



This statement by the Al-Quds Day Committee Australia is directed in response to the slanderous allegations made by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) against our committee, this year's Al-Quds Day protest, and its attendees. The ECAJ is a Zionist organization which tries to deceive people into believing that it represents the mainstream Jewish view. In an article titled 'Al-Quds Day in Sydney: Delete Zionists' the author and ECAJ Research Officer, Julie Nathan, makes a number of false claims and serious accusations which need to be addressed.

Firstly, the article brings attention to the presence of flags, namely those belonging to Hezbollah and one in particular – for which the article is named – which features a crossed out Israeli flag with the words "Delete Zionists" across the top and bottom. It should be noted that the Al-Quds Day Committee made a number of statements, the most recent of which being August 1st (the day before the rally) that urged people to bring only Palestinian flags. We are not responsible for which flags or emblems attendees bring with themselves, and as long as they are not against the law we cannot tell the people to remove them. That being said, the accusations that such things are "a call for the annihilation of millions of Jews" and "It is a direct call to kill people, specifically to murder millions of Jews" are absolutely disgusting and slanderous. We have never promoted the killing of any religious, racial or demographic group and in fact we support the Jewish people who stand with us against the racist ideology known as Zionism. This is evidenced by the thousands of Jews who attend Al-Quds Day rallies across the world.

The only racism or exclusionism being shown is from those very people who accuse us. We believe it was the former president of the ECAJ, Mr. Isi Leibler who has made comments about Jewish critics of Israel saying that they must be excommunicated from the Jewish faith and

ostracized from the community, labeling them “self-hating Jews”<sup>1</sup>. Mr. Leibler has also defended and even praised criminals such as the current defence Minister of Israel Moshe Ya’alon<sup>2</sup> who has made such disgusting remarks as calling the Palestinian “threat” a “cancer” and has repeatedly called for unprovoked attacks against Iran and the assassination of its president. So in the logic of the ECAJ, we are apparently calling for the murder of Jewish people which is in their view, bad (and we wholeheartedly agree), however when their leaders call for the assassination of another nations President and the bombing and murder of millions of innocent civilians, it is perfectly acceptable. Perhaps they value the life of a Jew more than that of a Gentile – and yet we are the ones accused of racism. It now makes sense that in a recent article for The Jerusalem Post interestingly named “hypocrisy, deceit, evil and the UN”; Mr. Leibler called the United Nations Human Rights Council “bogus” and praised Israel for boycotting it after facing allegations of war crimes.<sup>3</sup>

Furthermore, the ECAJ dares to label us with terms like “extremist” when they themselves attack and vilify other pro-Israeli groups for not being extreme enough in their defence of the criminal Israeli state. Danny Lamm the current president of the ECAJ has stated regarding the New Israel Fun (NIF):

*“This group (The NIF) is going far beyond its charter when it proposes a so-called “Democratic Constitution” for Israel, calling for an end to Israel as a state with a specifically Jewish character. This is an outcome diametrically opposed to the Zionist dream of a national homeland for the Jewish people in Israel.”*

These words are clear, that the ECAJ does not wish for a truly representational government where over 1.5 million Palestinian Arabs in Israel (over 20% of the population)<sup>4</sup>, Nearly 4.5 million in Palestinian territories<sup>5</sup> and nearly 5 million in diaspora<sup>6</sup>; are actually given the right to democratically determine the character of their homeland. As much as such people militantly argue for the Jewish right to “return” to Israel (a land which never belonged to them), they deny such rights to the lawful inhabitants of the land.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.haaretz.com/blogs/strenger-than-fiction/memo-to-jewish-haters-of-liberals-the-middle-ages-are-over-1.4863>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Columnists/Moshe-Yaalon-Strategic-thinker-and-leader>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Columnists/Candidly-Speaking-Hypocrisy-deceit-evil-at-the-UN>

<sup>4</sup> Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics - [http://www.cbs.gov.il/publications/isr\\_in\\_n10e.pdf](http://www.cbs.gov.il/publications/isr_in_n10e.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics - <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/site/881/default.aspx#Population>

<sup>6</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics - [http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/\\_pcbs/PressRelease/abstract\\_e.pdf](http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/abstract_e.pdf)

Another minor point worth mentioning is the line in the article:

*“Father Dave Smith (left in pic), of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Dulwich Hill, addressed the crowd in the park, **most of them Shia Muslims from the nearby Arncliffe mosque.**”*

We at the Al-Quds Day Committee were just interested to know how this information apparently came to Ms. Nathan. In reality, this is nothing but a sad assumption which is again false, not only were there Muslims – both Shia and Sunni from various mosques and centres across Sydney – but Christians and Jews and even people of other faiths as well as atheists attending the rally. It is sad that journalism these days has been reduced to fabricating statistics with no evidence and passing them off as fact.

Ms. Nathan also mentioned some statements made by a speaker at an Al-Quds Day event in Canada. This is completely beside the point and has nothing to do with the Al-Quds Day Committee Australia. We do not have control over what people say on the other side of the world nor do their comments represent us, and mentioning them is merely another cheap tactic employed to try to slander our movement. As for the video which was posted regarding the Melbourne protest, the Al-Quds Day Committee made it clear that it was not an official video and merely the creation of one of the attendees. We are in no way responsible nor do we necessarily condone the contents of anything which is not officially released by the committee.

In conclusion, it is very sad that the agents of Zionism still attempt to deceive people by alleging that opponents of their racist ideology are in fact haters of the Jewish faith. These Zionist groups much like extremists of all groups and religions seek to alienate those who do not adhere to their narrow world view, and seek to present themselves as the only true representation of their religion. This is not only an insult to us, but to millions of Jews across the world that stand shoulder to shoulder with us in opposing Zionism. The truth is: Zionism has no religion.

It is groups like yours who constantly hide behind cries of “anti-Semitism” whenever the actions of a criminal state like Israel are condemned, whether it comes from “self-hating Jews” or “Muslim extremists”, and resort to childish slander and false accusations in order to deceive people and cover the truth. We look forward to the day when Zionism can only be viewed in the museums of history alongside Nazism, fascism and apartheid.

## **Al-Quds Day Committee Australia**

[www.al-qods.org](http://www.al-qods.org)

Statements issued by individuals under their own name do not necessarily represent the views of the Al-Quds Day Committee Australia, and only represent the individual issuing them. Only official statements issued under the name of the Committee reflect our views.