



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

April 3, 2025

Governor Josh Shapiro
501 North 3rd Street
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Co-Presidents:
Lynne K. Lechter
Kevin Ross

Chairman of the
Board:
Roy Kardon

Executive Director
Steve Feldman

Dear Governor Shapiro,

We were saddened to learn that you have awarded a grant of \$5 million in commonwealth taxpayer funds to an anti-Jewish mosque/community center/school in Philadelphia.

We are surprised that someone who grew up a congregant of Beth Sholom Congregation led by the great Zionist leader Rabbi Aaron Landes and who graduated from Akiba Hebrew Academy would fund an entity that aggressively incites Jew-hatred and promotes lies about the Jewish People. We have attached several examples from its social media.

Leaders of the Al-Aqsa Islamic Society in Philadelphia have literally erased Israel from the map; they promote lies about Jews so as to incite Jew-hatred; they promote events and speakers that are viciously anti-Jewish; they perpetuate the false narrative that the Palestinian-Arabs of the Gaza Strip are the victims of Israeli aggression when in fact it was the Gazans who perpetrated the massive slaughters, rapes and savagery against Israelis on Oct, 7, 2023 and who still hold captive dozens including an American citizen as well as the remains of dozens more Israelis.

This mosque has additionally promoted the lies that the Jewish People committed ethnic cleansing of “Palestinian”-Arabs, occupy “Arab” lands, destroyed hundreds of Arab communities, carried out genocide and commit “apartheid.” The only reason for spreading such outrageous and demonstrably false claims is to incite Jew-hatred, and the reasons to incite Jew-hatred are to instigate violence against Jews and Jewish institutions and also to motivate political activity against those who support Jewish self-determination and the well-being of Jews.

Surely you are aware that Israel is not only the nation-state of the Jewish People. Israel is also the largest Jewish community in the world today. To be anti-Israel is synonymous with being anti-Jewish. The two are indistinguishable.

Meanwhile, this mosque community has not demonstrated nor encouraged a shred of compassion for the thousands of Israelis who were savagely slaughtered, raped, disfigured and psychologically scarred for life, nor any remorse for what was perpetrated in the name of Islam – as is obvious in video footage from the Oct. 7 attacks – by Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and others.

Five million dollars is a huge sum of money. It will enable such a mosque and its school to foment even more Jew-hatred throughout their community as well as throughout our

(Continued on other side)

Greater Philadelphia ZOA
One Belmont Ave., Suite 324,
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
Tel: 610-660-9466

Web site: philly.zoa.org Email: office@zoaphilly.org

Pittsburgh ZOA
6507 Wilkins Ave. Suite 102
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
Tel: 412-665-4630
pittsburgh@zoa.org

region, and to indoctrinate even more young Muslims against Jews and Israel.

It seems impossible that you and your staff were not aware of this mosque community's antagonism against Jews and Israel – a brief check of their social media makes it apparent. Therefore it seems that you find acceptable any amount of anti-Jewish activity.

This includes promoting a speech by reviled anti-Zionist/anti-Israel dissembler Norman Finkelstein; promoting events by the patently anti-Jewish and terrorist-linked Council on American Islamic Relations; activities with the slanderous Friends of Sabeel North America and similar groups with long anti-Jewish records.

Are the students who attend the Al-Aqsa Islamic Society's school being taught facts, or are they fed lies about Jews, Israel and Arab history, Muslim history and world history? Is this what you want more of: Pennsylvanians believing lies and therefore unable to integrate into a decent society, or the increased persecution of Jewish Pennsylvanians?

What kind of a society is being created within Pennsylvania when young Pennsylvanians are taught a competing set of "facts" that are in direct opposition both to established facts and official U.S. policy?

Your \$5 million grant to them will worsen this chasm.

If there is a mechanism for you to rescind this grant – all of it – we call on you to do so. A grant of this magnitude – even were it somehow used for good – frees up other funds for the mosque and school to foment more Jew-hatred and anti-Jewish incitement at a time when American Jews and Jewish institutions are experiencing the worst Jew-hatred in generations.

HaShem places Jewish people in positions of importance to use their influence or power to help their fellow Jews and to save Jews from danger. It was recently Purim and we read in the Megillah first of Queen Ester's reluctance to help her People, followed by her courageous work to save our People and to enable us to defeat those who mean us harm. Gov. Shapiro: Clearly you have thus far not passed the Queen Esther test.

Please rescind this grant. Please do your due diligence before considering funding an anti-Jewish entity. Please actively fight anti-Jewish activity in the commonwealth rather than support it.

What the Jewish community and all decent Pennsylvanians need and deserve is less Jew-hatred and less promotion of lies rather than more of the same. We call on you to rescind this grant and to set a good example for all Pennsylvanians and all of America: that Jew-hatred will be punished, not rewarded.

Sincerely,



Morton A. Klein
National President

For Greater Philadelphia ZOA:

Kevin Ross

Kevin Ross
Co-President

Lynne K. Lechter

Lynne K. Lechter
Co-President

Roy Kardon

Roy Kardon
Board Chairman

Steve Feldman

Steve Feldman
Executive Director

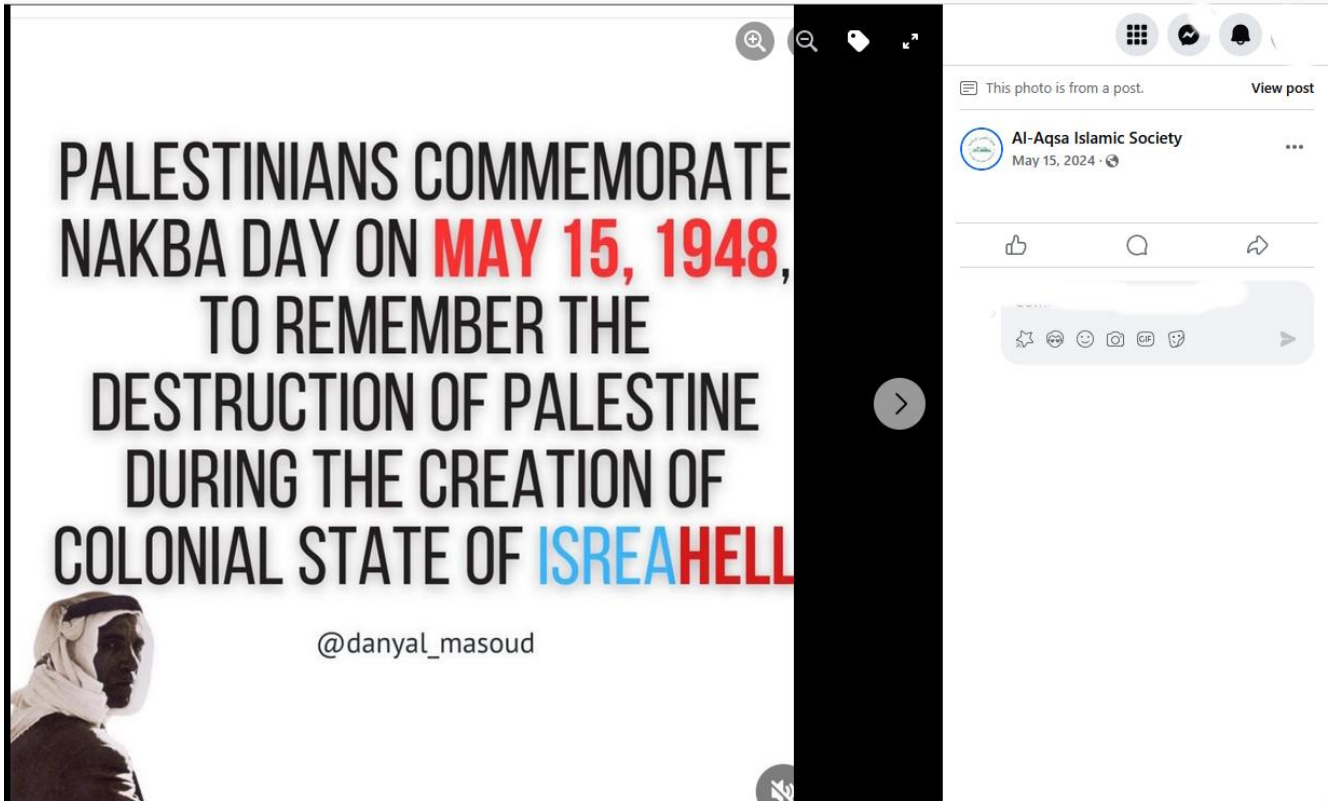
For Pittsburgh ZOA:



Stephen A. Neustein
President



Stuart V. Pavilack
Executive Director





Al-Aqsa Islamic Society · Follow

January 1 · 🌐



JAN 18 PLEASE JOIN US **MUSLIM CITY FEST**

DR. NORMAN FINKELSTEIN
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SH. MOHAMMED ELSHINAWY

HARRIS J
NASHEED SINGER

UST. AHMAD BOSTANI **BR. AHMAD ALSARDARY** **IMAM BASHEER BILAAL**

2025 GALA for GAZA PART II

DINNER BANQUET

Join us for our beginning-of-the-year evening of artistic expression and words of inspiration.
*ALL proceeds to go to humanitarian aid & relief for the victims in the Middle East!

DONATIONS

TICKETS \$40

5:00 PM

SPONSORED BY

FISHERS TUDOR HOUSE
1858 STREET RD, BENSALEM, PA

@MuslimCityFest



This photo is from a post. **View post**

Al-Aqsa Islamic Society
May 15, 2024 · 🌐

👍 🔍 📌

🌟 🗨️ 📷 📺 📖 ➔



Al-Aqsa Islamic Society · Follow

August 5, 2023 · 🌐

...

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
"كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ وَإِنَّمَا تُوَفَّقُونَ أُجُورَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَمَنْ زُحْزِحَ عَنِ النَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ ف...

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

"Every soul will taste death and you will be paid on the Day of Resurrection | whoever is afraid of the Fire and enters Paradise, has already won and the life of this world is only the enjoyment of vanity."

With hearts that believe in God's will and destiny, and with more sadness and grief, we mourn the young martyr who was martyred with the bullets of the occupation (the story of Jamal Moatan)

Whoever is close to our brothers is the sons of the community

Abu Kafah, Abu Anis and Abu Hassan

We ask Allah to have mercy and forgiveness for the deceased, and to his family, family and loved ones patience and tranquility.

Condolences to men on Saturday after Asr prayer, God willing

May Allah reward you with goodness

🌟 · [Hide Translation](#) · [Rate this translation](#)

