

“Free Speech” Gone Wrong

According to FOXNews.com (January 7, 2009), protesters in Fort Lauderdale, Florida recently gathered to support both Israel and Gaza in response to the recent events and conflicts once again escalating in the Middle East. The protest ended very disappointingly with pro-Palestinian supporters calling for the killing of Israel and Jews. The cold-chilling words “Go back to the oven” echoed through the streets -- stunning many Jewish activists and residents who live in the Fort Lauderdale area.

It’s unbelievable that the people of our great United States can utter such words of hatred and show such apathy for human life. What kind of “great nation” have we become? Liberals insist we protect free speech at all costs while we inch even closer to the likeness of nations and leaders who openly sponsor anti-Semitism and intolerance. Just because we “can” say something as evil as “Go back to the oven” -- without fear from governmental retaliation-- doesn’t mean we should. Shame on us!

What have these anti-Israel and anti-Palestinian protesters achieved? Their only achievement has been inflaming the millenniums-old loathing between these two very groups of *people*. Yes, people who (like you and me) are mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, grandparents, etc. created in the image of God. The extreme liberal left will continue to support those among us who spew hatred... just because *they can*, too. Where’s the outrage?

Police were summoned to break up a potentially violent incident during the protest, but organizers maintain it was a “success” because it drew new activists to the protest forum. Perhaps we need to step back and take a good and honest look at what we’re alluring others to... Does the idea of gathering together to freely protest an idea or cause supercede the raw, and emotional hype of isolating others for our own self-importance? After all, we live in an era of reality t.v. where people are embarrassed, insulted, and belittled, all in the name of “entertainment.” We are a people who enjoy basking in others’ suffering. If “they” are so bad, we must be good, right? It’s a far cry from removing the plank from our own eyes.

In this time of financial restraint and apparent recession, news organizations ought to forgo sending correspondents overseas to the Middle East to report the violence, hatred, and intolerance; we have our own here.

Submitted by Dawn Rager
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