

The New Face of Anti-Semitism

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This article is a response to two articles published by The Gauntlet last week, one entitled “Facebook fanaticism leaves us speechless” and the other “Alleged hate speech on Facebook lands U of C student in international press”. Presenting this issue as one of free speech is fallacious. The SPHR club is inciting hate against Jews and is using tactics of intimidation, defamation and calls for violence. They are propagating old Nazi propaganda, packaging it as anti-Zionist, pro-Palestinian activism. SPHR is making the environment at our university feel increasingly hostile and dangerous for Jewish students. SPHR has long since passed the responsible limits of free speech; they are exploiting the privileges of democracy to sabotage the fundamental rights of Jewish students to peace and security in their scholastic environment.

Amongst the anti-Semitic propaganda that we have endured, are calls for child martyrdom against Jews, libel that Israel puts feces in the Palestinians' drinking water, yelling “racist” and “terrorist” at Jewish students for their support of Israel, propagation of conspiracy theories referring to Jews running the world, statements that CEOs of companies are “Zionists” and that Jews control the media (“Jew York Times”), declarations to our group members that “it’s too bad the Nazis didn’t finish off your family”, and propagation of demonizing lies and misinformation about Israel and historical facts.

Israel is fundamentally intertwined with our Jewish Identity. Regardless of a Jewish person’s particular political stance, there is an inherent connection between being Jewish and the Jewish homeland. Our traditions, religion, identity and nationhood are inextricably tied to The Land of Israel. The Judean People are indigenous to the land of Israel and have had uninterrupted presence there for over 3200 years. The so-called Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights club has been systematically acting for the violation of Jewish Human Rights, deviously wrapping the club’s anti-Semitic agenda in the pseudo-fashionable politically correct guise of anti-Zionism.

In the recent words of PM Harper: “[T]his is the face of the new anti-Semitism. It targets the Jewish people by targeting Israel and attempts to make the old bigotry acceptable to a new generation.”