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February 18, 2009

[Israeli Apartheid Week poster at Carleton causes concern over rights](#)

Posted by ezrawinton under [Campaigns](#), [Campus Battlegrounds](#), [Policy](#)



Controversial Campus Poster

The poster to the left is the one that has been causing all the controversy at Carleton University lately, with the administration reportedly having it removed from campus. Later today we'll have a report from a student who scheduled a meeting with the Provost over the poster, so look here for the "official" story then. For now, here's my two cents on this poster.

Latuff's cartoon of an Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) helicopter firing a rocket as an unarmed Gazan civilian child holding a teddy bear is a cartoon-rendering of reality for the life of people in Gaza, especially in light of the recent brutal attack on the area. [Many know](#) the numbers: nearly 1400 Palestinians killed, over half civilian, the majority of those women and children. Fourteen Israelis were killed, four by their own misconduct. As well, it is well documented by Israeli, Palestinian and international human rights groups that the levels of force measured between rock-throwing Palestinian civilians and the IDF's US-funded military machine are anything but equal. Yes, Hamas and other militant groups conduct suicide bombings and rocketing that target Israeli civilians. But the death and destruction of Palestinian land and people far exceeds that of Israel, many including Finkelstein, citing it at a ten-to-one ratio.

So this poster is an accurate representation of the political and conflictual realities of the two sides, with the IDF and military might on one side and the death of unarmed Palestinian civilians on the other. That said, I don't feel it's a very sophisticated representation, and its incendiary tone may do more to distract than attract to the activities of Israel Apartheid Week. The use of children to play on knee-jerk emotional response is ubiquitous on both sides of the conflict. However, representations that accurately portray the enormous inequity of the conflict and that show a Palestinian civilian population imprisoned by walls (as the poster does) are important visual signifiers of the ongoing calculated destruction of the Palestinian culture by the Israeli government.

The poster should stay up, even though it may hurt feelings and cause offense in some in the campus community. It clearly targets the Israeli government and the IDF - the agents of the destruction and illegal occupation of Palestine, not Israeli and/or Jewish people.

2 Responses to “Israeli Apartheid Week poster at Carleton causes concern over rights”

1. [CANADIAN UNIVERSITY BANS ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK « Desertpeace](#) Says:

[February 20, 2009 at 7:22 am](#)

[...] Israeli Apartheid Week poster at Carleton causes concern over rights [...]

- 2.



D. Richards Says:

[February 20, 2009 at 9:34 pm](#)

I wrote an email protesting against the University’s censorship as reported in this article.

Here is the response I got from the office of Carleton’s president:

Carleton University’s response to SAIA’s accusations:

Fact: The University did NOT ban this event.

Fact: The posters removed did not have the necessary approval for posting.

Fact: The posters removed did not contain information about any specific events planned at Carleton.

Fact: Carleton University’s Equity Services determined that the posters removed could incite infringements of the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Fact: Should other posters be created, they can be submitted for approval and posting.

Fact: The University promotes free speech and debate in a context of respect and dignity.

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