

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.  
All praise and thanks belong to God, the Lord of the Worlds.  
May peace and prayers be upon Prophet Muhammad and his family.



Council on American-Islamic Relations  
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Facebook Oversight Board  
[www.oversightboard.com](http://www.oversightboard.com)

**RE: CAIR Comments to Facebook Oversight Board Concerning Posts That Include “From The River To The Sea.”**

Dear Facebook Oversight Board Members:

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation’s largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, we urge the Facebook Oversight Board to reject the notion that the phrase “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” violates Meta’s rules on Hate Speech, Violence and Incitement, or Dangerous Organizations and Individuals.

Countering real antisemitism is important, but it is also critically important for Facebook and other social media companies to reject pressure from the Israeli government and its supporters to suppress advocacy for Palestinian human rights based on false allegations of antisemitism.

Most Palestinian, Jewish, and other activists who use the phrase have explained that they are calling for Palestinians and Israelis to live together in a single state with equal rights for all. No reasonable person would call this antisemitic, even if they disagree with that proposed solution. In stark contrast, the Israeli government’s interpretation of “Israeli security control from the river to the sea” signifies a permanent occupation where Palestinians are denied rights.

Even though the Israeli government's demand for apartheid from the river to the sea is racist and unjust, Facebook should not ban Israel or its supporters from expressing their view, much less ban supporters of Palestinian human rights from expressing their support for a single state with equal rights for all. Free speech principles should lead social media users to debate ideas with each other, not silence each other.

To further demonstrate this point CAIR highlights the Israeli government’s 2022 declaration of guiding principles by the then-incoming far-right Netanyahu coalition government. Their guiding principles stated, “The Jewish people have an exclusive and inalienable right to all parts of the Land of Israel. The government will promote and develop the settlement of all parts of the Land

of Israel—in the Galilee, the Negev, the Golan Heights, and Judea and Samaria,” which includes the entire West Bank.

We also note the absence of any reports about Facebook censoring references to the Likud Party Platform, which asserts, “Judea and Samaria will not be handed to any foreign administration; between the [Mediterranean] Sea and the Jordan there will only be Israeli sovereignty.” This includes Israel’s illegal occupation and control of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem.

When the world opposed the discriminatory white supremacist colonial regime of apartheid in South Africa, it did not call for the destruction of that state; rather, it aimed for freedom and equality for all people, regardless of religion or ethnicity.

Social media companies like Facebook need to respect the voices of Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, Christians, Jews, and all those who advocate for the rights and freedoms of Palestinians, in addition to defending every person's right to peacefully protest and express their views.

Sincerely,

Robert S. McCaw

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert S. McCaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'R' and 'M'.

Government Affairs Department Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations