

v NION invites you to an information picket at 4:30, Sunday November 19th, at the Royal York Hotel 100 Front Street, where prominent Canadians will gather at a tribute dinner for a new Israeli university programme on racism and anti-Semitism.

WHY DOES THE TORONTO JEWISH GROUP “NOT IN OUR NAME” (NION) OBJECT TO THE HAIFA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ANTISEMITISM AND RACISM?

Antisemitism is a terrible and dangerous belief, but it is also used to conceal and even justify Zionist policies of racism and apartheid. It is often said that Palestine was given to Zionists to assuage European guilt over the Holocaust. Nonetheless, the Zionist aim to colonize Palestine long preceded the Holocaust. Israel has the 4th largest military in the world, yet the specter of anti-Semitism leads many to see Israel as a victim. There is even more hypocrisy in the fact that in Israel, 40% of Holocaust survivors (170,000 aged individuals) now live in dire poverty (New Profile, Israel).

Why is Israel called an apartheid state? Is there really racism in Israel?

The UN Convention on the Crime of Apartheid was never ratified by Israel or by Canada. *Apartheid* means that legislative measures prevent a racial group from participating in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the country. *Apartheid* means that measures divide the population along racial lines such as through reserves, ghettos, the expropriation of land.

In Israel, the government handed over control of the land to the Israeli Lands Administration which includes the Jewish National Fund (JNF). These privately funded agencies manage 93% of all lands in the state, most of which were formerly owned by Palestinians. The JNF raises funds for Jewish-only settlement. In apartheid South Africa, 87% of all property was reserved in law for whites only; Israel reserves 93% of all property inside the green line for Jews only.

In Israel and in Israeli occupied territory, education, medical care, water rights, and the justice system are separate and unequal. Even Palestinian child prisoners are tried in military courts, not the juvenile justice system which serves Jewish youth, are usually tortured, and these children receive abysmal medical care.

Do Israeli universities support apartheid?

According to Ilan Pappé, Senior Lecturer in Politics at the University of Haifa, Israeli universities support apartheid. *“The Israeli academics risk nothing in criticising the policies of occupation and ethnic cleansing. And yet they are mute and the majority of them are supportive of it. I am a regular visitor to the sites where on a daily basis the Israeli security apparatus abuses and tortures thousands of Palestinians. I can count on one hand the number of Israeli academics I have met in these locations.”* Israeli universities *“produce the lawyers who defend the occupation regime*

and run its kangaroo 'courts' the civil planners and engineers who design and build the settlements on Palestinian land; the economists and financiers who design and implement the grants that subsidize those settlements; the geologists who facilitate seizures of Palestinian aquifers; . . . the historians and sociologists who make sense of a national society while preserving official lies about its own past" (Virginia Tilley).

What is the situation right now for Palestinian students and academics?

This Fall sees multiple assaults on Palestinian education caused by Israel's border closings, the separation wall and checkpoints, the denial of entry permits to academics, students, and trustees of university boards, arbitrary arrests of Palestinian students, the withdrawal of funds, the kidnapping of the Minister of Education and Higher Education, the banning of Palestinian students from Israeli universities (*NY Times*, 11 Oct.). Israel is not issuing any new study permits for Palestinians who have cleared security clearance and who wish to study in Israel.

Israel also destroys higher education in the Occupied Territories: there have been at least five cases of academics and university staff being denied entry to the West Bank. Eleven Palestinian university presidents call on "collective action against Israel's plan to empty the Occupied Palestinian Territory of its educated classes." **Israeli military incursions in and around Birzeit University means that Palestinians do not even have access to Palestinian universities.** Since the start of the current intifada, more than 4000 Palestinian children have been arrested and deprived of education as well as family contact (right2edu.birzeit.edu/news/article366).

Why are donations to this Israeli university tax deductible in Canada?

In determining charitable status, Canadian law looks at the intent of anti-racist organizations: whether it is to eliminate racism through education or "or other purposes beneficial to the community", or whether there is a political intention. At this time there are legal challenges to the Canadian charitable status of the Jewish National Fund, the organization that allows only Jewish people to hold property in Israel. In the 1970s, the JNF in Canada raised \$15m to establish 'Canada Park', a nature reserve, in Israel. A UN report remarks with deep concern that Canada Park sits on the site of three Palestinian villages destroyed in 1967, erasing any signs of the indigenous population (sounds like "political intent"?). The UN committee considers it of deep concern that the villagers are persistently denied the right to return to their land.

What is the Tribute Committee?

The Tribute Committee is a group of wealthy and prominent Canadian supporters of Israel who are making a tax deductible \$500 to \$25,000 donation to The Elizabeth and Tony Comper Interdisciplinary Institute for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism at Haifa University.

What can really help to further peace?

- **Ask the Tribute Committee** to fund a Canadian Anti-racism Institute to redress Canadian crimes against indigenous peoples here and abroad.
- **Ask Tribute Committee** member Dr. Arnold Noyek (hearing and public health specialist) to spearhead Canadian pressure on Israel to end sonic booms over Gaza. Israel uses the sonic booms to terrify civilians, particularly young children. The sound waves are so powerful that they caused major damage to the Deaf Children's facilities in Gaza City and damaged 350 doors and windows of the UNRWA building. Hospitals reported a number of miscarriages. Israel's courts refused to stop the sonic booms.
- **Ask Tribute Committee** member William G. Davis, Ontario's "education" premier, to speak up for Palestinian students and academics and to speak up for the study of racism perpetrated by Israel.
- **Ask Tribute Committee** member Gerry Schwartz, CEO of Onex, to cease Onex subsidiary CMC production of military components used in Israel's wars against Lebanon and Palestine. (also ask him to stop CMC production of Ballistic Missile Defense/Weapons in Space components for the U.S.).
- **Ask Tribute Committee** members Irwin Cotler and Frank Dimant, powerful friends of Israel, to protect Israel from itself by blocking its fascistic descent into ethnic cleansing, nuclear

- proliferation, and use of other non-conventional weapons.
- **Ask Tribute Committee** member Heather Reisman to feature Debra Ellis' book *The Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*, and Norman Finkelstein's *Beyond Chutzpah: On the Misuse of Anti-Semitism and the Abuse of History* in her next round of "Heather's picks." The Canadian Jewish Congress pressured the Toronto District School Board to take *The Three Wishes* off primary school book shelves.
- **Ask the many Tribute Committee** members who have connections within the Canadian government to restore Canadian funds to the democratically elected Palestinian government, to recognize Palestinian refugees' right of return to Palestine, to end tax deductible Canadian donations that support racist practices. The list includes Irwin Cotler, Senator Art Eggleton, Hon. Ernie Eves, Deputy Mayor Michael Feldman, Senator Jerry Grafstein, Hon. Monte Kwinter, Hon. Bob Rae, Allan Gottlieb, Hon. Gerry Weiner.
- **Ask Tribute Committee** member Consul General Ya'acov Brosh to study racism and to learn about occupation so that he no longer fosters hate and bigotry.
- **Ask Tribute Committee** physicians Dr. Gary Gutmann, Dr. Neville Poy, Dr. Arthur Dodek to take toys to Gaza children in hospital, because even Canadian church groups cannot get through Israeli checkpoints to provide toys.
- **Ask the Tribute Committee** lawyers to contact the Charities Directorate, Canada Revenue Agency 1-800-267-2384 to determine whether there is political intent, and whether the Institute really promotes anti-racism within Israel.

Write strong letters to

Harper.S@parl.gc.ca MacKay.P@parl.gc.ca
Graham.B@parl.gc.ca Layton.J@parl.gc.ca
Duceppe.G@parl.gc.ca

Some helpful web sources:

- www.alternativenews.org
- electronicintifada.net
- www.btselem.org
- **Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid** caia.tyo.ca
- www.counterpunch.org
- **Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions** www.icahd.org
- www.jkcook.net
- www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org
- www.newprofile.org
- [www.occupation magazine](http://www.occupationmagazine.com)
- right2edu.birzeit.edu
- www.stopthewall.org
- **Zatoun** – www.zatoun.com

Books:

- Cook, Catherine, Adam Hanieh, Adah Kay. 2004 *Stolen Youth: The politics of Israel's detention of Palestinian children*. Pluto Press/ Defense for Children International.
- Finkelstein, Norman. 2005. *Beyond Chutzpah: On the Misuse of Anti-Semitism and the Abuse of History*. University of California Press.
- Pappé, Ilan. 2004. *A History of Modern Palestine*. Cambridge University Press.
- Tilley, Virginia. 2005. *The One-State Solution*. University of Michigan Press.

This information picket is organized by the Toronto Jewish group
NOT IN OUR NAME. It is endorsed by the
JEWISH WOMEN'S COMMITTEE TO END THE OCCUPATION and by the
COALITION AGAINST ISRAELI APARTHEID

