
BAKA must end hateful tactics

Marcus My Words

By [Aaron Marcus](#)

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First BAKA: Students United for Middle Eastern Justice tried to use student fees to break international law and send a flotilla to Gaza. Then they used student fees to bring Norman Finkelstein, a Holocaust minimizer, to campus. Finally, they planned on hosting an event comparing Israelis to Nazis and assumed that the Jewish and pro-Israel community would stand idly by while they did so. Not so fast, BAKA — the Jewish community on campus has had enough of your hateful rhetoric, scare tactics and blatant disregard for human history. We did not come out in the hundreds because you wanted to host a pro-Palestinian event. We came out because the mere accusation that Israeli acts of self-defense are in the smallest amount comparable to the systematic genocide of more than 11 million people is deplorable.

Hoda Mitwally, public relations officer for BAKA, could not have made it any clearer as to why the Jewish community showed up in droves. "We are not claiming that one oppression is worse than the other," she said. But I am. I am going to make it quite clear that the gassing and butchering of the Jewish people — 6 million of them — is far worse than the Palestinian struggle in Gaza and the West Bank. I am not saying their struggle does not matter — every human life is valuable, and I acknowledge that is a tragedy in and of itself, but it is not even remotely similar. If BAKA or the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network were concerned in the least bit with the theme of their program, "Never Again for Anyone," they would have made clear at the event that Hamas and Hezbollah's acts of genocidal intention will not be tolerated.

However, they failed to do so. There was no mention of the Hamas charter calling for the obliteration of Israel or the genocidal rhetoric of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah who said publicly, "If they (Jews) all gather in Israel, it will save us the trouble of going after them worldwide." There was no condemnation of the 59 heinous refugee camps still active in Arab countries and how only Israel naturalized all citizens after being attacked in 1948.

If BAKA's events are intended to help end suffering worldwide, why not start with genocide in Darfur? If BAKA is so keen on sending flotillas to help starving and deprived people, there is a country called North Korea that could really use their help. At the very least, an explanation as

to why Jews would be upset at the undertones of the event to the attendees would have been acceptable. Perhaps explaining the relationship between Hitler and the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem during the Holocaust. While Hitler was attempting to conquer Europe, he had his eyes set on the entire world, and Haj Amin al-Husseini, the Palestinian leader at the time, was more than happy to lend a hand. He helped recruit more than 20,000 Palestinians for the Waffen SS and was promised to be leader of Palestine after the extermination of the more than 350,000 Jews living in the region.

Aside from the historical justification for Jews being upset with last Saturday night's event, it was in its very essence an extreme case of anti-Semitism. To those of you who like to chide around the definition of anti-Semitic and how it applies to all of those from a Semitic background, get a grip. Every individual understands that in today's society, anti-Semitism refers to a certain perception of Jews. The European Union took this one step further and stated that the manifestation of anti-Semitism can be represented by both, "claiming the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavor ... [and] drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of Nazis."

Still, if one holds the idea that Israel defending itself is comparable to gassing Jews, then perhaps one could explain the procedure conducted Saturday of segregating Jewish and Israel supporters from the rest of the event's attendees? Why did BAKA or their sponsors start to charge an entrance fee to those with different ideologies than their own? Why did they pompously and racially find anyone looking like an anti-Israel supporter and give them green wristbands, telling the Jews huddled together that they were event staff and security? Sure, we could attend the event if we wanted to, but that all of a sudden meant we would have to support a cause that borderlines Holocaust denial, and no righteous Jew or gentile would do such a thing. BAKA made a point of that inside the event when they told their supporters that there was now a \$5 mandatory entrance fee and that those who do not want to pay the entrance fee probably do not support the event.

Furthermore, using the annotation that members of the Jewish community were protesting a Holocaust survivor is a tactic of pitting one Jew against another. Hajo Meyer and Hedy Epstein's survival of Nazi genocide are heroic. Their vehement anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric on the other hand is not. BAKA probably should not be touting their featured speaker. After all, his biggest fan is David Duke — a former Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan and known Holocaust denier. To justify their rhetoric with the excuse of having Holocaust survivors speak would be similar to allowing Duke to speak for all Americans.

Israel supporters inside the event, who were allowed in for free before the mandatory fee, recollect on the trashing of Elie Wiesel's name. As I contemplated this, I sat thinking what my

family members and the millions of people raped and murdered by the Nazis would say. I believe they would use a collection of Wiesel quotes, and it would sound something like this, "My kindelach, in Jewish history there are no coincidences, indifference is the epitome of evil. There may be times when we are powerless, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest."

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