

# Equal Rights for Israelis and Palestinians ?

Prohibit the Book and Pay 50 000 euros Claims French Antidefamation League LICRA

## Rackett and Antisemitism joining at the French Justice Court

**"Liberté" for Critique, with Real Antiracism !**

(please sign and forward to [plumenclume@yahoo.com](mailto:plumenclume@yahoo.com))

The Parisian publisher *Al Qalam* (*The Quill*, in Arabic) has been taken to court on a complaint by LICRA on a charge of anti-Semitism, for having published Israel Shamir's book *L'autre visage d'Israel* (*The Other Face of Israel*, known in English as *Galilee Flowers*), a translation of essays in defence of equality and democracy for Jews and non-Jews in Palestine/Israel.

The judicial harassment of publishers who have enough courage to publish authors critical of the State of Israel has thus attained a new level, following the case against La Fabrique for having published *L'industrie de l'Holocauste* (*The Holocaust Industry*) by Norman Finkelstein (the case was won against *Avocats sans frontières*). This latest charge is based on a list of sentences taken out of context, in the usual inquisitorial fashion, with the aim of creating an image of the author as a dangerously extremist individual. *Al Qalam's* catalogue is focussed on the culture of the Arab-Muslim world. This prosecution is a part of the process of de-legitimising Arab-Muslim thought, as a part of the hysteria orchestrated by the US and Israel, for their expansionist, hegemonic plans.

The targeted author, Israel Shamir, is an Israeli writer, originally from Russia, whose works had been translated into all the languages of Europe, and who is not the subject of prosecution, neither in his own country, nor in France.

Those who practice judicial harassment under the pretext of combating anti-Semitism, hope that the sort of social corporatism inspired by the Israeli model will gain ground in France, unravel the fabric of republicanism, and involve us in a pseudo-war between civilisations which would only be a new stage in the war between the haves and the have-nots. Nobody is obliged to support the plan for a democratic society, respectful of the beliefs of all its members, as Israel Shamir is arguing for the territory of historic Palestine (i.e. British Mandated Palestine). However, the principle of a democratic society, respectful of the beliefs of all its members, is where the great strength of secular, republican France has lain to date. We deem that the defence of the publishers, *Al Qalam*, comes under the protection of thought of all. We are thus appealing for support to its courageous editor, Mr Cherifi, at the *Librairie du Monde Arabe*, 220 rue Saint Jacques, Paris. We will not let him be ruined by an inquisitorial trial, which would then be followed by redoubled attempts at stifling everyone's freedom of thought.

***We ask the French Ministry of Culture to Support Editions Al Qalam and Protect Freedom of Thought for ALL***

***Forward this message to*** : M. Renaud Donnadiou de Vabres, [ministre@culture.fr](mailto:ministre@culture.fr), M. Eric Gross (Directeur du Livre, tel : 01 40 15 80 00, fax : 01 40 15 74 04, [eric.gross@culture.gouv.fr](mailto:eric.gross@culture.gouv.fr) ), M. Xavier Froment (Directeur de la communication, tel : 01 49 54 68 53, fax : 0149 54 68 54, [xavier.froment@culture.gouv.fr](mailto:xavier.froment@culture.gouv.fr))

I buy, read and make other people read Israel Shamir's essays on [www.israelshamir.net](http://www.israelshamir.net) I forward this call to other persons and send some financial support for the trial expenses to: Editions Al Qalam, IBAN FR 21 3000 2004 9800 0000 6009 M78 BIC CRLYFRPP.

Name  
First name  
Occupation

Works by Israel Shamir available in French:

- *L'autre visage d'Israel - «Fleurs de Galilée»*, ed. Al Qalam, Paris, 2004, pp. 430 pp.
- *Pardes, une étude la Kabbale*, éd. Al Qalam, Paris, 2005, pp. 159 (order it by writing a message to: *Association Entre la Plume et l'Enclume* (<http://www.geocities.com/plumenclume/index.htm>), [plumenclume@yahoo.com](mailto:plumenclume@yahoo.com))

The books of Israel Shamir *Galilee Flowers*, *Our Lady of Sorrow* and the *Pardes* are also available in English from Surge Books, [www.booksurge.com](http://www.booksurge.com)

The *Galilee Flowers* is available also in Norwegian, Italian, Hungarian, German, Swedish, Spanish, Russian etc. See details on [www.israelshamir.net](http://www.israelshamir.net).