



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

We Support Israel and We Condemn Those in Medical Education Who Defame Israel

The recent violence, initiated by Hamas and its supporters in Jerusalem and Gaza, led to widespread expressions of anti-Jewish hatred in Canada. This outpouring of hatred even extended to Canadian medical schools and teaching hospitals, creating an atmosphere of intimidation for Jewish learners and interfering with their ability to provide patient care. Some of the recent petitions circulated at Canadian medical schools grossly misrepresent the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and contain inaccurate and distorted information.

Those who express hatred toward Israel often reject Jewish national rights in our historic homeland. Indeed, Jews are the only indigenous people of the land of Israel who exist today. Palestinians are Arab people, descendants of Arab colonizers who conquered Byzantine Palestine more than 2000 years after Jews first lived on the land. In addition to supporting colonialism, those who support the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas are supporting an intensely racist, homophobic and misogynist national movement which has committed widespread criminal child abuse for many decades. For example, hundreds of children died digging Hamas attack tunnels in Gaza. We strongly support the human rights of all civilians affected by this conflict. We specifically support the rights of Palestinian civilians. We urge the PA and Hamas to improve health care facilities available to Palestinians, and to clearly separate military infrastructure from health care facilities.

Furthermore, the PA and Hamas are the parties that commit the most severe human rights abuses in this conflict. Throughout the history of the Palestinian National Movement (PMN), its combatants primarily targeted Jewish civilians. The murder of civilians by combatants is the most extreme human rights violation possible and constitutes a gross violation of the international laws of war. Furthermore, the PMN violates the human rights of Palestinians, especially Hamas in its inhumane rule of Gaza. Hamas exposes the people of Gaza to endless warfare and uses them as human shields but does little to provide protection. While spending hundreds of millions of dollars on fortified tunnels, Hamas never built a system of bomb shelters, and does not use their tunnels to shield civilians. The Israeli armed forces do more to prevent civilian casualties than any other military in the world, but it cannot completely do so given the Hamas policies which endanger Palestinian civilians.

Hamas has responsibility for whatever health care deficiencies exist in Gaza. Hamas neglects health care facilities while fortifying its military facilities. If any of these facilities were damaged in the recent fighting it was because of their proximity to Hamas military infrastructure. While Israel and Egypt maintain a partial blockade of Gaza, Israel allows the importation of medications, almost all medical equipment, and allows Gazans to enter Israel on a regular basis to receive advanced medical care.

The current anti-Israeli disinformation campaign inflames anti-Jewish hatred, as Israel exists as the only personification of Jewish national rights, and the vast majority of Jews around the world support Israel. Israel is the centre of Jewish life. Additionally, the current campaign contains a direct element of anti-Jewish hatred. This emanates from purveyors of intersectionality and critical race theory who irrationally label Jews as white supremacists and Palestinians as people of colour. This paradigm does not fit the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as Jews and Palestinians are genetically similar, most Israeli Jews are Mizrahi or Ethiopian, and Jews suffered for many years as targets of white supremacists.