

Response to film review *No Love for the Film “Hate Spaces”*

By Avi Goldwasser, Executive Producer, Director and Writer of “Hate Spaces”

In her review of our film “Hate Spaces – the Politics of Intolerance on Campus,” Berakha Guggenheim acknowledges one of the main themes of the film, namely that campus anti-Semitism is real, dangerous and is emanating from the left, from the social justice crowd. However, the review fails to explain why the Left’s adoption of Palestinianism is anti-Semitic. Namely, singling out the Jewish State for special, emotional condemnation while being shamefully silent about such enormous horrors as the Arab/Muslim enslavement of blacks in Sudan, the jihadist genocide of the Middle East’s Christians, and the Arab/Islamic treatment of women and gays and other minorities. The very fact of this “disproportionate” obsession about the behavior of the Jewish State renders the leftist claim to be motivated by “human concern” a pervasive fraud.

Our film is not about the Arab-Israeli conflict; it’s about the treatment of Jews on campus. The actions of the Israeli government do not justify collective punishment of students who believe in Jewish self-determination. Miss Guggenheim laments the sad reality, noting that; “it is fair to accuse Palestine solidarity activists of failing to distinguish between Diaspora Jews and the government of Israel, contributing to the marginalization of Jews on campus and elsewhere.” But she then pivots away from the issues on the campus to express her political feelings: “There is no recognition of the Palestinian cause, the suffering the Occupation causes, or even Islamophobia present within Jewish communities, a source of ongoing tension between Muslims and Jews.” This is simply a false equivalence. Like many progressives who seek simple feel-good solutions to this complex problem, she seems to suggest that hostility on campus would cease if Jews only sympathized more with the plight of the Palestinians, and just stopped defending Israeli policies.

Indeed Ms. Guggenheim mostly ignores or denies the other major themes of the film: the sad and ugly reality that a hostile learning environment for Jews is fueled by the increasing number of Muslim students on campus. This is a difficult topic to discuss in a politically correct culture, so the reviewer simply plays the Islamophobia card.

The facts, as documented in our film include Congressional testimony by counterterrorism experts showing clearly that radical Muslim organizations fund, plan and strategize to marginalize and sometimes intimidate pro-Israel voices on campus. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0xICU4VIm4>),.

The reviewer is reluctant to accept some basic facts about CAIR, which was identified as an unindicted co-conspirator by the US courts in the Holy Land trial, and whose founders have strong connections to terror organizations. She also seeks to deny the support Students for Justice in Palestine receives from the ACLU and National Lawyer’s Guild—all in the name of free speech. These organizations do not support free speech

for pro- Israel organizations.

Ms. Guggenheim supposes that any criticism of Islamic activity is *ipso facto* "Islamophobic." Surely it's quite clear by now that the entire campaign about Islamophobia is a powerful tool to suppress or forbid any criticism of Islamist thought and behavior. She writes that we purposely spliced scenes of "the *takbir* and the Muslim call to prayer... among pictures of shouting students bearing wince-inducing signs are a questionable decision on the part of the filmmakers, as if to suggest that Muslims are especially guilty." This is a false accusation. The Muslim call to prayer was part of a clip of anti-Israel agitators calling for the destruction of Israel. The protestors purposefully established the connection between their religious practices and beliefs and their anti-Semitic anti-Israelism. They would tell her this if she asked them. The film also included Muslim students shouting *takbir* when they succeeded in passing BDS resolutions. *Takbir* literally means, "god is greatest" or "god is greater." A supremacist chant, jihadis also shout it at the moment of their violence.

Another theme ignored in the review is the corruption of the universities, which have replaced the pursuit of truth with the pursuit of ideological indoctrination, not unlike German universities in the 1930's and Chinese universities during the Cultural Revolution. This can only happen with a complicit university leadership that enables the Brownshirts, Red Guard, and today's black clad Antifa activists.

Finally, the reviewer seems to misclassify or ignore the political orientation and the age of the speakers in the film. She notes "It is especially curious when one considers that all the talking heads in this video are older, established, and firmly right-wing Zionists. "Alan Dershowitz is surely not a right-winger, and the young students being interviewed include a Christian and a Muslim.

Too often the reviewer seems focused on what the film does not show, rather than understand what it does portray, namely the dystopian nature of a campus culture that is suppressing free speech and diversity of views while promoting destructive identity politics in the name of social justice.