? and 2) Are you prepared to make a public statement either acknowledging that you support the goals of this speaker and his sponsor, or, conversely, that you are opposed to them?

I look forward to your response to these questions at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Avi Benlolo
President and CEO
Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

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