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Rosh Chodesh Iyar 5781

April 13, 2021

Jonathan Greenblatt
CEO and National Director
Anti-Defamation League
605 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10158-3650
(212) 885-7700

Dear Mr. Greenblatt:

The Coalition for Jewish Values, which represents over 1,500 traditional, observant rabbis in American public policy, is distressed by grossly misplaced charges of antisemitism made by your organization. Your recent attack on Tucker Carlson of Fox News, calling it “white supremacist” to question whether particular policy choices enable illegal immigrants to nullify the votes of American citizens, is merely one example.

Antisemitism was rightly termed “the longest hatred” by the world-renowned scholar Robert S. Wistrich. Rabbinic literature traces this extreme enmity to Esau and Laban in the Book of Genesis. It knows no single ideology, and throughout history has used numerous and diverse façades as cover.

Since its founding in 1913, the Anti-Defamation League has acquired international prominence for battling this ongoing scourge. It was rightly regarded as the Jewish community’s leading bulwark against the persisting hatred precisely because it was beholden to no particular persuasion, movement, or cause.

Alas, the ADL has become markedly partisan under your leadership. Your organization published the guide, *Naming the Hate*, which features obscure neo-Nazis of the “alt-right,” yet says nothing regarding far more dangerous, leftist adherents of radical Islam. Similarly, the ADL denounced Brett Kavanaugh, but not Linda Sarsour.

You repeatedly attempted to blame the Trump administration for a “surge” in antisemitic incidents, though this was contradicted by the ADL’s own data. In a widely-circulated report, the ADL cited 163 bomb threats to Jewish organizations. Closer inspection revealed that 150 of those threats were perpetrated by a single person—who happened to be Jewish. The ADL has tirelessly endeavored to hide the truth readily known to most Jews in America: the overwhelming majority of

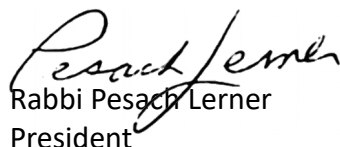
antisemitic acts occur in Democrat-controlled cities and on college campuses dominated by progressive currents.

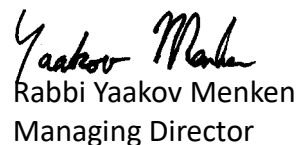
Moreover, you lent credibility to MSNBC's Al Sharpton, who unapologetically led a three-day pogrom in Crown Heights against "the diamond merchants," but have now called for Tucker Carlson to be fired. Carlson even predicted your reaction: he specifically noted that his words would be deliberately misconstrued by "the left, and the little gatekeepers on Twitter."

Over the past few years, several new groups – including Americans Against Anti-Semitism, Combat Anti-Semitism, and Stop Antisemitism – have been founded by individuals who obviously feel that the ADL has departed from its original and vital mission.

We are eager for the ADL to discard its partisan preoccupations and undertake an urgently needed course correction. CJV hopes to assist in whatever advisory capacity the ADL deems beneficial.

Sincerely yours,


Rabbi Pesach Lerner
President


Rabbi Yaakov Menken
Managing Director