

*(In English)*

## **Defend Freedom of Speech**

### **Open Letter to university community regarding Palestinian Rights and Canadian Universities**

The last two years have seen increasing efforts to limit advocacy of Palestinian rights on Canadian universities, amounting to a pattern of the suppression of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. These include:

- Statements from 19 university presidents in the summer of 2007 to foreclose debate on the academic boycott of Israel, citing “academic freedom”.
- Visits to Israel by eight university presidents in the summer of 2008, with no equivalent outreach to Palestinian institutions.
- Efforts to ban the use of the term “Israeli Apartheid” at McMaster University in February-March 2008, overturned only through a campaign of protest
- Discipline against students involved in peaceful protests for Palestinian rights at York University in March in 2008
- Attempted discipline against a faculty member who addressed a rally against Israeli Apartheid at York University in 2008
- A pattern of cancellation of room bookings for meetings concerning Palestinian rights at the University of Toronto and York University in 2008
- The use of security clearance requirements and fees to cover security costs to impede campus meetings about Palestinian rights

We the undersigned:

- Defend the right to freedom of speech about Palestine for all members of the university community, including freedom to use the term ‘apartheid’ to identify and debate certain policies associated with the state of Israel and the freedom to support, facilitate and participate freely in activities under the rubric of “Israeli apartheid week”
- Call for an end to the silencing of speech around Palestine, removing extraordinary requirements for security clearance and fees for security services
- Support increased ties to Palestinian institutions and scholars, and activities to support the right to education and academic freedom of Palestinians

*(en français)*

## **Défendons la liberté d'expression**

### **Lettre ouverte à la communauté universitaire au sujet des droits des Palestinien(ne)s et des universités canadiennes.**

Durant les deux dernières années, plusieurs efforts ont été déployés pour restreindre le débat en faveur des droits des Palestinien(ne)s dans les universités canadiennes, à un tel point qu'on voit se dessiner un motif ou un modèle établi de suppression de la liberté d'expression et de la liberté d'association. Par exemple:

- Des déclarations de la part de 19 présidents d'universités, à l'été 2007, évoquant la «liberté académique», et visant à bloquer les débats sur le boycott académique d'Israël
- La visite en Israël de huit présidents d'universités, à l'été 2008, sans les efforts équivalents pour créer des contacts avec des institutions palestiniennes.
- Tentative de faire bannir l'expression «apartheid israélien» à l'université McMaster en février-mars 2008, renversée grâce à une campagne de protestation.
- Mesures disciplinaires contre des étudiant(e)s qui ont manifesté pacifiquement pour les droits des Palestinien(ne)s, à l'université York en mars 2008.
- Tentative de mesures disciplinaires contre un membre de faculté qui a fait un discours lors d'un rassemblement contre l'apartheid israélien, à l'université York en 2008.
- Une habitude d'annuler les réservations de locaux pour des réunions à propos des droits des Palestinien(ne)s, aux universités de Toronto et York en 2008.
- L'exigence d'avoir un service de sécurité et le paiement de frais de sécurité imposés aux organisateurs de réunions à propos des droits des Palestinien(ne)s sur les campus, dans un but dissuasif.

Nous, soussigné(e)s:

- Défendons la liberté d'expression à propos de la Palestine, pour tou(te)s les membres des communautés universitaires, incluant le droit d'utiliser l'expression «apartheid» pour identifier et débattre de certaines politiques associées à l'État d'Israël, ainsi que le droit d'appuyer, d'organiser et de participer librement à des activités dans le cadre de la «semaine contre l'apartheid israélien».
- Demandons que cesse la censure au sujet de la Palestine, par le retrait d'exigences extraordinaires pour la sécurité et de frais pour les services de sécurité.
- Appuyons la création de liens avec des institutions palestiniennes et les membres de facultés palestiniennes, ainsi que les activités en appui au droit à l'éducation et à la liberté académique des Palestinien(ne)s.
- Gamal Abdel-Shehid, Associate Professor, Kinesiology and Health Science, York University
- Nahla Abdo, Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University
- Baha Abu-Laban, Professor Emeritus, Sociology, University of Alberta

- Yasmeen Abu-Laban, Professor, Political Science, University of Alberta
- Nadia Abu-Zahra , Assistant Professor, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa
- Mary Louise Adams, Associate Professor, Sociology/Kinesiology and Health Studies, Queen's University
- Greg Albo, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, York University
- Mehrunnisa Ali, Professor, Early Childhood Education, Ryerson University
- Paul Antze, Associate Professor, Health & Society, Division of Social Science, York University
- Sima Aprahamian, Sociology-Anthropology & Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University
- Sedef Arat-Koc, Associate Professor, Dept. of Politics & Public Administration, Ryerson University
- Katherine Arnup, Associate Professor, School of Canadian Studies, Carleton University
- Rima Azar, Assistant Professor, Psychology Department, Mount Allison University
- Sylvat Aziz, Associate Professor, Department of Art, Queen's University
- Feyzi Baban, Associate Professor, Politics Department, Trent University
- Susan Babbitt, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Queens University
- Dr. John Baglow, returning student, Carleton University
- Reem Bahdi, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Windsor
- Abigail B. Bakan, Professor, Political Studies, Queens University
- NJ Baker, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Nipissing University
- Patricia Balcom, Professeure titulaire, Université de Moncton
- Himani Bannerji, Professor, Department of Sociology, York University
- Deborah Barndt, Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
- Amy Bartholomew, Associate Professor, Department of Law, Carleton University
- Elena Basile, Sexual Diversity Studies Program, University College, University of Toronto
- Gregory Baum, professor emeritus, McGill University
- Pierre Beaudet, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Ottawa
- Micheline Beaudry, Professor (retired), Université Laval
- Roger Beck, Professor emeritus, Dept. of Historical Studies, University of Toronto-Mississauga
- Jean-François Belzile, Coordonnateur, Department de philosophie, cégep André-Laurendeau
- Rachel Berger, Assistant Professor, History, Concordia University
- Jody Berland, Associate Professor, Division of Humanities, York University
- Beverley Best, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Concordia University
- Richard Bevis, Professor Emeritus of English, University of British Columbia

- Davina Bhandar, Assistant Professor, Canadian Studies, Trent University
- Tim Blackmore, Associate Professor, Information & Media Studies, University of Western Ontario
- Malcolm Blincow, Associate Professor, Anthropology, York University
- Meyer Brownstone, Professor emeritus, Political Science, University of Toronto
- Julie-Anne Boudreau, Associate professor, Institut national de la recherche scientifique, Montreal
- Marion Boulby, Associate Professor, Department of History, Trent University
- Lara Braitstein, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University
- Mordecai Briemberg (retired faculty), Douglas College
- Deborah Brock, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, York University
- Bill Burgess, Geography and Geology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Mike Burke, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Ryerson University
- Helmut Burkhardt, Professor of Physics Emeritus, Ryerson University
- Jenny Burman, Assistant Professor, Art History & Communication Studies, McGill University
- Kristin Burnett, Assistant Professor, History Department, Lakehead University
- Steven Bush, Senior Lecturer, University College Drama Program, University of Toronto
- Doris Buss, Associate Professor, Law Department, Carleton University
- Paula Butler, Assistant Professor, Women's Studies, Trent University
- David Butz, Professor, Department of Geography, Brock University
- Siobhan Byrne, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta
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- Robert Chernomas, Professor of Economics, University of Manitoba
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- Karen Bridget Murray, Assistant Professor, Political Science, York University
- Dorit Naaman, Associate Professor, Film Studies, Queens University
- Denise Nadeau, Contract Faculty, Concordia; Director Interfaith Summer Institute, Simon Fraser University
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- Máire Noonan, Faculty Lecturer, Department of Linguistics, McGill University
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- Pat O'Riley, Assistant Professor, School of Social Sciences, York University
- Reecia Orzeck, University of Vermont
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- Scott Prudham, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Toronto
- Trevor Purvis, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Carleton University
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