

NOT COMING TO A PUBLIC STATION NEAR YOU

CENSORED BY KQED

Palestine IS STILL THE ISSUE

John Pilger returns to the Middle East and questions why there has been no progress towards peace

KQED's diverse and freethinking programming apparently suffers a blind spot when it comes to Palestine. In spite of thousands of requests by viewers, KQED has censored and will not schedule the award-winning documentary "Palestine Is Still The Issue", by filmmaker, journalist and author John Pilger. Pilger, an Australian, has received numerous awards for his groundbreaking work. This year alone he has been awarded Britain's prestigious EMMA multicultural award and Norway's Sophie Prize for his "integrity, thoroughness and courage...for the protection of the powerless".

Why the censorship?

KQED Executive Vice President John Boland explains KQED must focus on "providing quality journalism that informs and educates from...reliable sources" rather than program "in reaction to one interest group or another". The much acclaimed Pilger film more than meets the "Boland Test", and that many people want to see it weighs even more against censorship.

Rather than contributing to the unfortunate fact that in the United States there is a poorer understanding of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians than in the rest of the world, KQED should strive to provide balanced information so that Arabs and Palestinians are not demonized, facts are not distorted, understanding not undermined and an informed America cannot be manipulated to its and the world's peril – such as being told the invasion of Iraq was the key to peace in Palestine.

As a publicly supported television station KQED's responsibility to the community is to present diverse views that open our minds. It should not succumb to internal or external pressure to censor material that might expose a special interest group's views to the scrutiny of daylight. We urge you to ask KQED through phone calls, emails and letters to end its censorship and fulfill its mission: to be "a vital source for quality programming and thought-provoking information".

SEND THE MESSAGE to KQED Board Chair James Canales (jcanales@irvine.org/415 553-2205), CEO Jeff Clarke (jclarke@kqed.org/415 553-2301) & Executive VP John Boland (jboland@kqed.org/415 553-2820).

SUPPORT "If Americans Knew" outreach programs providing balanced information about the Israel/Palestine conflict by contacting If Americans Knew at 510 655-6384 (www.ifamericansknew.org) or sending a contribution to: If Americans Knew, 3284B Adeline St., Berkeley, CA 94703.

SEARCH AND INFORM yourself at web sites such as guardian.co.uk; jewishvoiceforpeace.org; ifamericansknew.org; common-dreams.org and palestinemonitor.org; mecaforpeace.org; pilger.carlton.com.

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