

April 18, 2008

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Joy Kogawa,
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SERIOUSLY FREE SPEECH COMMITTEE

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Canwest Trying To Bully Briemberg

Dear Friends:

In December 2007 Canwest launched an unprecedented civil lawsuit against a prominent solidarity activist. In this direct attack on freedom of expression, Mordecai Briemberg is named as a 'Defendant' along with 6 anonymous persons.

In June 2007, marking the 40th anniversary of the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, an anonymous group produced a parody edition of Canwest's Vancouver Sun. Canwest is pursuing this legal action despite their written admission that they have no documentation connecting Briemberg with the production of the parody. His only connection was to pick up some copies at a public meeting and hand them out.

In 2003, Izzy Asper, Canwest's founder said "In all of our newspapers...we have a very pro-Israeli position...we are the strongest supporter of Israel in Canada." As a result, Canwest Global, the largest media corporation in Canada, consistently engages in biased reporting on the Middle East. Canwest's actions are an attempt to bully and silence criticism of Israeli government policies.

This constitutes a SLAPP suit – Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation – a legal technique used by the rich and powerful to bully critics and shut down public discussion by threatening dissidents with huge legal costs and broad prohibitions against speaking out. Canwest's campaign is a significant attack on the right of free speech! If they can bully Mordecai Briemberg they can bully you!

The **Seriously Free Speech Committee** was formed to defend Mordecai Briemberg and to fight for the right of free speech. We do not advocate for any particular analysis of the issues concerning Israel and Palestine, nor a particular resolution of the conflict. We need open and public discussion of these issues so that the Canadian people can reach their own conclusions. We believe in free speech and fair play!

Just weeks old, our campaign is gaining momentum! We need your help to do more!

What you can do to help

- Visit our website – www.seriouslyfreespeech.ca – to read our full leaflet, the writ, and to sign the online petition demanding Canwest drop its groundless lawsuit and stop persecuting Mordecai Briemberg.
- Help get this important information out to friends, family and networks.
- Write to Canwest c/o their lawyer to demand that they drop their lawsuit – address on our website.
- Join the Seriously Free Speech Committee.
- Encourage your organization to adopt resolutions or issue statements critical of Canwest's actions and in support of the SFSC campaign, copied to info@seriouslyfreespeech.ca . For examples please see 'Support' page at www.seriouslyfreespeech.ca .
- Contribute financially to support the campaign and help defray legal costs. Cheques should be made out to '**Seriously Free Speech Committee**' and sent to PO Box 57112, RPO East Hastings St., Vancouver V5K 5G6