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10 Iyar 5781
April 22, 2021

Jeremy Burton, Executive Director
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
126 High Street
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Mr. Burton,

We write concerning the investigation that the JCRC of Greater Boston has conducted regarding Morton Klein and the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA). It is obvious at the outset that the JCRC strayed from its mission to represent the broader Jewish community—as acknowledged even by those filing the complaint—by contemplating expulsion of a long-standing member organization that clearly represents a vibrant and growing Jewish faction.

But further, we have read the complaint, and are dismayed. The “charges” against Mr. Klein repeatedly beg the question: they assume not only that a particular opinion is correct, but that any opposition is inherently motivated by hatred and bigotry. The complaint combines a demand for ideological conformity with demonization in place of debate, besmirching the JCRC’s reputation as a democratic and deliberative body.

For example, the complaint asserts that it is “bigoted” to describe Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib as hating Jews and supporting terror. It simply presumes that Mr. Klein’s objections are connected to their identity characteristics.

This is absurd. David Duke does not back Ilhan Omar because of her identity, but because he [shares her hatred](#) of Jews. Mr. Klein denounces both Omar and Duke for precisely the same reason, and thus to pin his opposition to Rep. Omar’s skin color, religion or any similar factor is simply slander.

Rep. Tlaib recently called Israel “[racist](#)” because the Palestinian Authority refused to work with Israel to obtain vaccines for its citizens. Condemning this antisemitic lie is factual and not bigoted... while using her identity characteristics to try to reverse hater and hated most certainly is.

Similarly, the complaint claims that describing Black Lives Matter leaders as “filled with hatred against Jewish people” is a “bigoted” statement. This demands we pretend that it is not hateful to assert, for example, that Israel is [committing genocide](#), an antisemitic (aka Jew-hating) lie found in the Black Lives Matter platform. It is both ridiculous and odious to accuse someone of bigotry for merely saying something which is factually true.

In oral arguments, perhaps recognizing the vacuity of their position, a new charge was added: that Mr. Klein appeared repeatedly on Dr. Sebastian

Gorka's radio program (to speak about Israel's history and security), and thus "elevated white supremacist voices." Having met with Dr. Gorka, and having studied both his history and record of concern for Jewish safety both in America and overseas, we find this accusation both baseless and repugnant. To claim that everyone honored with the Order of Vitez, [founded in 1920](#), should be associated with evil due to the brief Nazi takeover of the order late in World War II, should appall any fair-minded person. Yet Dr. Gorka's desire to wear his father's medal is offered as the sole "evidence" of his purported white supremacy or animus against Jews.

So they falsely accused Dr. Gorka, and then smeared Mr. Klein for associating with the victim of their slander. How atrocious.

One could similarly address the rest of the tendentious accusations, but we must turn to a much more serious issue: at the very same time that the J Street organization was leading this complaint of "bigotry" against Mr. Klein, it invited Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to address its conference [as its honored guest](#).

Under Mr. Abbas, the racist murder of Jews is encouraged by official PA policy, with [generous payments](#) to terrorists and their families. In 2015, Mr. Abbas not only claimed that the Temple Mount is exclusively an Islamic holy site, but that the PA would not allow Jews to "defile" it with "[their filthy feet](#)." He also said "we bless every drop of blood... spilled for Jerusalem," in the same interview.

So J Street demands that those who denounce antisemitic expression from Omar, Tlaib, and the BLM movement be censured for "bigotry," while it dignifies and honors a person who talks of Jews' "filthy feet" that "defile" holy sites, blesses bloodshed and, backing words with action, generously rewards the families of those who murder Jews.

Indescribable? No, we have a word for this: Antisemitism, the German euphemism for Jew-hatred. **That J Street accuses Mr. Klein while simultaneously honoring Mr. Abbas reflects an antisemitic double-standard of the first order.**

The JCRC should be embarrassed to have entertained an accusation of bigotry that is itself tainted by animus. Certainly, a proposed "resolution" demanding condemnation of white supremacy, but not of radical Islamic terror and those, such as Mr. Abbas, who reward it, would be ludicrous were its consequences not so obvious and deadly for Jews. We request that the Boston JCRC do no further damage to the safety of its fellow Jews by pursuing this mockery of justice.

Yours Sincerely,


Rabbi Pesach Lerner
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