

The Myth of Modern Anti-Semitism

by Gary Fouse



For several years now I have been writing about the worldwide resurgence in anti-semitism. Aside from the Middle East, where the hatred is at its rawest, but where Jews are (relatively) safe in Israel, the worst cases are in Europe thanks to the presence of millions of Muslims who have brought old hatreds with them to their new countries of residence. Jews cannot walk the streets in European cities wearing distinctive garb lest they be assaulted, not by neo-Nazis or skin heads, but by Muslim immigrants. Thus, European Jews, especially in France and Sweden, are leaving in droves.

Here in the US, the problem is less severe, but it is growing. The central point for this growth is on our university campuses, thanks to the pro-Palestinian crowd (both students and faculty) who have succeeded in making the Israel-Palestinian conflict into arguably the most emotional issue on their respective campuses. Having taught part-time at the University of California at Irvine for 18 years, I have

watched the problem up close and personal. I have seen and heard the anti-semitism, not only at UCI, but at other campuses as well. The principal actors are the various chapters of the Muslim Student Association and their mirror organization, Students for Justice in Palestine, a bunch of Brown Shirt bullies who engage in tactics of bullying and intimidation against Jewish students who support Israel. The only difference is that SJP is open to non-Muslim members including misfit Jews who, due to their left-wing bent, have decided that Israel is worthy of their opposition. Opposing the policies of Israel is one thing and can be perfectly legitimate. All too often, however, speech against Israel has crossed over into speech against Jews as people dragging up the old tropes about how Jews control everything from the banks to our government. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not an excuse for Jew hatred.

Yet there are many leading Jewish figures in the US including certain rabbis who cannot bring themselves to admit that the leading source of anti-semitism comes from Muslim quarters. Rabbis who participate in inter-faith events with their Muslim counterparts are especially guilty of this. They would rather pretend that anti-semitism comes from the alt-right, neo-Nazis, skinheads, or Trump supporters.

It is a terrible lie.

Recently, I attended an [event](#) at the Temple Baht Yahm in Newport Beach, California. The topic was the issue of (anti-semitic/Islamophobic) hate since the election. And who was responsible for this problem? The above-named Trump supporters and alt-right. Not one word was uttered about Islamic anti-semitism, let alone the numerous hateful references to Jews (and Christians) in the Koran, the hadith and the teachings of the Prophet Mohammad. As for questions from the audience, we had to write them on cards to be passed up to the front to be screened. My question was simple: "Who is responsible for anti-semitism on the UC Irvine campus?" The (Jewish) lady who

collected my card looked at it and told me she didn't want to get into that. Thus, my question was ignored. (She was one of the organizers of the meeting.)

We heard a lot about President Trump that evening. The vice chancellor of UCI, Thomas Parham, told the audience that Trump "had the moral courage of a cockroach" and that Attorney General Jeff Sessions was a "racist from Alabama". Also present representing the Muslim community was Imam