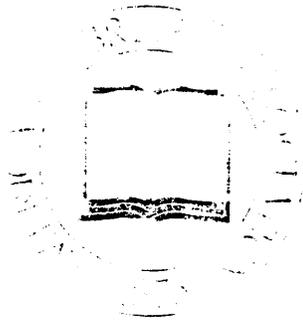


AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



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RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI CENSORSHIP

- WHEREAS, ALA in its Policy #57.3 states that "Threats to the freedom of expression of any person become threats to the freedom of all; therefore ALA adopts as policy the principles of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations' General Assembly. The association will address the grievances of foreign nationals where the infringement of their rights of free expression is clearly a matter in which all free people should show concern," and;**
- WHEREAS, ALA reaffirmed its commitment of Article 19 in 1991 by quoting it in Policy #57.4: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers," and;**
- WHEREAS, ALA has over many years voiced its criticisms of various countries for practicing censorship and other endangerments to intellectual freedom, in the hope that these countries would stop these practices in response to international concern, and;**
- WHEREAS, The Article 19 International Center on Censorship's 1991 World Report on Information, Freedom and Censorship (co-published by ALA) documents the following forms of censorship by the Israeli government in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza: banning publications and books, harassing, imprisoning and deporting journalists; closing universities, research institutions (and libraries); censoring telecommunications, etc., and;**
- WHEREAS, Israel considers itself to be a democracy established with the express purpose of creating a safe haven for the Jewish people, and;**
- WHEREAS, Israel has enjoyed a special relationship with the United States as the recipient of the largest amounts of annual U.S. aid per capita, and;**
- WHEREAS, That special relationship and annual aid helps offset the costs of the 25-year Israeli military occupation, making the U.S. a party to these censorship practices and other violations of human rights, and;**
- WHEREAS, The tight censorship in the Occupied Territories serves to stifle dialogue and nonviolent expression which are preconditions for a just and peaceful solution of the Palestine-Israel conflict, and has led to serious forms of censorship in Israel itself; now, therefore, be it**

RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI CENSORSHIP/2

RESOLVED, That the ALA calls upon the government of Israel to end all censorship and human rights violations in the Occupied West Bank and Gaza, and in Israel itself; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the ALA encourages representatives of the Israeli and Palestinian people in the quest for a peaceful and just solution of their conflict; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That ALA encourages its members to develop ways to support librarians, journalists, educators and others working for peace, human rights and freedom of information and expression in the Middle East and that the International Relations Committee (IRC) be asked to develop strategies towards these ends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Israeli government, U.S. State Department, the United Nations, the Article 19 organization, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).



**ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA)
July 1, 1992**

Peggy Sullivan
**Peggy Sullivan
Secretary to ALA Council**

Council then

VOTED, That the American Library Association protests the deportation of Omar al-Safi from his homeland. Al-Safi, a librarian at Bir Zeit University in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, is being subjected to an "administrative deportation," under which the Israeli military authorities are not required to present any evidence or afford the accused the right to a trial. We note that such deportations are strictly prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 by a foreign occupier. We call on the Israeli Supreme Court and the Israeli Attorney General to stop or reverse all deportation proceedings against our colleague, and to either release him from "administrative detention" or afford him the right to a formal trial with the public presentation of any evidence against him.

RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI CENSORSHIP (CD# 60). The Council granted Al Kagan, Member-at-Large, SRRT Action Council, an opportunity to speak on behalf of the resolution. Kagan said that the SRRT supported the resolution and felt that it was factual. He said that SRRT also thought the resolution was very important because Israel gets more money per capita from the United States in aid than any other country in the world, and, therefore, the U.S. could have some effect upon the struggle for human rights and upon censorship in Israel.

Beverly Lynch, Councilor and International Relations Committee Chair, moved that Council reaffirm last year's Resolution on Censorship in the Middle East including Library Closures (1990-91 CD#43.3) and substitute that action for the proposed CD#60. After several Councilors spoke in opposition to the reaffirmation, the motion was defeated. The Council then returned to the original motion, and

VOTED, That the ALA calls upon the government of Israel to end all censorship and human rights violations in the Occupied West Bank and Gaza, and in Israel itself; and, that the ALA encourages representatives of the Israeli and Palestinian people in the quest for a peaceful and just solution of their conflict; and that ALA encourages its members to develop ways to support librarians, journalists, educators and others working for peace, human rights and

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Annual Conference
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freedom of information and expression in the Middle East and that the International Relations Committee (IRC) be asked to develop strategies towards these ends; and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Israeli government, U.S. State Department, the United Nations, the Article 19 organization, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

RESOLUTION ON GAY AND LESBIAN MATERIALS (CD#61). Council then

VOTED, That the American Library Association condemns any attempts to censor or exclude any viewpoint on homosexuality from libraries; and, that the American Library Association urges the Oregon Library Association and all librarians to publicly and energetically oppose the implementation of censorship in Springfield, Oregon; the passage of the anti-gay state initiative in Oregon; and any other similar initiatives in other local or state jurisdictions; and, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Springfield, Oregon City Council and Mayor, Public Library and Chamber of Commerce; the Oregon Library Association, the Oregon State Library, OUTPAC (the statewide anti-initiative political action committee), the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the library press, the major gay and lesbian press, and the major news media in Oregon.

MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTIONS. Councilor Norman Horrocks noted that there seemed to be some confusion about the handling of membership resolutions. He read the constitutional section addressing this issue and spoke on the current practice which requires that only membership resolutions with policy implications must come to Council. He recommended that the issue of how membership resolutions come to Council be reviewed by the newly established committee outlined in CD#41.

On motion by Councilor Horrocks and Treasurer Carla Stoffle, Council

VOTED, That the newly established committee in CD#41 review the handling of membership resolutions by Council.

ALA MEMBERSHIP MEETING II
Wednesday, July 1, 1992, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon
Moscone Convention Center, Gateway Ballroom

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS (Exhibits 28A-28N). The following Memorials were adopted:

- (M-11) John Donovan**
- (M-12) Eve Merriam, Walt Morey, Alvin Schwartz, and Virginia Sorensen**
- (M-13) Isaac Asimov**
- (M-14) Ronald C. Bohley**

The following Tributes were adopted:

- (T-2) Mary Jo Godwin**
- (T-3) Will Manley**
- (T-4) George Cunningham**
- (T-5) Rebecca T. Bingham upon her retirement**
- (T-6) The Colorado Library Association on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary**
- (T-7) Reverend Jesse Jackson**
- (T-8) Richard M. Dougherty**
- (T-9) Wil J. & Rachael Blechman and Kiwanis International**
- (T-10) Bessie Moore**
- (T-11) Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**

RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI CENSORSHIP (MD#7, Exhibit 26F). On motion by ALA Member David Williams, it was

VOTED, That the ALA calls upon the government of Israel to end all censorship and human rights violations in the Occupied West Bank and Gaza, and *in Israel itself*, and that the ALA encourages representatives of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples in the quest for a peaceful and just solution of their conflict, ~~including an end to the prolonged military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and in Israel itself~~ that ALA encourages its members to develop ways to support ~~Palestinian and Israeli~~ librarians, journalists, educators and other working for peace, human rights and freedom of information and expression, ~~and that ALA establish a Task Force in the Middle East~~ and that the IRC be asked to develop strategies towards these ends, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Israeli government, the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, the Article 19 organization, IFLA, and the PLO.

The resolution was ADOPTED as amended by adding the italicized words and deleting the stricken words above.

TREASURER'S REPORT (MD#2, Exhibit 41). Carla Stoffle, ALA Treasurer, presented the report. Stoffle was thanked for her outstanding contributions to the Association as treasurer for the past four years. Stoffle's terms as treasurer ended at the adjournment of this conference.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REVIEW, INQUIRY AND MEDIATION (SCRIM) (MD#8, Exhibit 42). Suzanne LeBarron, chair, Committee on Organization, reported that at the 1992 Midwinter Meeting, COO was instructed by Council to undertake a review of Standing Committee on Review, Inquiry and Mediation, with a year-long moratorium on any new SCRIM cases. In light of the Council mandate, COO was interested in membership's input on the value of having such a committee and whether the existence of such a committee or process raised members' expectations beyond what the Association could realistically accomplish. She pointed out that during the last budget cycle, SCRIM was not funded based on budgetary and legal liability concerns. She also provided some background information on SCRIM's creation, charge, and activities. Although a 10-minute informal discussion period was agreed upon, the only comment made was to "scrub SCRIM."