

TORONTO STAR

Glossing over questions of accountability

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Re: Stephen Harper's homegrown human

rights problem, Jan. 24

Once again Haroon Siddiqui has maligned the State of Israel, as well as all Canadians who don't believe taxpayer money should be given to known terrorist groups under the guise of promoting human rights, as was done by the Canadian public institution Rights and Democracy.

He has glossed over the serious questions of accountability and transparency at Rights and Democracy raised by Aurel Braun, who in his role as chair of the board has attempted to follow a severely questionable money trail.

It is far easier for Siddiqui to hide behind the tragic death of the former president as a smokescreen to intimidate those who find the methods and agenda of using taxpayer money to fund terrorism shameful.

That the entire staff of Rights and Democracy is now discomfited by board enquiries into their dubious spending habits is entirely understandable: when an organization created to support human rights around the world spends money to fund an organization dedicated to violence and destruction, staff may find it prudent to make a quick exit before the auditors arrive.

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