

Alert: Subject

[+]06/07/05_FROM: Rebecca Garrett_SUBJECT: **Kazemi exhibit censored**_FORWARD: **Library removes Kazemi photos** after complaint_ Last Updated Tue, 07 Jun 2005 13:05:21 EDT CBC Arts_An exhibition of work by slain Canadian photographer Zahra Kazemi has been shut down, following complaints it was too sympathetic to the Palestinian uprising. Last week, a collection of 23 black-and-white photos Kazemi took during her travels in countries like Israel, Iran and Afghanistan opened at a municipal library in the Montreal borough of Côte Saint-Luc, which has a large Jewish population. A library patron complained that several of the photos depict scenes of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising in Israel, and of Palestinian refugee camps. Gallery officials decided to remove five images. Kazemi's son Stephan Hachemi told Radio-Canada Monday that dismantling the exhibition shows a lack of respect. "To me, this is truly a violation of the spirit of my mother's work," he said. Hachemi gave the borough an ultimatum – either display all the photos or none of them – so organizers have closed the exhibit. Côte Saint-Luc Mayor Robert Libman told CBC News Tuesday that the library's gallery isn't there to provoke controversy. "It's a very complicated conflict, and to create an impression where the Palestinian cause is being martyred by oppression by the Israeli government, we don't consider that to be a fair portrait," Libman said. He added that, in the future, such politically charged work won't be displayed at the library. The borough council had commissioned the exhibition to draw attention to the ongoing fight to find out what happened to Kazemi, who died in Tehran on July 11, 2003. At the time, the Montreal-based photographer was in the custody of local police, who had arrested her for shooting pictures of a student demonstration outside an Iranian prison.[+]06/07/05_SUBJECT: Re: **Kazemi exhibit censored**_FROM: Jayce Salloum_This is really pathetic, is there any email addresses or phone numbers to write in response to this exhibition being cancelled?[+]06/08/05_FROM: Rawi Hage_TO: Undisclosed recipients_Dear friends, activist, artists and people of concern,_I urge you to write the below officials and voice your protest against such a blunt attack on freedom of expression and marginal voices. I believe we been bullied enough, censored enough and intimidated enough. Everyone has a right to show their own suffering. Enough with the monopoly on suffering._I urge you to write even one small sentence concerning the Kazemi matter. I also suggest that a demonstration should be held in front of the CSL library with the photographs in questions held up high in our hands. Just a reminder that the CSL library belongs to all Canadians not just the few._PS Send your protests to: Mayor Libman: rlibman@ville.montreal.qc.ca_CSL Library: contact@eleanorlondonlibrary.org[+]06/08/05_FROM: Gita Hashemi_TO: Undisclosed recipients_SUBJECT: Library removes photos_Once again, another case of censorship. I urge you to write protest letters, however short they may be, to: Mayor Libman: rlibman@ville.montreal.qc.ca_CSL Library: contact@eleanorlondonlibrary.org[+]

Action: From

To Robert Libman and/or Elenor London Library. [+]06/08/05_FROM: Rebecca Garrett_SUBJECT: **Censored Exhibition**_It was with shock and dismay that I read the CBC account of the censoring of Zahra Kazemi's exhibition._It is my understanding that the constitution of Canada guarantees the right of speech and representation for all, and seeks to ensure equity in our civic spaces and public institutions. There is nothing in the constitution that says that this space of respectful dialogue should only exist if everyone has the same opinions about any particular issue. On the contrary, the whole point is to maintain a space where differing viewpoints can be spoken, viewed, discussed. This is a fundamental right, as well as the challenge and the privilege of life in a democracy._If the CBC story is indeed accurate, then what is at stake is not just the censoring of one photographic exhibition. What is at stake is the trust that we Canadians place in our public institutions. I believe that your actions constitute a misuse of public resources, and cannot help but contribute to an erosion of trust in our shared public values._Please tell me there has been some mistake in the reporting of this situation.[+]06/08/05_FROM: Rawi Hage_SUBJECT: **Censorship: Côte St-Luc library!**_I am appalled at your decision to censor the work of Kazemi. Yet we witness another bureaucratic bullying, discriminatory action aimed at art and freedom of expression. Might I remind you that Arabs and Palestinians in this country also contribute with their taxes to maintain those libraries. Libraries are and should always be an open forum for all communities. They do not belong to a single community. There are photos of Israeli soldiers carrying weapons in the Kazemi show, why was the objection only directed at the Palestinians' showing? Why the double standard, the biased representations, the fear and effacement of the "other"? These subjects were obviously the artist's initial choices to photograph, and they ought to be shown and respected. Enough with the cultural hegemony, censorship, racist exclusions. I am certain that there are books in your library's content that are as "controversial" and "menacing" as Kazemi's images. Where and when will it stop, your censorships, your fears and ignorance that is?[+]06/08/05_FROM: Jayce

Salloum_SUBJECT: To Côte St Luc Mayor Robert Libman_Dear Mayor Libman,_Your actions to close the exhibition of Zahra Kazemi are ill-founded, baseless, cowardly, and ignorant. You seek to deny the 'truth', to censor views you don't agree with and basically to run under a table and hide. Grow up and get a back-bone.[+]06/08/05_FROM: Mary Ellen Davis_SUBJECT: **Censorship: Côte St. Luc Library**_The Jewish people do not privately own the notion of suffering. Many other people have experienced the tragedy of genocide, ethnic cleansing, occupation, racism, dispossession. Among them the Palestinians today, who have been inflicted the strange destiny of becoming the Victims of Victims!_Please open your mind to the suffering of the other._If necessary, read Haaretz journalists Gideon Levy, Amira Hass, Akiva Eldar, Meron Rappoport. And the reports of Israeli anti-occupation organizations such as Btselem, Gush Shalom, MachSom Watch, Rabbis for Human rights, Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, Physicians for Human rights (Israel), etc._Do not censor Kazemi's exhibition.[+]06/09/05_FROM: Fredda Guttman_SUBJECT: **Kazemi exhibit at Côte St-Luc library**_Mr. Libman,_Your act of censorship of the Kazemi exhibition is a part of a pattern in North America of the denial of what is a fact – that Israel daily commits war crimes, illegally occupies land that does not belong to it, and has carried on a regime of cruelty, repression, dispossession and murder under which Palestinians are forced to live. People who speak out against these crimes and the violations of the human rights of Palestinians, are systematically labeled as anti-Semitic or if Jewish, self-hating Jews. It is very similar to the zealotry with which people were persecuted in the days of Senator McCarthy._But rest assured, the truth has a way of seeping out, despite all the attempts to suppress it. History has proved this. In the future people will say, "How could you have allowed this to go on when you knew it was happening?" How will you answer them? Jews who uncritically accept Israel's actions, no matter how criminal, do Israel and indeed all Jews a great wrong. The future will prove this too._You have shamed the Jewish people, the people of Côte St-Luc, the people of Montreal and Canada._It would take a great act of courage on your part to reverse your terribly wrong decision. I hope you do._I would like to add the most shameful thing to the list of wrongs you have done, which is that you have dishonoured the name of Zahra Kazemi, a woman who gave her life for her cause, the human rights of all peoples.[+]06/09/05_FROM: Mireille Astore_SUBJECT: A concerned librarian_Dear Sir/Madame_It has come to my attention that you have shut down an exhibition by the Canadian-Iranian photographer Zahra Kazemi. As a librarian I am puzzled by your action since librarianship is a profession that encourages the widespread of knowledge no matter how uncomfortable it seems at the time. The fact of the matter is that this exhibition is one of the many ways the general public can come to grips with the violence that exists, whether we like it or not, and an avenue for the expression of their silent concerns. It is a way to further knowledge and to enlighten. I am saddened by this act as it demonstrates to me also how out of step your library is with the worldwide and Israeli view of the Palestinian question. As a librarian I urge you to reconsider your action and to allow the exhibition to open. I am attaching below an article from the Israeli newspaper Haaretz which might help you in your decision._ARTICLE TRUNCATED[+]06/09/05_FROM: Gita Hashemi:_SUBJECT: Zahra Kazemi's photos_I am writing to voice my strong objection to your recent action of removing Ms. Zahra Kazemi's photography exhibit from the library._Given the documentary nature of Ms. Kazemi's work and that your decision was based on the inclusion of photographs from Israel, I find your action inexcusable and nothing short of censorship. If her photographs from Afghanistan and Iran are "admissible" by your standards, then why are the ones from Israel problematic?_By your action you have clearly manifested your lack of moral courage and your inability to create in your library a space for gaining knowledge and learning the truth. I find it appalling that while the government of Canada has taken official steps to uncover the truth about Ms Kazemi's murder in Iran for nothing more than taking pictures outside a prison, her photographs exposing the prison-like conditions for millions of Palestinians and the atrocities of Israeli occupiers are being subject to censorship in her Canadian home. Is this the democracy you preach to the rest of the world?!_As an Iranian-Canadian, an artist and a university teacher I demand your immediate apology to Ms. Kazemi's family and, further, the re-mounting of the original collection of photographs that were on display in your library.[+]06/09/05_FROM: Michael Neumann_SUBJECT: Re the exhibition supporting Madame Kazemi_As a Jew whose family was decimated by the Nazis I am outraged that you should purge an exhibit of photographs which puts Israel in an unfavorable light. My parents did not escape Hitler and fight the Nazis so that a state which brings disgrace on the Jewish people might be defended through censorship of the arts._On numerous occasions respected international agencies have found Israel guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Given these judgments, I would say that to compare Israel to other states that violate human rights expresses an objective, not a biased point of view.[+]06/09/05_FROM: Stuart Brown_SUB-



tive in this community. We received **complaints** from numerous residents and tried to reason with her **son** to understand some of the **sensitivity** of a few of the photos. **He was unwilling to discuss** striking a **compromise**, even though the **removal** of a few of the photos **would not undermine the essence** of the exhibition. **Hopefully you could understand this very difficult and unfortunate decision.** [+]06/08/05_TO: Jayce Salloum_Dear Jayce_Thank you for your kind words. **Unfortunately, you are unaware** of some of the circumstances surrounding what happened. We solicited the exhibition in order to support Madame Kazemi's **son's** quest for justice. **We were unaware** however that the exhibition, once organized with the accompanying text, sought to portray the **State of Israel** as an oppressive **regime**. Whether you agree or not, **Israel is a democratic country** and the exhibition clearly equates and compares **Israel** to the **Taliban regime** in Afghanistan and the **Mullahs in Iran**. That is an **unbalanced and offensive portrait of Israel** and extremely **sensitive** in our community. We received **complaints** from numerous residents and tried to reason with her **son** to understand some of the **sensitivity** of a few of the photos. **He was unwilling to discuss** striking a **compromise**, even though the **removal** of a few of the photos **would not undermine the essence** of the exhibition. **Hopefully you could understand this very difficult and unfortunate decision.** [+]06/9/2005_TO: Stuart Brown_Dear Stuart_Unfortunately, you are unaware of some of the circumstances surrounding what happened. We solicited the exhibition in order to support Madame Kazemi's **son's** quest for justice. **We were unaware** however that the exhibition, once organized with the accompanying text, sought to portray the **State of Israel** as an oppressive **regime**. **Israel is a modern, democratic country** and the exhibition clearly equates and compares **Israel** to the **Taliban regime** in Afghanistan and the **Mullahs in Iran**. That is an **unbalanced and offensive portrait of Israel** and extremely **sensitive** in this community. **We were hoodwinked** by her **son** whom we wanted to support. **His** refusal to give details about the content of the exhibition in advance exposes that he wanted to promote a secondary **agenda**, the demonization of **Israel**. We received **complaints** from numerous residents and tried to reason with her **son** to understand some of the **sensitivity** of a few of the photos. **He was unwilling to discuss** striking a **compromise**, even though the **removal** of a few of the photos **would not undermine the essence** of the exhibition. **Hopefully you could understand this very difficult and unfortunate decision.** [+]06/09/05_TO: Freda Guttman_Hello_Your remarks are **bizarre, as usual**. We sought to support her family's fight for justice. **We were hoodwinked** by another **hidden agenda**, part of an exhibition that falsely portrays **Israel**. **Israel is under attack** by its neighbors. **Defending herself** against aggressors is her right. [+]06/10/05_TO: Gita Hashemi_Dear Gita;_Equating the **modern, democratic State of Israel** with the **Taliban of Afghanistan** or the **Mullahs in Iran** is offensive, inaccurate and political **propaganda**. **This was not our intention** when we sought to display Madame Khazemi's work. [+]06/10/05_FROM: Anthony Housefather_TO: Mireille Astore_Thank you very much for the email which you sent to the Eleanor London Library. I have asked staff to forward me all emails so I can respond directly. I **fully understand your concerns** based on what the media has reported. However there is **quite a bit more to the story** than perhaps you have heard to date and therefore I attach an op-ed piece that more fully sets out what occurred in regard to the Kazemi Exhibit. I **remain hopeful** that we will be able to come to **some arrangement** with Stephen Hashemi to remount the exhibit absent the text that **he** insisted be inserted together with **his** mother's work. ARTICLE TRUNCATED [+]06/10/05_FROM: Dida Berku_TO: Mireille Astore_I **understand your concern, unfortunately** there was a **breakdown in communication**. I am sending you my personal comments. At this point, Mr. Hashemi has taken back **his** mother's photos and we will not have any exhibition in the near future. However we **may be able to do so at a later date**. I have come to realise that while yes we did in fact **err in tampering** with the exhibit we also challenged a mindset which is very seldom questioned. A perspective which sees the suffering of the Palestinians as the sole fault of the Israelis. A view of the world that equates the **State of Israel, a democratic state with protected rights and freedoms** with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the **thuggery** of the **Taliban** in Afghanistan. Of course **we erred** in not previewing the exhibit and from a very cursory list of titles our staff could have known the subject and powerful impact of the photos. What was not divulged prior to the mounting of the exhibit was the narrative which would equate and place Israel on a footing with these oppressive regimes. And yes perhaps this is not so much the **personal agenda** of Mr. Hashemi but rather the **pervasive mindset** which has become the **common currency** in the world today. Due to the **unfortunate** course of events which saw us mount an exhibit in a library which is never used as a political venue, we have been drawn into an exhibition which promotes the view of **Israel** as the only one responsible for the refugee problem and the violence and suffering in the Palestinian territories. **This is not a view we would have consented to portray in our library**. In order to **avoid a controversy in our local com-**

munity we created a **controversy** in the wider community. [+]06/10/05_FROM: Anthony Housefather_TO: Mireille Astore_Dear Ms. Astore, thank you for taking the time to write to us and spend as much time as you did outlining your position. Two small comments. Just because someone has greatly suffered as Mr. Hashemi has, does not make him a **reasonable person** to deal with, I have great compassion for what he has gone through and greatly support the effort to force Iran to bring his mother's killers to justice. That does not translate into a requirement to allow **him** to do anything **he** wants. Secondly, **we remain hopeful** that he will agree to **reasonably discuss the matter** and find a **proper accommodation** so that **his** mother's photos are exhibited without the inflammatory text he submitted. [+]06/13/05_TO: Magdolna Gombos_Dear Magdolna;_You need to review your history if you believe that the Israeli government can be equated with the **Taliban** of Afghanistan or **Mullahs in Iran**. **Israel struggles to protect itself** against **suicide bombers** every day. Do you condone the actions of these **suicide bombers** whose sole purpose is to blow up innocent people? [+]06/14/05_TO: Jamelie Hassan_Dear Jamelie;_I **fully understand your concerns** based on what the media has reported. However **there is quite a bit more to the story** than perhaps you have heard to date and therefore I attach an op-ed piece that more fully sets out what occurred in regard to the Kazemi Exhibit. I **remain hopeful** that we will be able to come to some arrangement with Stephen Hashemi to **properly** pay homage and support **his** mother's **work**. ARTICLE TRUNCATED [+]06/14/05_TO: Jamelie Hassan_Dear Jamelie_There is **no doubt** that we had a **very difficult decision** to make. The bottom line however, was that our small exhibition space, next to our children's library was never meant to be the forum for a political **propaganda** war, regardless of which side of the debate one favors. Images depicting the horror on the faces of Israelis after a bus explosion would never be put up there either. It was **inappropriate** to leave the exhibition there in its entirety, and regardless of **our best initial intentions, we had no choice** but to take it down. [+]06/14/05_TO: Maire Noonan_Dear Maire;_I **fully understand your concerns** based on what the media has reported. However **there is quite a bit more to the story** than perhaps you have heard to date and therefore I attach an op-ed piece that more fully sets out what occurred in regard to the Kazemi Exhibit. I **remain hopeful** that we will be able to come to some arrangement with Stephen Hashemi to **properly** pay homage and support his mother's work. Let me also mention that you are somewhat unfamiliar with the Charter guarantees for freedom of expression. **Free speech** is not absolute if it **goes beyond reasonable limits** in a free and democratic society. This is explicitly recognized in Article 1 of the Charter. The **removal** of part of the exhibit **does not contravene free speech** as the exhibition, with its accompanying text incites hatred. [+]06/17/05_TO: Rahat Kurd_Dear Rahat;_Unfortunately, you are unaware of some of the circumstances surrounding what happened. We solicited the exhibition in order to support Madame Kazemi's **son's** quest for justice. **We were unaware** however that the exhibition, once organized with the accompanying text, sought to portray the **State of Israel** as an oppressive regime. **Israel is a modern, democratic country** and the exhibition clearly equates and compares **Israel** to the **Taliban regime** in Afghanistan and the **Mullahs in Iran**. That is an **unbalanced and offensive portrait of Israel** and extremely **sensitive** in this community. **We were hoodwinked** by her **son** whom we wanted to support. His refusal to give details about the content of the exhibition in advance exposes that he wanted to promote a secondary **agenda**, the **demonization** of **Israel**. We received **complaints** from numerous residents and **tried to reason** with her **son** to understand some of the **sensitivity** of a few of the photos. **He was unwilling to discuss** striking a **compromise**, even though the **removal** of a few of the photos **would not undermine** the essence of the exhibition. **Hopefully this will help you understand this very difficult and unfortunate decision.** [+]

Re: Action: Subject

To Robert Libman. [+]06/08/05_FROM: Rawi Hage_SUBJECT: Re: Censorship: Côte St-Luc Library! Sir, **Three million people caged in a wall that can be seen from the moon**, living as second class citizens, with classroom interruptions, **apartheid**, malnutrition, political oppression, and poverty is it not enough to be considered an injustice? Are there hierarchies to injustices? You say democracy? **Israel is a theocratic state (not much different from Iran) in a perpetual denial of its dark existence**. I urge you to get out of Côte St-Luc and **see beyond that other wall of yours** that is veiling your humane vision. Your response is insulting, apologetic and if I may add either **complacent, evil or naive.** [+]06/08/05_FROM: Jayce Salloum_SUBJECT: **Repressing the difficult instead of encouraging debate** Dear Robert_I hope you can understand the **anger** and **frustrations** your actions of **censorship** have created. A **library** is an **open public resource** for learning and studying, not for 'politically cleansing' **views** that you and some of your **public** do not agree with. It is not up to you or the librarians to decide if the Israeli government and policies are worse or better than the Taliban. You should and must defend **freedom of expression** and **freedom of speech**. Why do you cower in the face of any criticism? A **healthy debate** is the basis of a **functioning democracy**. Even in so-called 'democratic' Israel there is more **debate** that you are permit-



ting to take place here in your town. Why don't you take a stand and support the right to **diverse opinions and views**? You could show whatever Zionist propaganda you want in a following exhibition to 'balance' what you find so difficult in the photographs you have **censored**. I plead for you to be strong and encourage **debate**, not act repressively and oppress those **views** you disagree with. The world is becoming more narrow-minded and repressing art and information is another action the narrows it even more. **[+]**06/09/05 **_FROM:** Mary Ellen Davis **_SUBJECT:** Re: your email related to the **Kazemi** exhibit **_To** Anthony Housefather, Dida Berku, Robert Libman **_Concerning** "Your Side of the Story" **_I** wish the children of Palestine would be as well protected as the children of Côte-St-Luc, and not exposed to **views** of heavily-armed, abusive Israeli soldiers all over the West Bank and Gaza, humiliating their families at **checkpoints all day long, all week long, all year long**, except in Hebron where sometimes they have to protect the Palestinian kids from the rock-throwing settler kids. **_And** I wish the children of Palestinian villages did not have to hear frightening **true** stories of their families' sheep, lambs, goats, kid goats poisoned to death by settlers who remain unpunished by your modern, democratic state of Israel (see text below). **_ARTICLE TRUNCATED** **[+]**06/09/05 **_FROM:** Mireille Astore **_SUBJECT:** Re: **Kazemi** exhibit – a very concerned librarian **_Dear** Mr Housefather, Ms Berku, Mr Libman **_Thank** you very much for responding to my email regarding the premature dismounting of Ms **Zahra Kazemi's** courageous exhibition. **_I** have to admit being more alarmed by your justifications and would like to point out the following: **_1-** With regard to Mr Hashemi's attitude I am breathless at the lack of compassion you show for his circumstances. To know that his mother has been horribly tortured and killed for taking photographs and yet continue to uphold **her name, her work and her courage** while risking his own safety has driven me here in Australia to honour his courage and strength by asking you to reconsider remounting the exhibition. I expect any decent human being who has suffered in the mildest of forms to be understanding of the incredible amount of strength it takes to keep functioning let alone to place yourself in situations that remind you of the horror your mother has endured in the name of **freedom – a virtue much admired in Canada, I hear**. As an ex-library manager, I have had to endure in the name of politeness patrons' aggressive behaviour over some **library** fines so you can understand my impatience in this regard. **_2-** As an ex-library manager who has worked in **libraries** in Australia and France I am appalled by the need to remind The Côte Saint-Luc/Hamstead/Montréal West Council and **Library** of the fact that when the **Library** Manager is absent, the delegated staff acting in her position is fully **responsible** for the decisions taken during her absence. In Australia and France, it is common practice for the Manager to uphold these decisions upon her return firstly as a form of **respect** for the staff member the **Library** Manager has chosen to delegate this role to, and secondly to avoid mishandling of tax payers' money upon her return by having to correct alleged misinformation such as in this case. My **library** colleagues here referred to this justification as poor management skills. **_3-** As a parent of two young children, I am fully aware of the **violence** that appears around them even in the most benign cartoon shows aimed for them. If some parents wish to over-react and are concerned by what they saw in **Kazemi's** photographs this could be remedied with a sign alerting hypersensitive parents of the content of the exhibition at the entrance of the **library** with a sign. **_4-** Text accompanying exhibitions is a common practice in Australia and in overseas museums and galleries I visited. It promotes accessibility for those who are not able to understand the meaning of photographs and artworks. Explanations through text, particularly by those who worked closely with the photographer is a generous act that should be acknowledged as such. Further, **all**, and I stress **all**, **exhibitions carry** with them a **message** whether stated or not, to claim **ignorance** of such a fact after the exhibition is mounted demonstrates naivety of the first order. Again, if the **library** sees a conflict expressed in the exhibition, a sign to the effect "The **views** expressed in this exhibition are not necessarily those held by the x, y, z" at the entrance should be sufficient. A **library should not under any circumstances censor access to knowledge**. Any **library** that does is not worthy of its name. **_Again**, I hope you are able to remount the exhibition, honour Ms **Zahra Kazemi's** memory in her fight for universal **freedom** and show Mr Stephen Hashemi the highest form of **respect** he deserves for enduring the following **_ARTICLE TRUNCATED** **[+]**06/09/05 **_FROM:** Charlotte Kates **_SUBJECT:** Re.: **Zahra Kazemi** **_Dear** Mayor Libman, **_In reality**, for the nearly six million **Palestinian refugees denied their right to return** home after being forced from their land simply for being Palestinians in their homeland, for the three million **Palestinians suffering under military occupation** in the West Bank and Gaza, and for the over one million **Palestinians inside the Israeli state suffering from continued dispossession and institutional discrimination and oppression**, Israel is neither a modern nor a democratic state. **Racist, apartheid states will be criticized** and when their behavior and the protests against it are memorialized in words and images, the **reality** of those states will come to light – and those who are offended and find the subject sensitive might best direct their efforts to attempting to ensure that this state is no longer racist and undemocratic, thus removing the need to expose the **reality** of the Israeli state. **_It** appears to me that Ms. **Kazemi** – and her

son – had a strong belief in opposing oppression wherever it takes place without confining that criticism to "acceptable" subjects. And any "compromise" that pretends that one oppressive state is "democratic" while another's crimes should be **open to public view is no compromise** at all, **it is censorship**. **[+]**06/14/05 **_FROM:** Jamelie Hassan **_SUBJECT:** Re: **Censorship: Côte St-Luc library** **_Dear** Mayor Libman **_After** reading your "Our Side of the Story" by Dida Berku, Anthony Housefather and Robert Libman, I still maintain my unconditional support of Stephan Hashemi in this situation and know from my own extensive experience of presenting **art work in public spaces** – including **public libraries in Canada** as well as the UNESCO project – Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt, that the **library space** has a **responsibility** to be engaged in the issues of our time. **_It** is a very sad situation that you think children in **Canada** should be protected from "images" of the world where children are the victims of **violence** and states of war. I hope that the **library** will learn from this and not close the door, as stated, on controversial issues. **[+]**06/14/05 **_FROM:** Magdolna Gombos **_SUBJECT:** Re: **Protesting an Appalling Decision** **_Sir**, **It would be helpful in any correspondence to read what the other party writes before making a reply. Otherwise one runs the risk of being irrelevant**. **_PS:** Please refrain from using my first name to address me. I only included it to be **open and honest** not to be patronized. **[+]**

PostScript

[+]06/09/05 **_FROM:** Freda Guttman **_TO:** Gita Hashemi **_SUBJECT:** **Libman** response to me **_These** are Libman's answers to me. The accusation of "hoodwinking" is familiar to me – he accused Rawi and I of "hoodwinking" the city of Montreal and the MAI into sponsoring an anti-Israeli exhibit – **Artists Against the Occupation**. We sure hoodwinked them – they were so dumb, maybe they thought we meant the title referred to the Palestinian occupation of Israel! **Libman** also asked the Canada Council to rescind our grant. **[+]**06/09/05 **_FROM:** Mireille Astore **_TO:** Rawi Hage **_SUBJECT:** Your letter to **Libman** **_It** sounds as if **he agreed to have the show in the first place to actually promote Zionism via the anti-Islamic photos of Kazemi**. **[+]**06/11/05 **_FROM:** Freda Guttman **_TO:** Gita Hashemi **_SUBJECT:** Re: **Libman** responds to me **_Did** you hear on the news about our political theatre in front of the library? We 'decontaminated' the library of all 'subversive' books – the Saids, Chomskies, those on Human Rights, etc. These people believe in human rights for everyone except Palestinians who in their minds are not even human! The Jewish Alliance Against the Occupation, a group that started up shortly after the 2nd Intifada began, did the action. **[+]**06/14/05 **_FROM:** Gita Hashemi **_TO:** Multiple recipients **_SUBJECT:** Piece on **Kazemi** exhibit for Fuse **_I'm** putting together a short piece as artist project for Fuse about the **Kazemi** exhibit. More specifically, I want to highlight the exchanges with the surprisingly responsive **Mayor Robert Libman** whose exceedingly prompt **replies have been most illuminating about politics, public spaces, exercise of power and censorship in Canada**. At the moment my thought is to frame the piece as a spontaneously collective response while maintaining the individual identities and voices. **_Please** forward to me your e-mail exchanges with **Libman** if you'd like to take part in this. **_Forward** this to anybody else you know who's had an exchange with **Libman** specifically about the **Kazemi** exhibit. **_All** suggestions and ideas are welcome. **[+]**06/15/05 **_FROM:** Jamelie Hassan **_TO:** Gita Hashemi **_SUBJECT:** **Censorship: Côte St-Luc library** **_Check** out G&M for excellent article in today's paper – Naomi Klein & Aaron Maté on **Kazemi** photos **censorship** with photos published. **[+]**06/15/05 **_FROM:** Rawi Hage **_We** have just been made aware that the Globe and Mail edited Klein and Maté's article on **Kazemi** and the **censorship** of her photographs at the Côte St Luc library, including the **omission of references to CanWest**. **[+]**06/15/05 **_From** the uncensored article by Klein and Maté: **(added by Globe and Mail)** Criticizing a community library may seem like an extreme measure, but The decision to take down photographs thought to be "too sympathetic" to the Palestinian cause is also part of a disturbing pattern to silence opposition to the **expansionist** Israeli occupation of the **Occupied Territories** **(replaced by Globe and Mail)** Gaza and the West Bank now in its 38th year. **Two summers ago, CanWest Global, Canada's largest media conglomerate, went so far as to produce a heavily-promoted full-length documentary that compared pro-Palestinian students at Montreal's Concordia University to Nazis. In September, the company's newspaper chain was admonished by the Reuters news agency for running its stories with ideological alterations to the original text.** And rarely in the media do we hear the many anti-occupation voices that challenge the **delusional consensus** **(replaced by Globe and Mail)** delusion that Palestinians are to blame for their own misery. **[+]**07/07/05 **_FROM:** Gita Hashemi **_Is** it true that Libman was the former head of B'nai B'rith? **[+]**07/07/05 **_TO:** Gita Hashemi **_Mr Libman was indeed Executive Director of B'nai B'rith from 1995 to the end of 2001.** Bon courage. Wassalaam. **[+]**

Concept, sampling and remix: OpinionWare <http://opinionware.net> **[+]** Design: Daniel Ellis

ing + 1 Acts of