

Taylor, Laura

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: October 23, 2020 6:03 PM
To: Standing Committee on Justice Policy
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Application to appear 23221

Submitted on Fri, 10/23/2020 - 17:14

Application ID: 23221

Submitted values are:

Bill or item of business: **Bill 168, Combating Antisemitism Act, 2020**

Choose a topic

Do you know the bill title or business (e.g., pre-budget consultations) you'd like to speak or submit material about?

Yes

Choose an application

Which application would you like to submit?

Request to appear as a committee witness (with the option of submitting material)

Add your information

Are you applying to appear as an individual or on behalf of an organization?

I am an individual applying to appear

Full name

Mr. Desmond Sequeira

Contact phone number

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Email address

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Address line 1

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City

St. Catharines

Postal or zip code

L2N5T3

Province or state

Ontario

Country

Canada

Language of your presentation

English

Do you require any special accommodation (e.g., accessibility, technology)?

No

Do you want to include an electronic written brief alongside your application to appear (optional)?

Yes

Paste submission

I wish to state: I am not of Arab, Jewish or any Middle-Eastern origin. I am a former member of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) and a former Catholic priest. I am a retired multi-faith chaplain with the Government of Ontario. I consider myself to be a member of the Judeo-Christian tradition, a committed follower of Jesus who was a Jew. As such, I am proud to declare that I am a committed supporter of all persons who belong to the Jewish faith.

Based on my knowledge and understanding of the current state of affairs in Palestine-Israel, I firmly condemn the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territory by the State of Israel, as I do the current siege of Gaza and, in general, the brutal oppression of the Palestinian people by the State of Israel. In doing so, I believe I am joined by hundreds of thousands, even millions, of wonderful Jewish people in Israel and throughout the world, including here in Canada and Ontario. Any documentation you may still need to recognize the basis of my position is readily available from the INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICES (IJV) CANADA (<https://www.ijvcanada.org/>).

I cannot imagine that any of you honourable persons of integrity on this respected Standing Committee or in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario will have any issue with the position I have articulated above. I wish to indicate that I intend to continue advocating for Justice in Palestine-Israel on the basis of the same position. I believe that if the Government of Ontario chooses to pass Bill 168, you will be possibly putting me and hundreds of thousands, even millions, of Ontarians, including Jews, in danger of being in contravention of the law of the Province. And that will be on your conscience.

I am therefore pleading with the Province of Ontario to reject Bill 168.

Thank you very much. Shalom, Salaam, Peace be with you,
Desmond Sequeira

Would you like to add any other information?

No. Thank you.