

Al Jama-ah's Stance

The Zionist State of Israel and Miss South Africa's Participation

Much fuss is globally made by the secular media regarding the Miss World beauty pageant event; one that was started by Eric Morely in 1951 and that is organized by Miss World Limited; this year it celebrates its 70th year this year. The occasion has since grown into a huge affair where the chosen young women represent their respective countries. Democratic South Africa has also been a participant; and it usually sends its representative to attend this lavish function where it – like all other countries - hopes that its Miss South Africa, Lalela Mswane, would be crowned Miss World.

While Al Jama-ah does not have any interest in this event since it views the rights of women (in both private and public life) differently, it strongly raised its voice against the country that is hosting the affair. Al Jama-ah, being an active member in South Africa's democratic parliament, is quite clear and agrees with million others that the Zionist State of Israel has and continues to adopt appalling cruel policies towards the Palestinian society; a society that consists of Arab Christians and Muslims and that has for more than 70 years suffered at the hands of that regime.

For more than 7 decades, this Zionist state, which is purportedly 'democratic', has taken away the Palestinian lands and unashamedly handed it over to right-wing (Jewish) immigrants that come from other parts of the world including South Africa! That state's successive governments have subjected them to harsh laws that are in contradiction to the Torah's teachings. The state – like the apartheid government that twisted the New Testament's teachings – cunningly used religious laws and devising others to keep all Palestinians in check.

So, whilst it ironically argues that it is 'defending' its rights – as a (Jewish) nation - acting indiscriminately towards the Palestinians, it openly and unapologetically violates each Palestinian's human rights. And amidst doing that, it has destabilized, and it continues to undermine that age-old society's dignity. Despite these disgraceful and unspeakable acts, it unreservedly rejects its pariah status but desirously wants our democratically elected government to acknowledge its sovereignty permitting it do handle the Palestinians the way it sees fit. And whenever any country such as South Africa or organization such as BDS Africa that publicly – and rightfully so - criticized the Zionist state's undignified procedures, then it immediately accuses that country/organization of being anti-Semitic or Israel haters! How arrogant and how ludicrous!

In fact, it very conveniently employs these terms to ward off valid criticisms against its internal strategies; instead of dealing with the Palestinians in a compassionate fashion as captured in the Jewish sacred text, it chose and persists in resorting to underhand tactics that weakens them socially, economically, and politically. These are the types of manoeuvres that Al Jama-ah and all peace-loving groups oppose. Al Jama-ah counters these social strategies and publicizes its views so that societies – nationally and continentally – can observe the hypocritical (anti-Torah) stance of the Zionist state. If the Zionist state, however, demonstrates its willingness not to mishandle or act intolerantly towards the Palestinians, then a different approach would be considered, but that, regrettably, is not the case and it cunningly hides behind 'democracy' that has become akin to a swear word.

At this point, Jama-ah, along with others, wishes to express its extreme disappointment that our South African government did not advise individuals such as Miss South Africa that any events that take place in countries, where universal human rights policies are flouted, are forbidden to attend. Our government is fully aware of the international covenants that were adopted and that are in place against this Zionist state; and these include socio-cultural boycotts. This implies that our government openly disapproves the use of the South African passport for these types of cultural event; but despite

that policy, some South African citizens such as our former Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng and current Miss South Africa seem to give their support to this Zionist state forgetting its atrocious human rights record.

If Miss South Africa, in this case, insists that she would want to attend, then our government should have already proactively responded by withdrawing her passport forthwith and through this it could have demonstrated its serious stand; this has, unfortunately, not been the case up to this point in time. Our government, by the way, already knew in July that the Zionist state was going to be the host for this event and should have alerted all its stakeholders and especially Miss South Africa about it. Miss South Africa shrewdly kept mum and she seem not to have been persuaded by our government's principled position.

But then again, it appears that our government has not been firm enough in publicly stating that it is unlawful for any South African citizen to support the Zionist state's occupation of Palestine. It even permitted the newly elected DA Mayor, Dr. Mpho Phalatse who apparently announced: 'The City of Johannesburg stands with Israel'! If she said so, then she has no right to blurt out this statement on behalf of any South African citizen - be it in Johannesburg or elsewhere. While that might be Dr. Phalatse's personal opinion (because of her ignorance of what is indeed taking place in that country), she - and Miss South Africa, who might piggy-back on Phalatse's statement, state 'SA stands with Israel' - should be reminded that the Zionist state of Israel is an occupying state; and she should be informed about its atrocities against the Palestinians over the decades. It is sad to acknowledge that our democratic government has been hesitant to temporarily withdraw Miss South Africa's passport; and, from Al Jama-ah's perspective, this boils down to a joke of sorts.

Apart from critiquing our government, Al Jama-ah commends it for having, though a bit late, withdrawn its support for Miss South Africa's request to participate in that function. It should too be stated that our government's strategy is not 'a diplomatic misstep', as one naïve reader suggested, but an important one to force the Zionist state to change its internal/external policies, and not to force the world community to believe that it is democratic and humane!

Al Jama-ah reaches out to the current Miss South Africa beseeching her to seriously weigh the given options and reach the correct decisions considering the plight of the Palestinians. She should realize that she represents our democratic loving society; and she should seriously ponder over this matter. She should be mindful that she holds a position of social responsibility that she carries wherever she goes. Al Jama-ah advises her to consult informed individuals and groups and not be persuaded by the Zionist state's sweet alluring words about what it does for Africa and its communities. She should read up on the Palestinian society's social history, reviewing the policies that the Zionist state imposed on the Palestinians throughout the many decades, and compare that oppressed society's predicament with what our society experienced throughout the apartheid era. This is no false analogies or deliberate distortions regarding that state's bullying tactics towards the Palestinians.

Perhaps Miss South Africa should stand in front of a large shining mirror, and when looking at it should not be asking: 'mirror, mirror on the wall who is the most beautiful pageant in this world?' but she should not make up her own mind based on biased views but pose the following questions: If I was a Palestinian, who was oppressed and subjected to pass laws like my fellow South Africans had been under apartheid, would it be okay for me to participate in this international event? Is it acceptable for me to go to the Zionist state, where the Palestinians continue to live under oppression, indirectly supporting its methods of handling the beleaguered Palestinians? If I do attend that gathering, then what does this crown truly mean to me personally and my fellow South Africans

nationally? If I do not participate in that event, would that not be in line with universal principles of social justice and practice? And would that not be the right thing for me to do in the current circumstances?

Though these might appear to be tough questions, they are simply straightforward; and, in these circumstances, no one can ignore them for they are necessary queries in this global village where inequality, injustice, and imbalances have become the order of the day. So, these questions should be posed by the representatives of the other countries too. None of them should assume an ostrich-like posture burying their heads in the sand when governments of countries such as the Zionist state of Israel willy-nilly flout human rights laws and use 'democracy' as its opportune shield; these states practice double standards. And these should be outrightly condemned and spoken out against. It is for this reason that Al Jama-ah stands up to publicly make its position known; it is a Party that does not obtain funds from spurious sources and nor does it support any institution that gets aid from the Zionist state.

So, whilst Al Jama-ah might not have been completely satisfied with our government's lukewarm approach as regards Miss South Africa's participation, it hopes that in the future it pursues a proactive position. It wants our government to chart out fresh policies towards the Zionist state (as well as other states); a state that defied and continues to disrespect the human rights of communities. And it implores Miss South Africa to think about the socio-political issues practiced by the pageant's host state; and it entreats her not to be persuaded by the current Miss World's argument that one should forget about politics and religion when there. Miss South Africa should realize that the event is not about 'embracing all women' but about an event that takes places in surroundings where years of suppression and abuse have become the order of the day, and that those who suffered the most was that society's vulnerable groups, namely the women and children.

And let it be stated that she should not for one moment think that our government and organizations have gone out to tarnish the Zionist state's image; on the contrary, that state has discoloured its own image, it has damaged its own reputation, and it has even gone against its own sacred text: The Torah! That state's appointed leaders and supporters should take a hard look at themselves in the Mediterranean Sea mirror to see what they have caused to others, to see ponder what their Zionist forebears planned, and admit the atrocities that have been and are being committed to this day. And the hard question is: Is this not a form of genocide?

Now, the reports by the print and online pro-Zionist state media accusing the South African media of being dishonest and anti-Israel is absolutely nonsense for none - of what they have said or say – holds any water. It is indeed an undisputed fact that the Zionist state of Israel remains a pariah state and that it is the splitting image of apartheid South Africa with a few differences of course. And it should be reemphasized that if that state claims to be a 'Jewish' state, then they should be ashamed of themselves for they have gone against the spirit and principles of the teachings as contained in the Torah and taught my Moses (may God's peace be on him).

Al Jama-ah, therefore, does not mince its words when it comes to social or any form of injustice. Since the Zionist state persists in its undemocratic acts towards the Palestinians, Al Jama-ah tells Miss South Africa in a brotherly/sisterly fashion: Madame, do the right thing because going there is not building peace and fermenting love but adding to the woes of those who are oppressed; madame Palestine continues to suffer and bleed at the hands of the Zionist state! And madame, you and all of us should be reminded of what our erstwhile respected leader, Madiba said years ago: 'South Africa is not free as long as Palestine is not free'; so, if you do not wish to heed Al Jama-ah's call, then,

at least, show respect to Madiba and all those who sacrificed their lives for freedom in South Africa, Palestine, and elsewhere.