

MP who tabled antisemitism petition reports harassment as anti-Israel intimidation grows

Petition targets common anti-Israel, including 'from the river to the sea,' and 'long live Oct. 7'

Bryan Passifiume / Published Jun 06, 2024

OTTAWA — A Jewish group and an independent MP are pushing for the government to classify commonly used antisemitic chants as hate speech, with a petition signed by 13,000 Canadians tabled in the House of Commons.

[...]

Casey Babb, a senior fellow with the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and the Institute for National Security Studies, as well as an adviser with Secure Canada, told the National Post that he's never before seen such levels of antisemitism in Canada.

"Antisemitism in Canada and abroad is primarily presenting itself through the prism of anti-Zionism, which, in my opinion, is the most pervasive form of antisemitism, and the most perverse in a number of ways," he said.

"That's what making it so challenging for senior decision-makers in government, business and academia to address it, because they've been taught for decades that it's OK to be vehemently opposed to Israel. (They're told) that's not antisemitic, when in fact, it often is," he said.

Anti-Zionism, he stresses, does not include legitimate criticism of Israeli government policy.

"It's something else entirely if you're chanting slogans that call for the erasure of Israel, or if you are obsessively calling for countries to divest," Babb said.

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