

Academic Censorship at UC Santa Cruz

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It has come to my attention sometime in the middle of March 2011; a complaint was filed by a lecturer of Hebrew studies at the University of California Santa Cruz. She was most upset about the UC sponsorship of lectures and forums on the Palestinian question, since these events were contrary to the interest of the Zionist and of Israel. She complained to the administrators, but they gave her the cold shoulder, citing the privilege of academic freedom.

She, Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, filed complaint with the US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights Enforcement (OCR). The administrators tolerant of free discussion of the Palestinian question that is contrary to the wishes of Israel by UC students, by UC faculty and even visitors to campus, face serious felony charges. The OCR is investigating for the violations of civil rights and can cause loss of both state and federal funding, if the condoning administrators are found to allow the expression of viewpoints contrary to Israel. To take a viewpoint contrary to interest of Israel is by Tammi Rossman-Benjamin's stance is like being anti-Semitic because of the anti-Zionist stance against Israel and creates a hostile academic environment for Jews. Jews, by her, are a race of people and Zionism and Judaism are the same.

The OCR being of the federal government enforces mono-mentality (one viewpoint only) on academic institutions when diversity of opinion does not please certain groups of people, usually minorities. We have a US Constitution and Congress cannot pass laws that suppress free speech, no matter how unpopular it is.

I have learned some things from the Jews themselves, that there is diversity of viewpoints with them. Many believe that Judaism and Zionism are not the same and in fact are opposite of each other. Some Jews call State of Israel an abomination to the Torah. Some members of the AIPAC, a pro-Zionist group, have harassed and intimidated and certainly created a hostile environment. They assaulted a Rabbi in his face; the New York cops did nothing about it.