

From: Richard Sherman
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 11:21 AM
To: IQC; Shanine Coats; Constantino Silva; Susan Sweeney
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Contemporaneous Information

Dear Jose Iniguez(Instructional Quality Commission Member), Shanine Coats(Executive Director, Instructional Quality Commission), Constantino Silva(Administrator, Curriculum Framework Unit), and Susan Sweeney(Analyst, Director's Office):

The California Department of Education has received a letter/email from "California Scholars For Academic Freedom"

claiming without any supportive documentation that the "Nabka or catastrophe" resulted from "Zionist paramilitary forces planned and executed expulsion of over 750,000 Palestinians in 1948".

The actual facts as documented in contemporaneous Arab media as described below reveal that Arab leadership commanded the Palestinian population to leave their homes in anticipation of a quick Arab annihilation of the Jewish people.

On February 19, 1949 the Jordanian daily "Falastin" reported "the Arab state which had encouraged the Palestine Arabs to leave their homes temporarily in order to be out of the way of the Arab invasion armies, have failed to keep their promise to help these refugees".

On April 3, 1949 the Near East Arabic Broadcasting Station reported: "It must not be forgotten that the Arab Higher Committee encouraged the refugees' flight from their homes in Jaffa, Haifa and Jerusalem".

On October 12, 1963 the Egyptian daily "Akbbar El Yom" reported that : "The 15th May, 1948 arrived...On that day the mufti of Jerusalem (the Grand Mufti Amin al-Husseini) appealed to the Arabs of Palestine to leave the country, because the Arab armies were about to enter and fight in their stead".

On April 9, 1953 the Jordanian daily "Al Urdan" reported: "For the flight and fall of the other villages it is our leaders who are responsible because of their dissemination of rumours exaggerating Jewish crimes and describing them as atrocities in order to inflame the Arabs..By spreading rumours of Jewish atrocities, killings of women and children etc., they instilled fear and terror in the hearts of the Arabs in Palestine, until they fled leaving their homes and properties to the enemy".

Even the contemporaneous reporting of "The Economist" makes clear that the "Nakba' was self inflicted. On October 3, 1948 "The Economist" reported: "Of the 62,000 Arabs who formerly lived in Haifa not more than 5,000 or 6,000 remained. Various factors influenced their decision to seek safety in flight. There is but little doubt that the most potent of the factors were the announcements made over the air by the Higher Arab Executive, urging the Arabs to quit...It was clearly intimated that those Arabs who remained in Haifa and accepted Jewish protection would be regarded as renegades".

Finally while the sixteen signatories who represent the "California Scholars for Academic Freedom" have credentials from prestigious institutions, none of them indicate that they are members of the Palestine Liberation Organization. In that regard I would ask you to study for a moment the words of

Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee Member Zahir Muhsein who in a 1977 interview in the Dutch newspaper "Trouw" stated that the Palestinian people were a propaganda invention:

"The Palestinian people does not exist. The creation of a Palestinian state is only a means for continuing our struggle against the state of Israel for our Arab unity. In reality today there is no difference between Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese. Only for political and tactical reasons do we speak today about the existence of a Palestinian people, since Arab national interests posit the existence of a distinct 'Palestinian people' to oppose Zionism.

"For tactical reasons, Jordan, which is a sovereign state with defined borders, cannot raise claims to Haifa and Jaffa, while as a Palestinian, I can undoubtedly demand Haifa, Jaffa, Beer-Sheva and Jerusalem. However, the moment we reclaim our right to all of Palestine, we will not wait a moment to unite Palestine and Jordan".

I would ask when you evaluate the claims of the "California Scholars For Academic Freedom", compare those myriad contemporaneous Arab media's description of the "Nakba", and balance the signatories' overall claims with PLO Executive Committee member Zahir Mushein's studied description of "the Palestinian people".

Thank you for your time.

Richard Sherman, Margate, Florida