

NorCal Sabeel Protests Zionist Billboards

NorCal Sabeel decries a series of billboards that have recently appeared in Berkeley (see an example below). These falsely claim that "anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism." In reality, it is the opposite: anti-Zionism is anti-Racism. Zionism is a political movement begun in the late 1800s that sought to dispossess Palestinian Muslims and Christians of their land in order to create an exclusively Jewish state. Many Jews around the world have long opposed it. The message of the billboards defames those of all religious affiliations, races, and ethnicities who advocate justice, freedom, and human rights in historic Palestine

The billboards are sponsored by Jewbelong, one of several well-funded groups whose aim is to silence human rights defenders. Last month, Jewbelong paraded a large truck in Berkeley with a huge board proclaiming "Berkeley Bans Jews." Around the same time, an affiliated group brought out their own truck with a similar message, accompanied by a massive photo of Adolf Hitler.

These groups claim that supporting Palestinian human rights make Jews "uncomfortable." This unfairly implicates all Jews in the crimes of the Israeli government, a claim which is, in itself, anti-Semitic. Whatever discomfort some Zionists feel when confronted with Israeli crimes pales in comparison to the suffering of Palestinians who are being killed, imprisoned, maimed and tortured; whose houses and culture are systematically destroyed, and who live under an oppressive apartheid regime, as documented by human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the United Nations Human Rights Council, and a number of Israeli organizations.

Our diverse group, whose mission is to amplify the voices of Palestinian Christians and support their call to end Zionist crimes, find the messages of these ads defamatory and reprehensible.

We call on all people of conscience to stand with the beleaguered Palestinians, and we call on our own government to end our complicity with Israel by withholding the massive (over \$10 million per day!) financial and political support of Israel's apartheid regime.

Dr. Hassan Fouada, for NorCal Sabeel
More information at: norcalsabeel.org and IfAmericansKnew.org

A billboard sponsored by JewBelong, January 2023

