

21.5.2024 final submission to Meta on  
POSTS THAT INCLUDE “FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA”

I would like to submit that using the phrase from the river to the sea is not inherently antisemitic or any other form of hate speech. Rather, it is the same geographical lines that Israelis and that official Israeli ministries (including the education ministry) use when referring to the state of Israel, despite many of these areas -the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem being occupied and not internationally recognized as areas belonging to the state of Israel.

My name is Becca Strober, and I am a Senior Director with the organization Breaking the silence. In my previous role at the organization, I served as the Director of Education. Our organization works with thousands of Israelis a year, and we are one of the largest Israeli organizations working to end Israeli occupation in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza. We are an organization of former soldiers whom ourselves (myself included) served in these areas and aim to bring about a conversation with the Israeli and international public on the immorality of a sustained, indefinite military occupation. We meet with thousands of Israelis - the most of any Israeli anti-occupation organization - every year and engage in educational work.

Israel and Israelis regularly and almost exclusively use the phrases “the full land of Israel” or “the land of Israel (eretz yisrael)” to refer to the borders of the state of Israel. This is the same exact area described as “from the river to the sea.” Even when just saying “Israel”, the maps that are used for official and unofficial purposes are ones that show the borders of “The full land of Israel/The river to the sea” (meaning the maps show Israel, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. Unlike maps of Palestine, Israeli maps also include the Golan Heights, which is a part of occupied Syria.)

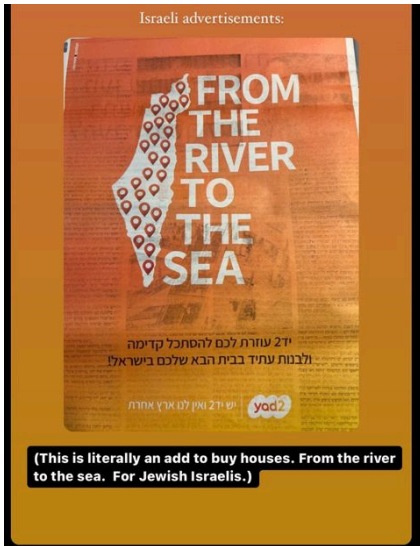
This is despite the fact that Israel has not annexed the West Bank or Gaza and that the annexation of East Jerusalem is not internationally recognized.

I work with Israeli pupils, students, teachers and other educators in order to teach on the reality of the military occupation. This conversation always starts by opening a map, and for the majority of those present, it is often the first time they have ever seen a map of the West Bank as a separate political entity from that of the State of Israel.

A short [video](#) by the Israeli organization Akevot explains the process that took place following the 1967 occupation in which the government decided to remove the Green Line, separating between Israel and the West Bank, from official maps. This video is based on archival footage and research.

Through my work with Israeli youth (17-20 years old), I can confidently say that around 5% can accurately draw the map of Israel that includes territorial lines separating Gaza from Israel and the Green Line, which separates between Israel and the West Bank.

I am submitting three recent examples of varied Israeli posters and advertisements that show that state of Israel as “from the river to the sea”



I'm gonna make a saved story board of Israeli maps, because it's a good example of how in israel we don't visualize the occupation.

11 מוניציפלים  
3 ערים  
48 מוניציפלים  
118 מוניציפלים  
42% אוכלוסייה  
10 מוניציפלים  
4 מוניציפלים

יש עתיד

יום עתיד  
במחיצות הישיבות המקומיות 2024

This is a yeah atid (center political party) sharing its success in municipal elections last week. Neither the West Bank or Gaza are shown on the map, and it looks like one country. This is why many people, especially young people, don't know where the West Bank is and don't realize there is military law there.



The first example was published in “the Marker”, a highly respected economics newspaper.

The second example is the Yesh Atid political party showing their successes in local elections.

The third example is a chicken company that was advertising chicken schnitzel - and it was an independence day special. The schnitzel is in the shape of the “the land of Israel” (the river to the sea). Please note that this was used as an advertisement on Meta:



If “The river to the sea” is to be considered hate speech, then it must include most Israeli maps and references to the geography of the state, as this is the common usage in Israel. As such, I would argue it cannot be considered hate speech without also including “the full

land of Israel” the “land of Israel” when referring to the state (and not the biblical area) or any map that includes areas of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, or Gaza.

I am available for follow up and can be reached at [becca@shovrimstika.org](mailto:becca@shovrimstika.org).

Thank you,  
Becca Strober