

Taylor, Laura

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: October 26, 2020 5:16 PM
To: Standing Committee on Justice Policy
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Application to appear 23456

Submitted on Mon, 10/26/2020 - 17:11

Application ID: 23456

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

Mrs Ineke Medcalf

Contact phone number

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City

ST CATHARINES

Postal or zip code

L2N 1V8

Province or state

ON

Country

Canada

Language of your presentation

English

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

Yes

Describe the accommodation you will need (e.g., accessibility, technology).

Screen to show presentation from laptop

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

No

Would you like to add any other information?

I have been in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) a number of times. The first time was in the fall of 2014 working as an Ecumenical Accompanier (EA) (see eappi.org). Our work was to witness life under occupation, record human rights abuses and provide protective presence in vulnerable communities.

To train for this, I studied the different narratives, listened to speakers from all sides and went to Switzerland to train with others.

Since then, I have been in Israel another five or six times.

I am able to send a few articles telling some of what I witnessed. I can also send an article about the Israeli activists groups working alongside with Palestinians. They do not agree with their government's policies which lead to oppression and an apartheid system.

Criticism of the State of Israel and its policies is not anti-semitic, Jews and Israelis do it all the time. Pro Israeli groups have nothing else to say to justify their policies of apartheid and oppression. So they bring up the holocaust and equate criticism of Israel with hatred of Jews. And thus they continue to build illegal settlements and expel Palestinians as they try to silence those who work for human rights, both those from the international community and those who live inside Israel.

We can criticize our government and others if their policies discriminate or lead to oppression of others. Why should the state of Israel be except? Why should crimes against humanity be allowed to go on and we not speak up? I for one will continue to work with Jews, Israelis, and all those who seek justice for Palestinians.