

# The Weaponization of the IHRA Definition of Anti-Semitism

**CISO Conference on Palestinian Self-Determination  
Montreal, December 1, 2018**

# B'nai Brith Canada Attacks CUPW

Canadian Postal Workers Align with Pro-Terrorism Palestinian Union



# The True Motivation for BBC's Attack on CUPW?

- “Images from PPSWU’s Facebook page also indicate that it supports the total annihilation of the Jewish State, rather than a two-state solution. ***This extremist position is consistent with that of the antisemitic boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) Movement, which CUPW endorsed back in 2008.***”

[emphasis added]

# What is B'nai Brith Canada?

- From Court documents:

“B'nai Brith Canada is a charitable, membership based service organization, active in Canada since 1875...]

B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights “has been monitoring, researching and documenting the treatment of war criminals in Canada for over thirty years and ***is widely regarded as one of the pre-eminent human rights organizations in Canada.***” [emphasis added]

- From the BBC website:

“**What is B'nai Brith Canada?** B'nai Brith is recognized as a vital voice in promoting Jewish unity and continuity, ***a staunch defender of the State of Israel*** and global Jewry, a tireless advocate on behalf of senior citizens and a leader in combatting antisemitism & racism. We operate the country's only 24-Hour Anti-Hate Hotline combatting antisemitism and racism and annually produce *The Audit of Antisemitic Incidents*, recognized internationally as Canada's definitive report on antisemitism. We are the grassroots voice of the Jewish Community.” [emphasis added]

## **B'NAI B'RITH CANADA LEAGUE ORDERED TO PAY HEAVY FINES IN DEFAMATION SUIT**

**By Ben Kayfetz**

TORONTO, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- A six-person jury in Winnipeg has awarded 400,000 Canadian dollars (U.S. \$305,000) to a former candidate for Parliament who sued B'nai B'rith Canada for defamation.

This is regarded as one of the largest such awards in Canadian legal history. The group plans to appeal.

Luba Fedorkiw, who ran for the Progressive Conservative Party in Winnipeg during the 1984 general election, sued the League for Human Rights of B'nai B'rith Canada after a local newspaper reported the league was investigating allegations that she had made anti-Semitic comments.

# Defamation lawsuit involving Winnipeg journalist settled, CBC, January 2013

- “Winnipeg journalist Lesley Hughes and B'nai Brith Canada have settled out of court, following a years-long legal battle over an article she wrote in 2002. Hughes wrote about the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. When she ran for the federal Liberals in 2008, the article surfaced, and she was accused of anti-Semitism. The party then revoked her membership

“Hughes then sued B'nai Brith, the Canadian Jewish Congress and Conservative MP Peter Kent for defamation. ***All three parties issued a public statement saying Hughes is not an anti-Semite.*** The terms of the settlement have been kept confidential, but Hughes said in a release that she plans to write a book about her experiences.” [emphasis added]

# B'nai Brith Canada Caused Carleton University to Fire Hassan Diab

- From the *Ottawa Citizen*, January 21, 2108

“A Freedom of Information request into the hiring and dismissal of Hassan Diab at Carleton University in 2009 sheds light on the chain of events that led to his termination in a firestorm of controversy. Diab was a suspect in a 1980 synagogue bombing in Paris when it was revealed in the media that he had been hired as a contract instructor in sociology in the summer of 2009. He was dismissed that same day. Diab was extradited to France in November 2014. He was released from a French prison on Jan. 12 2018 after charges were dropped...”

“James Turk was executive director at CAUT when Diab was dismissed. Now director at the Centre for Free Expression at Ryerson University and an adjunct research professor at Carleton, Turk said the email trails merely clarifies what was already known about Diab’s termination. ***‘There was nothing that had changed about his ability to do his job. It was simply responding to public pressure led by B’nai Brith.’***” [emphasis added]

# Judy Haiven, Independent Jewish Voices

- “Frank Dimant, B’nai Brith Canada’s Executive Vice-President said that ‘the conditions of Diab’s bail do not even allow him to leave his home alone or to own a cellphone, but Carleton officials believe that it is fine for them to make him a member of their faculty? The last place in the world where this man belongs is in a university classroom, in front of impressionable students.’ Dimant went on, ‘We find it deplorable that university officials believe that there is nothing wrong with employing Diab. The safety and security of the community as a whole, and of the Carleton University campus in particular, are of great concern to us...’ Dimant’s key worry seemed to be that Diab would make anti-Jewish slurs against Jewish students – this despite the fact that Diab had never been accused of uttering a single anti-Semitic sentence.

“B’nai Brith Canada describes itself a human rights organization which has ‘championed the cause of human rights in Canada since 1875’... ***If B’nai Brith and its League for Human Rights advocates for human rights, what about the rights of Hassan Diab? Isn’t a basic tenet of all human rights the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty? Clearly B’nai Brith is extremely selective about its human rights advocacy.***”  
[emphasis added]



# B'nai Brith Attacks Toronto Imam Ayman Elkasrawy

- B'nai Brith, February 28, 2017: "Ayman Elkasrawy, a teaching assistant at Ryerson University who called to 'purify the al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews' during a sermon, has been dismissed by the university. In a letter to B'nai Brith Canada, Ryerson President Mohamed Lachemi noted that Elkasrawy was 'no longer employed by the university,' and added that 'we remain actively engaged in addressing antisemitism in our community.' B'nai Brith had sent a letter demanding that Elkasrawy be fired on Feb. 21."

# B'nai Brith Attacks Toronto Imam Ayman Elkasrawy

- On October 22, 2017, the *Toronto Star*, which consulted five independent experts in the Arabic language, concluded that the Imam's remarks had been mistranslated and taken out of context. The *Toronto Star* also revealed that the video used by BBC had been doctored
- In response to questions from the *Toronto Star*, BBC produced its own "expert" in the Arabic language, Dr. Mordechai Kedar of Bar-Ilan University in Israel
- In 2014, Kedar stated on an Israel Radio program: "The only thing that can deter terrorists... is the knowledge that their sister or their mother will be raped."

# In Israel, Chief Rabbi calls black persons “monkeys”; B’nai Brith says nothing

- As reported by Israeli media, in March 2018, the Sephardic chief rabbi of Israel, Yitzhak Yosef, called black people “monkeys” during his weekly sermon.
- The sister organization of BBC in the United States, the Anti-Defamation League, tweeted a condemnation of the remarks: "Racially charged comment made by Israeli Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef, comparing people of color to "monkeys", is utterly unacceptable."
- I repeatedly called on social media for BBC and CIJA to condemn Rabbi Yosef’s racial slur, but to my knowledge, they said nothing

# The Pro-CUPW Protest at BBC's Toronto Offices on August 29, 2018

- Before the protest, the Palestinian Postal Services Workers Union (PPSWU) issued a statement:

“Ahmad Naser Jarrar, whose picture was posted by a member on our Facebook page, was never brought to a court of law and found guilty for the crime he had allegedly committed. He was shot dead together with two other Palestinian civilians by Israeli soldiers during a military search operation in the town of Jenin and its refugee camp and villages in the occupied Palestinian territory. UN human rights bodies and international, Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations have repeatedly condemned this criminal Israeli policy of extra-judicial execution, which is widespread and deprives Palestinians the right to a fair trial and the most fundamental right to life.

“As for the poster commemorating the Nakba on our Facebook page, B'nai Brith wildly and baselessly claims that it proves that the PPSWU “supports the total annihilation of the Jewish State, rather than a two-state solution” (which, by the way, the lobby group doesn't support itself). This is a typical example of the attempt by Israeli lobby groups to use propaganda to demonize all discussion about historical facts, and to deprive people in Palestine, Canada and elsewhere. Nothing here is unlawful or illegitimate. No one can deny the Palestinian people of the right to know and debate the well documented fact of the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians and the violent creation of the State of Israel in 1948.”

# The Pro-CUPW Protest at BBC's Toronto Offices on August 29, 2018

Before the protest, the Jewish Defence League Canada (JDL) announced on Facebook that it was organizing a counter-protest, to be held at the same time and place as our protest. The JDL described the pro-CUPW protest as a “pro terror march in the middle of the Jewish community.”

# Wednesday, August 29



**Wednesday, August 29, 2018**

**4 pm**

**B'nai Brith Canada**

**15 Hove Street, Toronto**

The Al Quds Day gang and many other radical Islamic gangs are promoting a radical Islamic pro terror march in the middle of the Jewish community, in front of the B'nai Brith building. The Al Quds Day gang includes many from Thorncliffe Park, home of the Toronto

# The Jewish Defence League Canada

- The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation has categorized the JDL as a “violent extremist Jewish organization”
- The Southern Poverty Law Center describes the JDL as “a radical organization that preaches a violent form of anti-Arab, Jewish nationalism”
- Within the past year, two members of JDL Canada have been charged with a hate crime by police in Washington D.C. The charges arose from the savage mob-beating of a defenceless and elderly Palestinian man. In May 2018, one of the accused failed to appear for a court hearing in Washington. A warrant was then issued for his arrest.

# Faith Goldy Appears at the JDL Counter-Protest

↻ Faith J Goldy Retweeted



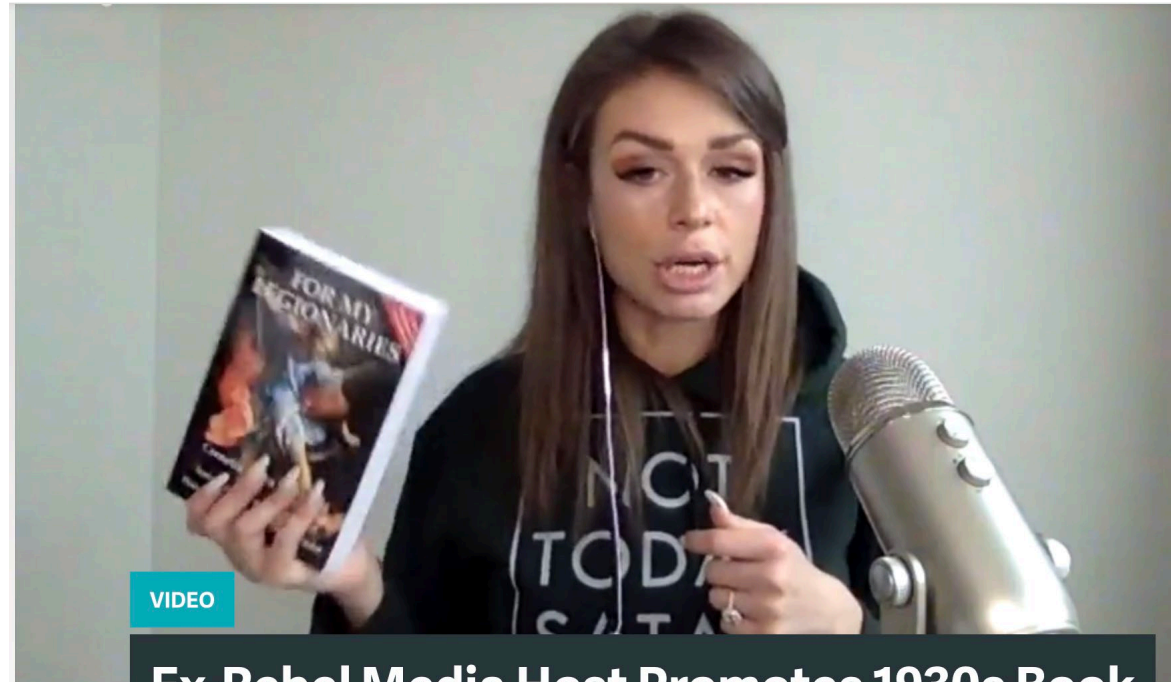
**Ross McLean** @RossMcleanSec · Aug 29

Pro Israel @FaithGoldy talking politics at Bnai Brith aftermath of protest #topoli





# Faith Goldy Promotes Anti-Semitic Fascist Book



VIDEO

**Ex-Rebel Media Host Promotes 1930s Book**

**by Fascist Author Advocating 'The**

**Elimination of Jews'**

Faith Goldy claims the book is 'very, very, very, very spot on'

April 3, 2018 [f SHARE](#) [TWEET](#)

# Faith Goldy Praises Greek Neo-Nazi Party Golden Dawn

↻ Faith J Goldy Retweeted



**Faith J Goldy**  @FaithGoldy · Jul 25

80 dead as the worst ever wildfires ravage the greater Athens area, Attica region. Hard times create strong men & the Golden Dawn has been helping in the fight — putting out fires & distributing necessary supplies to those affected.

[@IliasKasidiaris](#) [#prayforGreece](#) [#attica](#) [#athens](#) – at Ίδρυμα της Βουλής των Ελλήνων (Hellenic Parliament Foundation)



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# My Real News Reports on Golden Dawn

## Tensions Mount in Greece as the Trial of Europe's Most Brazen Neo-Nazi Party Drags On (1/2)

November 9, 2017

University of Athens Professor Michael Spourladakis discusses the endless criminal trial of Golden Dawn, Greece's Neo-Nazi party



Series: Greek Oligarch Evangelos Marinakis Faces Criminal Investigation After Expanding his Media Empire


Greek Oligarch Evangelos Marinakis Faces Criminal Investigation (2/2)



# The JDL Counter-Protest on August 29, 2018




# Meir Weinstein Publishes a Video on Facebook



**Meir HaLevi Weinstein** Timeline Recent

[Add Friend](#) [Follow](#)

**Alfahoundi** @alfahoundi  
Of the three men to Bill's right, the guy who once called NYC "Hymietown" has the "least" anti-semitic record



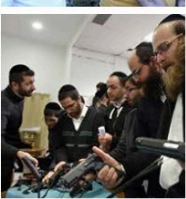
8:31A, 8:41 PM

**Dimitri Lascaris**  
Meir HaLevi Weinstein I stand with the Jewish people. I do not stand with Zionists, who are an affront to Judaism.


23m Like Reply

**Meir HaLevi Weinstein**  
Dimitri Lascaris you are in no position to lecture me about being Jewish.

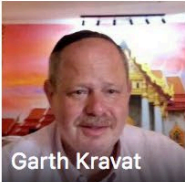
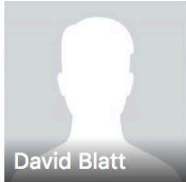


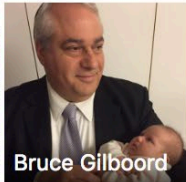
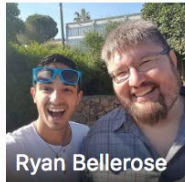
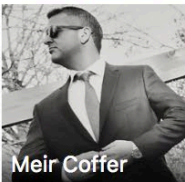
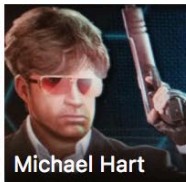

23m Like Reply




**Meir HaLevi Weinstein** shared a live video.  
August 29 at 7:40 PM · 🌐



Friends · 2,566

 <p>Garth Kravat</p>	 <p>David Blatt</p>	 <p>David Lim</p>
 <p>AR David</p>	 <p>Bruce Gilboord</p>	 <p>Ryan Bellerose</p>
 <p>Meir Coffey</p>	 <p>Michael Hart</p>	 <p>Jordan Justein</p>

 See what you have in common with Meir HaLevi's friends. [View](#)

# The Video Posted By Meir Weinstein

- “I just think we should bring in the death penalty. And that would resolve a lot of problems... Justin Trudeau, be the first one to go. I’d love to see him. And Monsef. And Iqra Khalid. And Ahmed Hussein. And Omar Alghabra... And Singh, Singh, let’s make him sing, you know, as he walks toward the guillotine!” [13:55 – 14:36]
- “I am never going to take the plight of any Arab – any Arab, understand”? When you, when you start, look, they have children to blow them up. Their children don’t grow up because they use them as suicide bombers and martyrs” [5:22 – 5:35]
- “I got a little obscene. There was one white, guilt-ridden ho bitch... and I just sat there going like this” [Forrest mimics an act of fellatio] [6:44 – 7:12]
- “Arabs live freely [in Israel], they live well – OK, they may be second-class citizens, but they live still better than they live in their own countries where they are attacked by their own people.” [9:20 – 9:32]
- “We need to enforce some sort of a snitch line and look into the homes of these people [Muslims and Arabs] since we have so many of them coming into our country.” [10:00 – 10:07]
- “Faith Goldy showed up!” She “is the only good candidate... The police were happy to see her as well so that’s a great sign too, right?” [11:30 – 12:28]

# B'nai Brith Condemns the Pro-CUPW Rally

Anti-Israel Protesters Threaten, Disparage B'nai Brith Outside Toronto Headquarters



# B'nai Brith Condemns the Pro-CUPW Rally

- “During the rally, misguided protesters ranted against Jewish community members on the other side of the street, hollering ‘Racists go home,’ ‘From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,’ ‘Israel is a terror state,’ and other hate-filled and xenophobic chants. Protesters even personally threatened Michael Mostyn, Chief Executive Officer of B'nai Brith Canada, by shouting, ‘Hey Michael, what’s the story? Slander us and you’ll be sorry!’
- “In a Facebook post ahead of the rally, Ellis urged attendees to ‘confront’ Zionists and shared a list of chants, some of which promote violence and obvious falsehoods, including ‘Resistance is justified when people are occupied!’ and ‘We know what that building’s for! Occupation and war!’...
- Michael Mostyn: “This was by no means a ‘spat’ between B'nai Brith and the organizers of this rally, as some have suggested. We merely pointed out that CUPW was aligning itself with an organization that glorifies terrorists. The fact these demonstrators travelled to demonize Israel at a Jewish community centre, in the heart of a Jewish residential neighbourhood in Toronto, shows how far these provocateurs have already crossed the line.”



# CIJA Condemns the Pro-CUPW Rally

## Press Release: CIJA Outraged by Intimidation Tactics Against the Jewish Community

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 29, 2018

Toronto, ON – The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is outraged by an anti-Israel protest that took place outside the office of B'nai Brith in Bathurst Manor, a Toronto neighbourhood with a large Jewish population.

In response **Noah Shack, Vice President, GTA, CIJA issued the following:**

*“What the Jewish community of Bathurst Manor witnessed today is a failed attempt at intimidation by a hateful group of protesters who boasted of ‘taking it to their neighbourhood’. It is absolutely unacceptable that these tactics are being used to sow discord between communities in our city.*

*“The Canadian Union of Postal Workers has shamefully allowed itself to be drawn into the antisemitic and counter-productive hate campaign against Israel. Union members waved their flags and applauded speakers who derided local residents and spewed inflammatory statements calling for the destruction of Israel.*

*“Upon learning of this development last week, we shared our concerns directly with Toronto Police, and we are grateful for their response in issuing the permit today. We will continue to engage elected officials at all three levels of government.*



CIJA Publications, Press Relea

Posted on August 29, 2018

Updated on August 29, 2018

# My Blog Post on the Pro-CUPW Rally and the B'nai Brith Counter-Protest

- On September 2, 2018, I published a blog on my website in which I recounted what happened at the pro-CUPW rally and described in detail the actions of the JDL, the Mary Forrest video posted by Meir Weinstein after the protest, and the appalling record of Faith Goldy
- I concluded my blog post by writing “Remarkably, Michael Mostyn, B'nai Brith and CIJA profess to be ‘outraged’ by the peaceful conduct of anti-racist, pro-CUPW protesters, but when it comes to the aggressive Islamophobes and racists who showed up to support B'nai Brith, their silence is deafening. Canadians have every right to ask: how do Mostyn, B'nai Brith and CIJA feel about the conduct and attitudes of the counter-protesters? Do they condone the views expressed in the Forrest video?”

# My Tweets Calling on Micheal Levitt & Anthony Housefather to Denounce the JDL Counter-Protesters



**Dimitri Lascaris** @dimitrilascaris · Sep 6

After @bnaibrithcanada supporters called for the death penalty to be imposed on @justintrudeau & Liberal MPs @iamlqraKhalid, @OmarAlghabra & @MaryamMonsef, we called on @LevittMichael & @AHousefather to denounce them, but shamefully, they've said nothing:



**B'nai Brith Canada Supporters Call for the Death Penalty for Justin T...**

B'nai Brith Canada is apoplectic, but for all the wrong reasons. On August 29, 2018, dozens of supporters of Palestinian human rights gathered acro...

[dimitrilascaris.org](http://dimitrilascaris.org)

# Of all the Pro-Israel MPs in Parliament, why did I address my tweet to Levitt & Housefather?

- Michael Levitt is the Chair of Canada-Israel Interparliamentary Group and Anthony Housefather is on the Executive Committee of that Group
- The pro-CUPW rally and the JDL counter-protest took place at B'nai Brith's HQ, which is based in the riding of York-Centre; the MP for York-Centre is Michael Levitt
- Levitt and Housefather work closely with CIJA and B'nai Brith; they are Israel's two most outspoken defenders in the caucus of the governing Liberal Party
- Immediately after the rally and counter-protest on August 29, Levitt issued a statement in which he said "While I am relieved that today's protest did not turn violent, I remain deeply concerned that the Bathurst Manor community was targeted... I appreciate the leadership of B'nai Brith Canada and other local organizations in trying to de-escalate this tense situation, and I would like to thank the Toronto Police Service for its attentiveness before and throughout the protest to ensure the safety of local residents."
- Although Levitt implied in his statement that the pro-CUPW protesters posed a threat to the Bathurst Manor community, which was false, he did not criticize in any way the JDL, Faith Goldy or the two counter-protesters who called for the execution of the Prime Minister, Jagmeet Singh and various Liberal MPs

Of all the Pro-Israel MPs in Parliament, why did I address my tweet to Levitt & Housefather?



**Michael Mostyn**  
@MichaelMostyn



Had a very productive strategy and security meeting at B'nai Brith Canada HQ in Toronto today. Grateful for the strong

# Of all the Pro-Israel MPs in Parliament, why did I address my tweet to Levitt & Housefather?

- In May 2018, an IDF sniper shot Canadian-Palestinian doctor Tarek Loubani in both legs
- Targeting medical personnel constitutes a war crime
- As Dr. Loubani told the CBC:
  - “I was wearing full hospital greens”
  - “I was away from the protest scene in a relative lull. There was no smoke or tear gas.”
  - “Musa Hubassanin was my rescuer. He was a very bright guy. Incredible man. About an hour after he rescued me, he was trying to get another patient, and ended up getting shot in the chest.”

Of all the Pro-Israel MPs in Parliament, why did I focus on Levitt & Housefather?



# Of all the Pro-Israel MPs in Parliament, why did I focus on Levitt & Housefather?

- *The Globe and Mail*, May 17, 2018: “Two Jewish Liberal MPs – Anthony Housefather and Michael Levitt, broke with Mr. Trudeau’s criticism of Israel.”
- *The Globe and Mail* did not identify any other Liberal MPs who broke with the Prime Minister



# Why did I focus on Levitt & Housefather?

17 May 2018

## Members of Parliament Anthony Housefather and Michael Levitt Condemn Hamas and Call for an End to its Incitement and Violence

In the wake of recent events in Gaza, it is clear that the terrorist organisation Hamas bears direct moral responsibility and culpability for the senseless loss of life.

We wish to express our profound sorrow for the tragic deaths of civilians, including children and first responders. The injury of a Canadian emergency physician is troubling, and we wish him a speedy recovery and safe journey back to Canada.

Hamas has long incited violence and intentionally used civilians, including vulnerable persons, children, and even infants as a smokescreen for its attempts to breach the Gaza-Israel border for the purpose of committing terrorist acts in Israel. Reports that Hamas itself proclaims that most of the Gazans killed were active members of Hamas demonstrate this fact.

Credible reports state that Hamas has used Gaza's civilian population, including women and children, as human shields, laying truth to Hamas' longstanding policy of capitalizing on the deaths of Gazan civilians as political cover for its terrorist activities.

It is clear that Hamas continues to be the source of enormous pain to Gazans, and a threat to the safety of civilians in both Gaza and Israel. Its actions require condemnation.

Hamas' stated aims of the destruction of Israel and the murder of Israelis lay bare its goal in fuelling these violent protests. Israel has every right to defend the integrity of its borders, as any country does, in the face of such activities.

The bloodshed resulting from Hamas' incitement is untenable, for both Israelis and Gazans. At this difficult time, we stand with Israelis in calling for an end to the incitement and violence. There is a need for all parties to work towards de-escalation and avoid further violence to create the conditions necessary for advancing peace.



# Why did I focus on Levitt & Housefather?

## LCBO

July 11, 2017

To: All Sacramental Wine Vendors

**Vincent Caron**  
Sr. Policy Advisor  
Corporate Affairs

vincent.caron@lcbo.com  
416-365-5818 tel  
416-864-2431 fax

55 Lake Shore Blvd. East  
Toronto, ON, M5E 1A4

lcbo.com



Dear Vendor,

On July 6, 2017, LCBO received a notification from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regarding wines labelled as "Product of Israel" imported previously into Canada from the following wineries:

- Psâgot Winery Ltd. DN. Mizrah Binyamin, Psâgot 9062400
- Shiloh Winery Ltd., Ma'ale Levona

The CFIA clarified that "Product of Israel" would not be an acceptable country of origin declaration for wine products that have been made from grapes that are grown fermented, processed, blended and finished in the West Bank occupied territory.

CFIA further advised that the Government of Canada does not recognize Israel's sovereignty over the territories occupied in 1967 (the Golan Heights, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip). As such, wine products from these regions that are labelled as "Product of Israel" would not be acceptable and would be considered

# Why did I focus on Levitt & Housefather?

## B'nai Brith Expects Disturbing Canadian Food Inspection Agency Decision Against Israeli Wines to Be Reversed Soon



# Why did I focus on Levitt & Housefather?

## B'nai Brith Canada Commends Government for Pressuring Agency to Comply with Canadian Wine Regulations



# Why did I focus on Levitt & Housefather?

- “We thank the Government of Canada for responding so quickly to the legitimate concerns of the Jewish community and all concerned Canadians,” said Michael Mostyn, Chief Executive Officer of B'nai Brith Canada. “We will continue to make inquiries about the origin of this travesty, to ensure that nothing like ever happens again. B'nai Brith will always relentlessly advocate for our community.”
- Mostyn said York Centre MP Michael Levitt should be specifically lauded for his quick work and leadership behind the scenes to help resolve this issue. In a statement, Levitt said: “I was shocked and deeply concerned (about) . . .the discontinuation of the sale of products from two Israeli wineries as a result of a notice issued by the CFIA. This action was completely at odds with both the Government's long-standing close relationship with the State of Israel and our focus on broadening the Canada-Israel trade relationship, such as the upcoming ratification of an expanded Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement.”
- Levitt added that he will be travelling to Israel later this month and looks forward “to connecting with both wineries to demonstrate my support.”

# Why did I focus on Levitt & Housefather?

In an effort to **strengthen ties between Canada and Israel** and show solidarity with Israeli producers, CIJA was proud to visit Psagot Winery to tour the vineyard and meet with its staff. Joining us for the visit was the **Member of Parliament for York Centre, Michael Levitt**.

Psagot Winery, which, because it is located beyond the pre-1967 armistice line, was the subject of controversy here in Ontario due to an edict of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

After learning about a CFIA directive stating that Israeli goods produced beyond the 1967 armistice line cannot be labeled as “made in Israel”, CIJA immediately made contact with the offices of the Minister of International Trade and Global Affairs Canada.

We quickly discovered that the directive, which is at odds with government policy, was mistakenly issued at the bureaucratic level with no direction from political staff or the Minister, and consequently the directive was promptly withdrawn.



# My Tweet of September 6, 2018



**Dimitri Lascaris**

@dimitrilascaris



Apparently, Liberal MPs Anthony Housefather and Michael Levitt are more devoted to apartheid Israel than to their own Prime Minister and their own colleagues in the Liberal caucus.

@AHousefather @LevittMichael #cdnpoli  
@justintrudeau @liberal\_party  
#apartheidIsrael #cdnpoli

3:13 PM - 6 Sep 2018 from Winnipeg, Manitoba

27 Retweets 41 Likes



# CIJA's Anti-Semitism Allegation



**CIJA** @CIJAinfo · Sep 7

Yesterday, @CJPME Chair @dimitrilascaris accused #Jewish MPs @AHousefather and @LevittMichael of being disloyal to #Canada. This is the literal definition of #antisemitism under the @TheIHRA definition. Will @CJPME publicly retract & apologize for this antisemitic smear?

Apparently, Liberal MPs Anthony Housefather and Michael Levitt are more devoted to apartheid Israel than to their own Prime Minister and their own colleagues in the Liberal caucus.

@AHousefather @LevittMichael  
#cdnpoli @justintrudeau  
@liberal\_party #apartheidIsrael  
#cdnpoli

2018-09-06, 3:13 PM from Winnipeg, Manitoba

3 Retweets 1 Like



- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the



# CIJA's Anti-Semitism Allegation

On September 7, 2018, CIJA sent an email to all MPs in which it wrote:

**“Yesterday, notorious anti-Israel activist Dimitri Lascaris (former Green Party justice critic, contributor to Al Quds rallies and member of the board of CJPME) crossed the line...”**

# Andrew Scheer's Accusation of Anti-Semitism



**Andrew Scheer** ✓

@AndrewScheer

Following



It's shameful to see two MPs subjected to such anti-Semitism, accused of dual loyalties, simply because they're Jewish & support Israel. The entire @CPC\_HQ caucus & I stand w/ our colleagues across the aisle, proudly supportive of all Jewish Canadians.

**Anthony Housefather** ✓ @AHousefather

Normally I do not respond to vile comments on twitter but the accusation of double loyalty as relates to @LevittMichael and I is the height of antisemitism. I am a proud Canadian. I love this country. How dare you question my patriotism. #cdnpoli  
twitter.com/dimitrilascari...

# Justin Trudeau's Accusation of Anti-Semitism



**Justin Trudeau** ✓

@JustinTrudeau

Following



Vile anti-Semitic smears like this are completely unacceptable, and should always be called out. Thank you [@LevittMichael](#) and [@AHousefather](#) for standing up to this, and for everything you do for your communities and our country.

Dimitri Lascaris  
@dimitrilascaris

...rently, Liberal MPs Anthony  
...father and Michael Levitt  
...devoted to apartheid Israel  
...ir own Prime Minister and t  
...olleagues in the Liberal ca'

**Michael Levitt, MP** 🇨🇦 ✓ @LevittMichael

Thanks to all who have reached out to @AHousefather & me in opposition to the antisemitic smear leveled against us which questioned our loyalty to Canada. Having visited Yad Vashem just a few days ago this reaffirms my resolve to never ever be...

7:40 PM - 7 Sep 2018

# Jagmeet Singh's Accusation of Anti-Semitism



**Jagmeet Singh** ✓

@theJagmeetSingh

Follow



Antisemitism has no place in Canada. I know what it's like to experience racism & discrimination, and to have my loyalty to Canada questioned. @LevittMichael and @AHousefather, I stand with you today.

11:30 AM - 8 Sep 2018

101 Retweets 429 Likes



# What is the IHRA?



Argentina



Austria



Belgium



Bulgaria



Canada



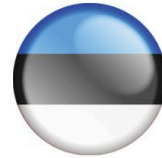
Croatia



Czech Republic



Denmark



Estonia



Finland



France



Germany



Greece



Hungary



Ireland



Israel



Italy



Latvia



Lithuania



Luxembourg



Netherlands



Norway



Poland



Romania



Serbia



Slovakia



Slovenia



Spain



Sweden



Switzerland



# What is the IHRA?

- The IHRA's membership does not include:
  - (1) any countries from Africa;
  - (2) any countries from the Middle East, other than Israel;
  - (3) any predominantly Muslim countries;
  - (4) any countries from South America, other than Argentina.

# The IHRA's Working Definition of Anti-Semitism

- The working definition was adopted in May 2016 by the IHRA
- The core definition:

**“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”**

# The IHRA's Working Definition of Anti-Semitism

“To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations: Manifestations ***might include*** the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for ‘why things go wrong.’ It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

“Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere ***could, taking into account the overall context,*** include, but are not limited to:...

“Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.” [emphasis added]



# CIJA's Attack Omitted the Qualifying Language from the IHRA Definition



CIJA @CIJAinfo · Sep 7

Yesterday, @CJPME Chair @dimitrilascaris accused #Jewish MPs @AHousefather and @LevittMichael of being disloyal to #Canada. This is the literal definition of #antisemitism under the @TheIHRA definition. Will @CJPME publicly retract & apologize for this antisemitic smear?

Apparently, Liberal MPs Anthony Housefather and Michael Levitt are more devoted to apartheid Israel than to their own Prime Minister and their own colleagues in the Liberal caucus.

@AHousefather @LevittMichael  
#cdnpoli @justinrudeau  
@liberal\_party #apartheidIsrael  
#cdnpoli

2018-09-06, 3:13 PM from Winnipeg, Manitoba

3 Retweets 1 Like



# In what context would an accusation of 'divided loyalties' not be anti-Semitic?

- 1) The accusation has a rational basis in fact
- 2) The accusation is made without reference to the ethnicity of the person against whom it is made
- 3) The accusation does not include an explicit or implicit generalization about the Jewish people

# “Why American Jews Shouldn’t Be Afraid to Put Israel First,” *The Forward*, Nov. 1, 2013

- Hillel Halkin is an American-born Israeli translator, biographer, literary critic, and novelist, who has lived in Israel since 1970. He wrote:

“The truth is that any American Jew who doesn’t care as much about a Jewish state as he or she does about the United States can’t be very identified with the Jewish people. Suppose vital American and Israeli interests were to clash. What would it mean for a Jew to say: “I don’t give a damn what’s best for Israel. All that matters to me is what’s best for America”? What kind of Jew would that be? How deep could his or her Jewishness be said to go?

“But one could ask a similar question about tens of millions of other Americans. Do Cuban Americans who have pressed for decades for harsh American policies toward Communist Cuba ask whether these are really in America’s interest? It’s enough for them to tell themselves that they’re in Cuba’s interest. Do Mexican Americans favor a relaxation of immigration laws because they think America’s general public will benefit? What they think, you can be sure, is that other Mexicans will benefit — and why shouldn’t they want them to?”

# The Gray Zone

- Some have said I should not have strayed into the “gray zone”
- But the gray zone is so broad, its boundaries are so unclear, and it is expanding so rapidly that, if we refrain from saying anything that might venture into the gray zone, then we will be engaged in ***self-censorship*** and will fail to articulate the critiques that must be articulated in order to expose the misinformation of Israel’s apologists

# B'nai Brith is Prioritizing Adoption of the IHRA Definition

- **“Michael Mostyn: An apology is nice, but Canada needs a real plan to fight anti-Semitism,” *National Post*, Nov. 5, 2018**

“B'nai Brith's own 2017 Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents registered 1,752 anti-Semitic incidents consisting of harassment, vandalism or violence — a record high since our League for Human Rights began tracking the phenomenon in 1982. Anti-Semitism today emanates from the extreme left, extreme right, radical Islamists, certain Christian denominations, atheists and many other sectors of society. Canada can take specific and necessary actions to combat this growing trend:

“The federal government must acknowledge the growth of Holocaust denial, Nazi and neo-Nazi glorification and Holocaust obfuscation — and challenge this wherever it occurs, both inside and outside the country. To achieve this, ***Canada must increase awareness of, and formally adopt, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism***, as this would serve as both a symbolic and pragmatic demonstration of Canada's commitment to combating anti-Semitism....”

# CIJA is Prioritizing Adoption of the IHRA Definition (CIJA Federal Issues Guide, 2018-2019)

## *Recommendation*

*The Government of Canada and relevant departments and agencies should adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism for domestic Canadian purposes.*

Hate cannot be effectively tackled without clear definitions. For the purposes of Canada's foreign policy, like governments worldwide, Global Affairs Canada has officially endorsed the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. It includes clear parameters and concrete examples to distinguish antisemitic rhetoric from legitimate political discourse. The full definition may be found at:

[cija.ca/policy-brief-ihra-defining-antisemitism/](https://cija.ca/policy-brief-ihra-defining-antisemitism/)

# What Criticisms of Israel and Its Advocates are Not Anti-Semitic?

- Israel's advocates never assert explicitly that all criticism of Israel is anti-Semitic, but they refuse to identify any criticisms that are not anti-Semitic
- If we allow the IHRA definition to be adopted, then any and all criticism of Israel will be at risk of being characterized as anti-Semitic
- The “gray zone” will become so broad that there will be no way to criticize Israel without entering into the gray zone and risking a charge of anti-Semitism; this will chill free speech about Israel enormously