

November 23, 2009

AN OPEN LETTER TO
PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER

Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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Prime Minister:

In recent weeks, your party has circulated a taxpayer-funded pamphlet that attempts to paint your political opponent, the Liberal Party of Canada, as anti-Semitic and non-supportive of Israel.

We find it highly disturbing that any party or Parliamentarian would attempt to use Israel as a wedge to divide the Jewish community and, indeed, Canadians, for partisan gain. In the strongest possible terms, we urge you to immediately remove these pamphlets from circulation.

Support for Israel should not be portrayed as exclusive to one party. The Liberal Party has a history of support for Israel, working cooperatively and effectively with the Canadian-Jewish community and of speaking and acting against terrorism.

It was a Liberal government that designated Hezbollah and Hamas as terrorist organizations in 2002, and former Attorney General Irwin Cotler who advised that funding a Hamas government would be contrary to Canadian law, which does not diminish your own decision to carry out such a freeze on funding from a Hamas-led Palestinian Authority.

Similarly, your government's refusal to attend Durban II follows the former Liberal government's condemnation of anti-Semitism at Durban I. After this condemnation, the Canadian delegation remained at Durban I at the specific request of the Israeli government.

No political party should claim to be the only genuine friend of Israel. We need every party to stand behind the only democracy in the Middle East.

We are asking you to disavow these divisive tactics and to work with all Parliamentarians in support of Israel.

Sincerely,

The undersigned.

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