

12th December 2017

Dear Diane,

I write to you regarding antisemitism at last week's protest at the US Embassy, "Hands off Jerusalem", jointly organised by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Palestinian Forum in Britain, Friends of Al Aqsa, Stop the War Coalition and the Muslim Association of Britain.

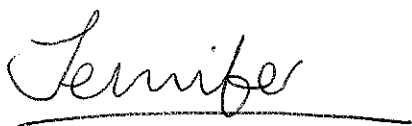
I have seen video evidence of protestors outside the US Embassy chanting "Jews, remember Khaybar, the army of Mohammed is returning", referencing a seventh-century slaughter of Jews in Saudi Arabia. It is beyond grotesque that chants calling for the murder of Jews have been heard on the streets of London. I understand that these chants were neither silenced nor denounced by the official speakers or the organisers.

For the avoidance of any doubt, references to 'the Jews' and calling for their slaughter is not a legitimate criticism of Zionism or the state of Israel. It is unequivocally vile antisemitism and should be condemned as such.

I have also seen video of two protestors waving swastika banners right next to the podium for almost an hour. Comparing Israel to the Nazis, a regime responsible for the extermination of six million Jews, is disgusting antisemitism. It is simply not feasible that the speakers and organisers of the event did not notice these banners, yet they were allowed to be displayed throughout the demonstration.

As a patron of Stop the War, I ask you to condemn publicly the protestors, their chants, swastikas and the organisers who failed to denounce them. I also ask that you request that Stop the War issues a statement unequivocally condemning this antisemitism; reluctance to do so could be seen as tantamount to condoning antisemitic chants made at an event they co-organised.

Yours sincerely,



Jennifer Gerber
Director, Labour Friends of Israel