



Enhancing Student Life

To: David Heap, Derrick O'Keefe and Irene MacInnes
Canadian Boat to Gaza

3 December 2010

I write in response to your letter of December 3, 2010.

I respectfully disagree with your claim that the motion passed by the Executive Committee of the AMS on December 2, 2010 was defamatory of the Canadian Boat to Gaza. That specific project is not mentioned in the text of the motion, nor are any of the individuals that are members of the Canada Boat to Gaza Working Group. The AMS certainly did not intend to suggest that the Working Group is linked to or financing terrorism; and I am confident that the wording of the motion does not make any connection between terrorism and the members of the Working Group.

The background to the motion was as follows. When the donation from AMS funds to a flotilla to Gaza was first suggested by the Social Justice Centre, a number of students on campus raised the concern that, if it made such a donation, the AMS might be infringing Canadian law against assisting terrorist organizations. It was suggested that in some circumstances, depending on how the donation was handled, it might end up in the hands of Hamas which, I understand, the Canadian Government has classified as a terrorist organization. The AMS was concerned about this, as it should be, and sought advice. We were advised that assisting such an organization could involve the AMS in a breach of Canadian law, so we should take steps to satisfy ourselves that the donation would not be made to a group that was linked to terrorist activity. To ensure transparency and accountability for this decision, the AMS Council passed the resolution that led to the motion of the Executive Committee to which you object. The governing body of the AMS is carrying out its duty to all its members.

I trust you will understand the AMS's point of view in this situation.

Bijan Ahmadian
AMS President

CC: AMS Council