

C-CAT Media Advisory – April 27, 2022

The Global Imams Council (GIC) Issues Declaration
Standing with the Canadian Jewish Community in
Fighting Antisemitism and Supporting the Proposed Ban
on Holocaust Denial



[The GIC](#), based in the Holy City of Najaf, Iraq, is the “world’s first and largest international non-governmental body of Muslim faith leaders from all Islamic denominations” with representation in over 70 countries. C-CAT, founded by Canadian terror victims, is listed by the GIC as an advisor on terrorism-related issues.

For More on the Declaration and its Import →



The Global Imams Council (GIC) Regional Meeting in Iraq (2021)

Excerpt from the GIC Declaration:

“We strongly support this community initiative and laud the efforts of the Government and the MPs in the Canadian parliament who brought this proposition forward and supported its implementation.”

“Holocaust Denial and Distortion is one of the most widespread, malevolent, and egregious of the antisemitic narratives promulgated by [those] groups seeking to denigrate and demonize the religious and national identity of our Jewish brethren. We view this particularly perverse calumny as unmatched in its virulence in legitimizing hatred, violence and in many cases genocide against the Jewish people, and we unreservedly condemn its promotion in any of its permutations, in the strongest of Islamic terms.”

See the full text of the GIC Declaration on the following page →



GLOBAL IMAMS COUNCIL LAUDS CANADA FOR ACTING AGAINST ANTISEMITISM AND HOLOCAUST DENIAL

The Global Imams Council (GIC) representing Muslim religious leaders from all Islamic denominations, is delighted to hear that the Government of Canada is moving toward outlawing Holocaust Denial and Distortion. We strongly support this community initiative and laud the efforts of the MPs in the Canadian parliament who brought this proposition forward and supported its implementation.

As described correctly by our Canadian colleagues at the Council of Muslims Against Antisemitism (CMAA), antisemitism is a “uniquely pervasive, enduring and lethal form of globalized prejudice” that has become a driving and binding force for extremists and terrorists across the globe. In particular, Holocaust Denial and Distortion is one of the most widespread, malevolent, and egregious of the antisemitic narratives promulgated by these groups seeking to denigrate and demonize the religious and national identity of our Jewish brethren. We view this particularly perverse calumny as unmatched in its virulence in legitimizing hatred, violence and in many cases genocide against the Jewish people, and we unreservedly condemn its promotion in any of its permutations, in the strongest of Islamic terms.

The GIC is the world’s first and largest transnational non-governmental body of Muslim religious Leaders from all Islamic Denominations and Schools of thought, with a rapidly growing number of over 1350 members worldwide. With representation in over 70 countries, the GIC works closely with government departments and security agencies to counter extremism, terrorism and the promotion of genocide. The decision to outlaw Holocaust denial in Canada falls in line with this Council's vision for a future based on harmony, coexistence and genuine peace.



In October of the year 2020, our Council collaborated with the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism at the US Department of State to become the first Imams Council to adopt the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism; and its examples, which include "denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust)." Most recently on February 3, 2022 the GIC publicly endorsed the UN resolution condemning Holocaust Denial.

We congratulate the Jewish Communities of Canada on their country heading in the direction of joining countries like Germany, Austria, Greece, France, Belgium and the Czech Republic in prohibiting Holocaust Denial. Our Council vows to continue combating extremism, terrorism, antisemitism and Holocaust denial.



IMAM BAQIR AL-BUDAIRI
PRESIDENT



IMAM MOHAMMAD TAWHIDI
VICE PRESIDENT



C-CAT Explanatory Memo

The Import of the GIC Declaration Supporting Canadian Jewry in its fight against Antisemitism and Supporting a Ban on Holocaust Denial

1. The GIC declaration recognizes the unique characteristics and threat posed specifically by Holocaust Denial as a particularly dangerous and insidious calumny often genocidal in intent and therefore requiring specialized legislation to help counter its normalization and proliferation.

2. The GIC declaration provides an authoritative Islamic counter-voice to Islamist antisemitism promoted by entities like the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas and Hezbollah, and adopted, supported or tolerated by their apologists and fellow-traveler. which posit Holocaust Denial as a foundational article of antisemitic faith justifying violence and genocide.¹

3. The GIC declaration was issued in Iran-dominated Iraq in direct opposition to the stated policies of the Iranian regime,² the only UN member to vote against the recent UN resolution against Holocaust Denial.³ As noted by expert Matthias Kuntzel: “Never before has the leadership of a nation [Iran] made denial of the Shoah a governmental policy at every level of society.”⁴

4. The GIC letter deliberately references its condemnation of Holocaust Denial in the context of the GIC’s earlier adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism, strengthening the legitimacy and universality of the IHRA definition as a policy instrument; ensconcing the IHRA definition in an authoritative Islamic context; and reflecting the seriousness of intent in the GIC’s original adoption of the IHRA definition as something not merely declaratory.

5. The GIC declaration reaches out directly to the Jewish community of Canada and promises to build on the Canadian example in pursuing further initiatives against on Holocaust Denial. This recognition is particularly meaningful on a personal – community to-community level – in an era which Jews have become subject to the most venomous of attacks at rallies, on campuses and on social media by Islamist antisemites and their collaborators, with little or no response from many fellow community institutions.

The Global Pervasiveness of Holocaust Denial and Distortion

Hundreds of millions of people globally ascribe to some form of this narrative

The Unique Malevolence of Holocaust Denial

*“Holocaust denial, distortion, and inversion⁵ is one of the most perverse, adaptable, and widespread of contemporary antisemitic narratives. It has become a key platform, framework and organizing principle for antisemitic extremists of almost all ideological hues. It offers a comprehensive reinvention of historical and contemporary affairs that legitimizes and incorporates within a single paradigm, virtually every and any antisemitic calumny, through a grotesquely malevolent weaponization of the Holocaust against Jews and the totality of Jewish identity. Not bound by denominational affiliation or political orientation, it is a particularly well-suited instrument for the globalization of Jew-hatred under a common global rubric. For ideological antisemites, whether state or non-state actors, Holocaust denial in any of its multiple permutations, is akin to an article of antisemitic faith providing certain invaluable strategic and tactical benefits in promoting the very “political ideologies and conditions suitable for the advent of the very type of event it denies.”⁶ **The terrorist purveyors of antisemitic violence from all modes of the extremist antisemitic spectrum almost always view the world through this lens.***

“2 out of every 3 people surveyed [globally] have either never heard of the Holocaust or do not believe the historical accounts to be accurate”⁷

→ **32.9% of North American students** don't know what to think about the Holocaust, think the number of Jews who died has been exaggerated, or question whether the Holocaust even happened.⁸ (2022)

→ **23% percent of US millennials and Gen Z** believe the Holocaust happened, but the number of Jews who died has been greatly exaggerated, is a myth and did not happen, or are unsure.”⁹ (2020)

→ **11% of U.S. Millennial and Gen Z** respondents believe Jews caused the Holocaust.¹⁰ (2020)

→ **CNN: 32% of Europeans** said Jews use the Holocaust to “advance their position or achieve certain goals”.¹¹ (2018)

→ **MENA countries: “63% who had heard about the Holocaust agreed that “it was a myth or an exaggeration: “there is no parallel in any other post-war societies.”**¹² (Nov 2019)

→ **Austrian Government Poll : 36% agreed** that “Jews try to obtain advantages due to the fact that they were victims during the Nazi period.” (2019)

→ **ISGAP European Study: 62% of Front National sympathizers and 56% of the Muslim interviewees agreed** that “The Jews today use their status as victims of the Nazi genocide during the Second World War for their own interest.” (2015)

→ **UK YouGov Poll: One in eight** believe that Jewish people use the Holocaust as a means of gaining sympathy.¹³ (2015)

→ **The Atlantic: “The Middle East and North Africa** had the largest percentage of doubters, with only 8% of respondents reporting that they had heard of the genocide and believed descriptions of it were accurate. But only 12% of respondents in **sub-Saharan Africa** said the same, and only **23% in Asia**. People in these groups were likely to say they believed the number of deaths has been exaggerated—just over half of Middle Easterners and a third of Asians and Africans think the body count has been distorted over time.” In Israel **28% of Israeli Arabs** deny the Holocaust.”¹⁴ (2014)

→ **Gallup Poll Norway: 25% of Norwegians believe** Jews exploit the memory of the Holocaust to their own advantage.¹⁵ (2012)

→ **Bielefeld University Poll (Germany): A quarter of 3,000 people surveyed agreed** that “Many Jews try to use Germany’s Third Reich past to their advantage and want to make Germans pay for it.” A further **30%** there was “some truth “to the statement.”¹⁶(2003)

According to the ADL Global Index 100 Survey on Antisemitism:

1.24 billion people surveyed in over 100 countries believe it is “probably true”

“the Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust”¹⁷

Endnotes

¹ The GIC declaration weaponizes the power of Islamic clerical authority in the Muslim world to counter one of the most widespread, malevolent, and effective of antisemitic narratives— Holocaust denial and distortion. For Islamist extremists, Holocaust denial is a foundational paradigm couched in theological frameworks akin to an article of antisemitic faith, to legitimize the genocidal antisemitism¹ that is the very engine¹ of the extremist ideologies promoted by Islamist entities like the Muslim Brotherhood¹; the Khomeinists, Hamas, ISIS, Hezbollah and al-Qaeda¹. Holocaust denial or distortion in its multitude of permutations, is a key Islamist platform to promote what one scholar has termed¹ Islamism’s “total war” against the Jews.¹ Jews are defined in the foundational works of Islamism as the irredeemable metaphysical evil, the very source of all historical¹ evil and corruption¹, “immutable and permanent, transcending time and circumstances”, whose destruction¹ is essential to human salvation.

² The GIC position, in **clear defiance** of Iranian policy, is consistent with the GIC’s previous denunciations of the antisemitism promoted the IRGC and other Iran-sponsored terrorist proxies like Hamas. Iran is perhaps the globe’s most egregious state-promoter of Holocaust denial.² For Iran, the promulgation of Jew-hatred is both a matter of Islamic Revolutionary principle and an essential ideational instrument for achieving its stated genocidal goal – the destruction of Israel. Put plainly by *Iran’s Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki in 2006: “If the official version of the Holocaust is thrown into doubt, then the identity and nature of Israel will be thrown into doubt.”*² As further explained by Matthias Kuntzel: “Every denial of the Holocaust ... tacitly contains an appeal to repeat it – as is evident in the case of Iran which calls openly for the destruction of a UN member state.... Up until now, Holocaust deniers have wanted to revise the past. Today, Iran’s ... deniers want to shape the future by eradicating Israel...”

³³<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202201203872>; Iran has also voted against similar resolutions in the past. See <http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/iranian-holocaust-denial-and-the-internet>

⁴ <http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/iranian-holocaust-denial-and-the-internet>;
<https://www.ushmm.org/antisemitism/holocaust-denial-and-distortion/holocaust-denial-antisemitism-iran>; also see <https://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304640104579489391072215518.html>;

⁵ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-holocaust-denial-and-distortion>

⁶ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-holocaust-denial-and-distortion>; for more see Goldhagen, Daniel Jonah. *The Devil That Never Dies* (p. 352). Little, Brown and Company. Kindle Edition. Goldhagen succinctly summarizes the spectrum of this “soft core” hatred: “It takes many hues from denying that the Germans slaughtered Jews, to treating the Holocaust in an antiseptic, falsifying way, in order to minimize or conceal its horror, to admitting that the Germans exterminated Jews but saying that, owing to the Jews’ nature or the danger they posed, the Germans were justified in eliminating them, or to saying that the Holocaust was not such a major historical event and does not warrant the attention it receives, because eliminationist assaults against other peoples have also been perpetrated—and that whatever actually happened to the Jews, the most significant fact, as usual, is that Jews exploit the past to harm other peoples, especially Germans and Palestinians....”

⁷ <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-global-100-poll>; <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-global-100-poll>

⁸ <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/a-third-of-students-think-holocaust-exaggerated-or-fabricated-study-1.5753990>

⁹ <https://www.claimscon.org/millennial-study/>

¹⁰ <https://www.claimscon.org/millennial-study/>

¹¹ <https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2018/11/europe/antisemitism-poll-2018-intl/>

¹² <http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/contemporary-antisemitism-among-muslims>

¹³ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/14/uk-jewish-antisemitism-rise-yougov-poll>

¹⁴ <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/05/the-world-is-full-of-holocaust-deniers/370870/>

¹⁵ <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/anti-semitism-limited-in-norway-survey-shows-1.5178366>

¹⁶ <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/germans-annoyed-at-blame-for-holocaust-1.399332>

¹⁷ <https://global100.adl.org/map>