

## Speaking to the Town Council on the Proposed Bubble Zone By-Law

I am speaking to you as a retired paralegal. One of the things that a legal professional learns very early on is that words matter. They do in court, they do in this room before a political body, but they also matter in public settings such as open demonstrations.

**“From the River to the Sea.”** It sounds harmless enough. I have even heard that chant erroneously described as a call to a peaceful coexistence. However, the true meaning is on the public record and defined by the **Sept. 30, 2021** concluding statement of the **“Promise of the Hereafter” Conference**. This body of various anti-Zionist elements was convened under the generous sponsorship of the now late Hamas leader, Yahya Al-Sinwar. They lay out a chilling step-by-step guideline for what is to happen after the eradication of the Israeli state.

This twenty-part proposal is widely available to review should anyone doubt its authenticity. To quote Mr. Sinwar speaking to that conference, "Liberation is the heart of Hamas's strategic vision, that speaks of the **full liberation of Palestine** from **the sea to the river**, the Palestinian refugees' return to their homeland, and the establishment of a Palestinian state with **full sovereignty** over its lands, with Jerusalem as its capital... We are sponsoring this conference because it is in line with our assessment that victory is nigh."

Remember this was almost four years ago, and of course it easily frames the future outset of war.

But I think it important when considering your vote on this matter before us, that it be viewed in our local perspective. How will this vote before the Town Council, and indeed the protests that they are proposed to address, affect the outcome of the **Israel-Gaza War** or the vision of the **“Promise of the Hereafter” Conference**?

On the other hand, if these protests are designed to seek a form of retribution on the Jewish community in Oakville – who had an infinitesimal part in inciting and participating in this war – this is a quantity that is real and substantive.

The Palestinian lobby is obviously going to try to disguise or deny these intentions. But my open question to you is, if this is not the case, why would the exact location of protests be an issue at all? Why then would it not suffice to protest in areas that are mutually acceptable?

I urge you as Town Council members not to grant legitimacy to hateful dogmas that support the violent overthrow of Israel, or get bogged down by any distracting issues of an antidemocratic breach of free speech when considering your vote. Any claim to a Charter right for this type of behavior intending to create fear at a place of worship, or seek to intimidate school age children, is as morally wrong as it is unacceptable.

Your responsibility is not with the citizens of Gaza, rather with the people in Oakville who will bear the consequences should you not decide in their interests, as evidenced by the stresses that have been brought upon the Jewish residents of Toronto. This by-law requires establishing a **100 meter** distance from vulnerable infrastructure to ensure its enforceability. It also requires fines of **\$1000** or more to act as a proper deterrent. Anything less shifts too much of the burden on law enforcement to make judgment calls as to whether they shall invest enough of their resources to pursue convictions.

Half measures will not adequately protect the residents of Oakville from hate speech. Be they verbal in the form of **“From the River to the Sea”** chants, or in a graphic representation of the same, be they placards, green smoke bombs to mimic the colour of Hamas, or flags that represent known terrorist entities, this is not consistent with the spirit of the Town of Oakville.

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(cited)

[Hamas Conference Plans For State After Israel 'Disappears' | MEMRI](#)