



BRAD SHERMAN  
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

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May 15, 2008

Chancellor Michael V. Drake, M.D.  
University of California, Irvine  
Irvine, CA 92697

Re: Anti-Semitism on Campus

Dear Chancellor Drake:

I am writing to express my concern with the University of California at Irvine's ("UCI") Muslim Student Union's campus event entitled "Never Again? The Palestinian *Holocaust*" held on your campus from May 7<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>. This event appears intended to encourage violence against the State of Israel and propagate the spread of anti-Semitism.

The title of the event itself is particularly inflammatory. Comparing current Israeli policies to the *Holocaust*, the systematic murder of the Jewish people of Europe, is clearly anti-Semitic. It wholly demeans the Jewish victims of the *Holocaust* and vilifies the Jewish citizens of Israel. The United States Department of State has officially declared that such a comparison is a prototypical example of anti-Semitism. In a recent report to Congress, the State Department adopted the following definition of anti-Semitism:

Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. Such manifestations of anti-Semitism could also target the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity . . . . Contemporary examples of anti-Semitism 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: **Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.** (Emphasis supplied). Contemporary Global Anti-Semitism Report, Released by the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, U.S. Department of State, March 2008.

The titles of some of the lectures at the event -- "Death to Apartheid: A Farewell to Zionism" and "Silence is Consent: Stop the Palestinian Holocaust" -- are also disturbing. And, the guests invited to give these lectures have a record of making anti-

Semitic statements. As is observable on YouTube, one of the lecturers, Amir Abdel Malik Ali, stated in a speech at UCI in May 2006, "The truth of the matter is: [Israel's] days are numbered. *We will fight you until we are either martyred or until we are victorious.*" It should be of concern that a speech given at UCI calls for "martyrdom" – the euphemism for suicide bombing.

Having myself grown up near UCI and even taken a course there, I recognize that it is an excellent educational institution with a history of intelligent, vigorous debate. While I strongly support the First Amendment rights of individuals to speak freely and without impediment at your campus, I hope that you share my belief that we all have a moral responsibility to denounce speech that is clearly and unambiguously hateful in nature. As an American, you have a right to speak out. As Chancellor, it is your duty to condemn anti-Semitism, especially when it occurs at the UCI campus. If you share that belief, I would ask that you publicly denounce the hate speech discussed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Sherman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress