

FORM 3 (Rules 6 and 17)

Clergy Discipline Measure 2003

Statement in support of a Complaint, or in support of an Answer to a Complaint

<i>Box for use only by the Registrar of Tribunals</i>	<i>Statement submitted by: Name of maker of statement: Date of statement:</i>
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In the matter of the complaint

*Enter the name of the complainant.
Enter the name of the member of the clergy about whom a complaint is made.*

made by The Board of Deputies of British Jews
against: Rev Dr Stephen Sizer

My full name is: Revd Dr Alex Awad

***Telephone & e-mail details are optional, but it could be helpful to the registrar and bishop to have them.*

The matters in this statement to which I refer are all within my own knowledge, except where I indicate otherwise. If anything is not within my own knowledge then I set out the source of any matters of information and belief:

*You must explain in your statement how you know about each of the matters you describe, **unless** you know about them because you have **personally** seen or observed them.*

My heart ached when reading the false accusations targeting Stephen Sizer. I know from private conversations and from hearing Stephen speak in Bethlehem, in England and in the USA and from reading his books and articles that he has always advocated for peace and justice for all the people who live in Israel and in Palestine.

Certainly Stephen has called for the end of Israeli occupation of Palestinians due to the brutality of that occupation and its harm on both the occupied and the occupier. Had it been the other way around, I know that Stephen would, with the same dedication and energy, called for the end of Palestinian occupation of Israelis.

Those who accuse Stephen of anti-Semitism do harm to the real victims of anti-Semitism. Intelligent people should easily differentiate between criticizing Israel due to acts of brutality against the Palestinian population and unfounded acts of anti-Semitism.

I can sincerely testify from years of interaction with Stephen and his writings that he is not only clear of anti-Semitism but that he also abhors it.

It is my hope and prayer the the Church of England will choose to stand with justice as they study the irrational accusations against Stephen. I call on the Bishop to follow the example of Jesus and His faithful followers through the ages who stood with the truth regardless of the risk and cost.

May God continue to bless, inspire and protect Stephen as he defends the oppressed and as he faces opposition for standing against oppression.

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Alex Awad
Former Pastor: East Jerusalem Baptist Church and former United Methodist missionary to Israel/Palestine

I believe the facts in my statement to be true. I am aware that the contents of this statement may be made public

You must sign and date this statement.

Signed: Alex Awad

Dated: 29 November 2018