



Canadian Friends of Sabeel
Address: 7565 Newman Blvd.P.O. Box 3067
Montreal, QC H8N 3H2
Email: info@friendsofsabeel.ca
Contact Number: 514-941-5991

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian Friends of Sabeel Sues B'nai Brith

(Toronto, ON) – Canadian Friends of Sabeel (CFOS) is suing B'nai Brith for libel, following their attack on CFOS and Sabeel Jerusalem's founder – Rev. Naim Ateek. During Rev. Ateek's cross country book tour organized by CFOS in the spring of 2018, B'nai Brith issued a defamatory article with the explicit goal of revoking the organizations' charitable status and diminishing the reputation of Canadian Friends of Sabeel.

Rev. Ateek's book *A Palestinian Theology of Liberation: The Bible, Justice, and the Palestine – Israel Conflict* carries a message of non-violent resistance to Israel's illegal 51-year occupation of Palestine. It emphasizes the history of peace between Christians, Jews, and Muslims, and reflects the decades of Rev. Ateek's interfaith work. These realities were ignored by B'nai Brith, who issued an article titled "Canadian Charity Promotes Antisemitic Book Tour." In this article, B'nai Brith distorted a citation in Rev. Ateek's book to make libelous claims of antisemitism. Among other things, they failed to mention that this citation is by Jewish critic Allan C. Brownfield from the American Council of Judaism, and removed the citation from its context to make baseless claims of antisemitism.

B'nai Brith engaged in false attribution by using these untrue claims to make libelous statements about Canadian Friends of Sabeel in attempt to revoke their charitable status. They slandered Canadian Friends of Sabeel to the organizations and venues holding the event across the country in an effort to cancel each book tour location.

The chair of Canadian Friends of Sabeel, the Rev. Robert Assaly, stated: "Rev. Ateek's speaking tour is lighting a candle to dispel the darkness of violence and injustice. The Israel lobby responds by calling the candle and its bearer anti-Semitic. Diminishing the reality of antisemitism, as this does, is a shameful way of trying to extinguish Rev. Ateek's message of justice through non-violent resistance."