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LONDON ASSEMBLY LABOUR



Andrew Dismore AM

Daniel Wilkinson
President
Oxford Union
BY EMAIL

Dear Mr Wilkinson,

Date: 17 January 2019

Re: Invitation to Mahathir Bin Mohamad

I am writing to you to object in the strongest possible terms about the invitation by the Oxford Union to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Mohamad to speak tomorrow evening.

Mr Mohamed has an appalling record of making anti-Semitic statements, and inviting him to speak is an outrage. Freedom of speech to debate different ideas is a very different thing to giving a platform to someone who airs the most appalling slurs and insults towards a religious community. At a time of rising anti-Semitic attacks and heightened tension in the Jewish community, honouring Mr Mohamad with an invitation to speak can only be construed as a slap in the face to Jewish students.

Is it really acceptable in the view of the Oxford Union to say things like there were only 4 million killed in the Holocaust? I thought the purpose of a university was to seek out the truth, not to give a platform for discredited conspiracy theories.

Mr Mohamad has described Jewish people as "hook nosed", that "anti-Semitism was invented to prevent criticism of Jews". He has espoused the anti-Semitic trope that "Jews run the world". He has even banned the seminal film Schindler's List.

Mr Mohamed should be disinvited, and an apology should be issued by the Union.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Dismore AM
Labour London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden