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JEWISH COMMUNITY STATEMENT ON MEIER KAHANE

The organized Jewish community of the Bay Area totally and publicly rejects and renounces Meier Kahane as a political figure and a spokesman because of the hard core of bigotry in his message.

Defaming the members of an entire population group, or singling them out for discriminatory and harmful action because of their ancestry is the very heart of the most immoral and evil political acts of this century, the consequences of which are well known to most Jews.

The most fatal mistake some peoples have made in the past century has been to tolerate a politician's bigoted message, with which they may not have agreed, because it was connected to a legitimate concern with which they did agree. The minute percentage of Israeli and American Jews who condone Kahane are making that fatal mistake.

It is a fatal mistake because such group bigotry in word or deed is the ultimate violation of moral law and social order; and it has proved morally and politically self-destructive for those who practice it. Thus it is contradictory to say that for the sake of morality or survival, we will accept any political messenger because of the legitimate concerns which he embraces, when his message also includes group bigotry. We must and can find some other political messengers to bear those legitimate concerns.

It is for that reason that we totally reject and renounce Meier Kahane as a spokesman. It is for that reason that we will continue to reject beforehand any presentations made by Meier Kahane, until he himself acknowledges his fatal mistake and renounces the bigoted program for which he now stands, and which is destructive to both Jewish values and Jewish survival.

We want to make it clear that Meier Kahane's stated philosophy is contrary to the beliefs of the organized Jewish community, and of the vast majority of Jews in this area, in America, and indeed, in Israel.

This rejection of Kahanism reflects not only the positions of all the mainstream Jewish organizations in this country; but also, according to a recent survey, over 9 out of 10 Jews in this country. And it is to be noted also that Kahane received only one per cent of the votes of the Israeli electorate when he ran for office last year.

Kahane usually gets public attention because of his demagoguery, but the public should know how miniscule his support really is.

Kahane's message has been one of extremism, bigotry and violence. Along with the people of Israel, we reject that message whether it comes from Arafat or Kahane. Aside from being self-destructive, it is repugnant to Jewish law, tradition, ethics, morality and the democratic values inherent in both the American Bill of Rights and Israel's Declaration of Independence, which accords freedom and equality of citizenship to all people regardless of race or religion.