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OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting - 2013

INTERVENTION

Session 8

Freedom of Assembly and Association

Each time Act! For Canada or my colleagues at the [Jewish Defense League](#) attempt to bring a speaker into Canada - who the National Council of Canadian Muslims – formerly known as CAIR-CANADA - disapproves of, they start a campaign of harassment and intimidation. They accuse us of being racist, bigots, hate preachers and Islamophobes and then proceed to try and close down the venue.

CAIR-CAN disapproved of my British speaker in February and tried to pressure the Ottawa public library to [cancel the event](#), calling on Ottawa Muslims for Sharia based restrictions on Freedom of Speech. They failed.

Recently, when CAIR-CAN didn't like the 2 American speakers the JDL invited, they made the libelous contention that the JDL is a "right-wing terrorist group" – an inaccuracy first perpetrated in a CBC news report and since retracted. They again attacked the host of the

event, Hilton Hotels and [threatened](#) them saying that the 1.5 billion Muslims around the world would boycott them!

This threat was outrageous on many levels. Most obviously, it is disturbing that an organization like them believes it can and could intimidate the manager of a major hotel into compliance with Sharia law forbidding criticism of Islam.

We recommend that Canada, as a participating state of the OSCE, continues to stand firmly with its commitments to upholding freedom of assembly and association.

Thank you so much.