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[San Francisco Jews Menace Women in Black](#)

By [Cicilie Surasky](#) | June 7, 2010



On June 6th, 2010, peace activists including members of Bay Area Women in Black and Jewish Voice for Peace held a silent vigil outside the main entrance to the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation’s annual “Israel in the Gardens” celebration. The peace activists called for an end to Israel’s occupation of Palestinian Territories and an end to the siege on Gaza. Their silent, dignified march was greeted by members of StandWithUs/SF Voice for Israel and other affiliates who called them “kapos” (concentration camp prisoners who carried out Nazi orders on other prisoners) and suggested that Israel should “sink the next flotilla with you on it.” One man made repeated explicit threats against the peace activists and their families and used a camera to take pictures. No one from StandWithUs/SF Voice for Israel intervened. Rather, they kept up their vicious and abusive chants which included, according to multiple witnesses:

“Nazi, Nazi, Nazi!” – this done as a group chant

“You’re all being identified, every last one of you...we will find out where you live.

We’re going to make your lives difficult..we will disrupt your families...”, all on above video.

“Sink the flotilla—and you on it!”

“Terrorists, terrorists, terrorists.”

One man yelled (to someone who may have looked heat exhausted) “I hope you stroke out, old man!”

“Ugly bitches” said to older women.

“You’re not a Jew! you gave up your Jewishness!”

“Witches in black! Bitches in black!” (hard to tell which one it was, or whether they alternated the chant)

“You fucking...!”

“Bin Laden loves you! you support terrorism!”

“Is there a coroner in the house? Women in Black are dead!”

“Is there a doctor in the house? Women in Black are sick!”

“End the occupation of our sidewalk.”

“Remember 9/11, they were dancing in the streets.”

“Asshole!”

“Anti-Semite!”

“Bigot!”

“Sharmuta!” this was chanted for a while (means “slut” or “whore” in Arabic and which was particularly shocking for Arabic speakers to hear)

“Commit suicide!”

“Anti-women, anti-gay, why support Hamas today!”

They were also lesbian-baiting, even though they were chanting “Anti-women, anti-gay, why support Hamas today?” One guy yelled “lesbian” at me and my friend (correctly assessing our sexual identity) and maybe the same guy yelled at someone else, “When’s the last time you dated a man?”

One guy kept saying “you’re looking at real people now (meaning Stand with Israel folks); you are not people.”

Signs said: “JVP, Proud to be ashamed to be Jewish.” and “Don’t fuck with the Jews”.

An 88-year-old woman reported being told, “You’re halfway in your grave already”. “Jihad!” chanted repeatedly at Muslim peace activists.

They also had signs that read, “JVP cons the world”, etc.

One woman waved the end of the large stick of her Israeli flag in a very threatening manner, as if to hit one of us (it happened to me several times as i walked by her), directed especially to those of us who carried signs identifying ourselves as Jews.

At an earlier demonstration last week at the consulate, there was a huge sign on the Stand with Us side (which Stand with Us later condemned). On one side it said “Until Gaza is destroyed, the job is not complete.” On the other, it said “God is great. It’s Islam that sucks.”

Over the years, members of Bay Area Women in Black chapters (a group started in Israel to protest the occupation), many of them older women including physically tiny Jewish grandmothers, have reported equally terrible encounters with StandWithUs/SF Voices with Israel- they’ve been called 4-letter words, had cameras violently thrust in their faces. At least one person had her home chalked.

That’s why threats on people’s families that you can hear in the video are being taken seriously. A few weeks ago, liberal rabbi Michael Lerner, a resident of Berkeley across the bay from San Francisco, awoke to discover he was [the target of a hate crime](#): his house had been surrounded with threatening posters permanently affixed with glue.

StandWithUs/SF Voices with Israel hosted a booth at Israel in the Gardens and is an approved charity at the San Francisco Federation's Jewish Community Endowment Fund, unlike Jewish Voice for Peace and other peace groups which were banned from the Federation's acceptable charity list.

Are StandWithUs/SF Voices with Israel values the values the Federation promotes?

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1. These so called supporters of Israel are psychotic. God help us, they are representative of the mindset that belongs to the Likudniks in Israel....and they have the capacity to blow up the world several times.

Of course, very little will be done by the US Government. The official and continuing reaction to the USS Liberty atrocity has taught Israel that they can do anything at all and not fear reprisals from the United States.

 *Comment by brisa* | June 8, 2010 | [Reply](#)

2. Have the supporters of Israel no shame. Threatening families, insulting peaceful demonstrators after the attack on the flotilla is an outrage. As a former supporter of Israel, these pro-Israel harassers do not do Israel any favors with these type of actions and statements. Learn some manners and take the high road.

 *Comment by Michael Own McTague* | June 8, 2010 | [Reply](#)