



**NATIONAL COUNCIL  
OF CANADIAN MUSLIMS**

Your Voice. Your Future.

January 14, 2014

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

**BY FAX:** 613-941-6900  
**BY EMAIL:** pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

**Re: Official Visit to Israel and Rabbi Daniel Korobkin**

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On behalf of the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), I write to your office today to bring to your attention recent developments about your upcoming official visit to the State of Israel.

A recent report indicates that Rabbi Daniel Korobkin of Toronto, Ontario will be formally joining you on your flight and visit to Israel as part of the delegation.<sup>1</sup> While we understand the importance of such foreign visits by the Government of Canada, we are concerned, for specific reasons, by the inclusion of Rabbi Korobkin as part of your accompanying delegation.

On September 17, 2013, Mr. Korobkin spoke at a Toronto event in which he introduced, defended and praised anti-Muslim campaigners Pamela Geller and Robert Spencer, who are widely recognized for promoting hateful views.<sup>2</sup> Ms. Geller and Mr. Spencer are leaders of the anti-Muslim group Stop Islamization of America (SIOA), which has been described as a “hate group” by respected organizations such as the Jewish Anti-Defamation League<sup>3</sup> and the Southern Poverty Law Center<sup>4</sup> as well as by the United States Military.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> News Release: <<http://bnaibrith.ca/bnai-brith-canada-delegation-to-join-harpers-historic-visit/>>

<sup>2</sup> Remarks by Rabbi Daniel Korobkin, September 17, 2013: <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOhf7X5m7ME>>

<sup>3</sup> ADL Report: <<http://www.adl.org/civil-rights/discrimination/c/stop-islamization-of-america.html>>

<sup>4</sup> SPCL Report: <<http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-files/ideology/anti-muslim>>

Both individuals have a lengthy and clear record of promoting anti-Muslim sentiments and demonization, including statements such as<sup>6</sup>:

- “Good Muslims lie to advance Islam. It's the law.” - *Pamela Geller*
- “Islamic loyalty supersedes nationalism, and it is impossible to tell where any given Muslim’s loyalties actually lie.” - *Robert Spencer*
- “Devout Muslims should be prohibited from military service. Would Patton have recruited Nazis into his army?” - *Pamela Geller*
- “I have written on numerous occasions that there is no distinction in the American Muslim community between peaceful Muslims and jihadists.” - *Robert Spencer*
- “Hitler was inspired by Islam.” - *Pamela Geller*
- “How dare they use the word ‘extremists’? ... These are devout Muslims. These are no moderates. These are no extremists. Only Muslims.” - *Pamela Geller*

In 2013, our organization was pleased to see mainstream Canadian Jewish leaders, including the Toronto Board of Rabbis, publicly denounce the hateful message espoused by these individuals.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, mainstream Canadian Muslims and Jews have come together in numerous forums to condemn the promotion of hate, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

However, instead of distancing himself from those who promote hate, Mr. Korobkin defended and lauded Ms. Geller and Mr. Spencer and even went as far to say that they were only “speaking the truth”.

**Sadly, Mr. Korobkin has chosen to align himself with some of the most recognized and vitriolic anti-Muslim activists of our time. Accordingly, Canadian Muslims are deeply concerned that he is slated to formally travel with the Government of Canada on your upcoming state visit to Israel.**

The highest political office in our nation should not lend its legitimacy to such parties and views that are entirely contrary to our shared values of mutual understanding, acceptance and respect.

As Prime Minister, you represent all Canadians including people of all faiths and backgrounds. Accordingly, in this situation many Canadian Muslims may perceive that your Government is accepting and legitimizing the promotion of hate against them.

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<sup>5</sup> FOX News Report: <<http://radio.foxnews.com/toddstarnes/top-stories/the-armys-list-of-domestic-hate-groups.html>>

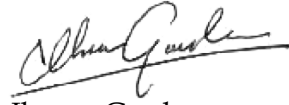
<sup>6</sup> “A Record of Hate”: <[http://www.nccm.ca/downloads/Geller-Spencer\\_A\\_Record\\_of\\_Hate.pdf](http://www.nccm.ca/downloads/Geller-Spencer_A_Record_of_Hate.pdf)>

<sup>7</sup> “Pamela Geller's Invitation to Speak in Toronto Angers Board of Rabbis”: <<http://forward.com/articles/176656/pamela-gellers-invitation-to-speak-in-toronto-ange/>>

We therefore urge your office to immediately rescind any invitation for Mr. Korobkin to personally join your delegation on your flight and state visit to Israel.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ihsaan Gardee", written over a horizontal line.

Ihsaan Gardee  
Executive Director  
National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)