



קאנאדער יידישער קאנגרעס ♦ הקונגרס היהודי הקנדי

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS CONGRÈS JUIF CANADIEN

NATIONAL OFFICE/SIEGE SOCIAL
100 SPARKS STREET, SUITE 650
OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1P 5B7
Tel: (613) 233-8703; Fax: (613) 233-8748
Toll-free: 1-888-407-5548
E-mail: canadianjewishcongress@cjcc.ca
Web site: www.cjcc.ca

Sylvain Abitbol
Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka
Co-presidents/Coprésidents

Bernie M. Farber
Chief Executive Officer/Directeur général

Sent via facsimile (613-996-9749)

Regional Offices/Bureaux régionaux

CJC Atlantic Region
5670 Spring Garden Road #508
Halifax, N.S.
B3J 1H6

CJC Quebec Region
1 Cummings Square
Montreal, Quebec
H3W 1M6

CJC Ontario Region
4600 Bathurst Street
Willowdale, Ontario
M2R 3V2

CJC National Capital District
21 Nadolny Sachs Private
Ottawa, Ontario
K2A 1R9

CJC Manitoba Region
123 Doncaster Street #C300
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3N 2B2

CJC Alberta Region
1607 90th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2V 4V7

7200 - 156th Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5R 1X3

CJC Saskatchewan Region
c/o Beth Jacob Synagogue
4715 McTavish Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6H2

c/o Congregation Agudas Israel
715 McKinnon Avenue
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7H 2G2

CJC Pacific Region
1166 Alberni Street #801
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 3Z3

September 26, 2007
14 Tishrei 5768

Hon. Diane Finley, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

On September 10, 2007 your office received a letter from the *Stop Murder Music* coalition, requesting that Citizenship and Immigration Canada deny a Jamaican dancehall artist, known as Elephant Man entry to Canada. This request was based on lyrics he has performed that advocate violence against members of the gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual community.

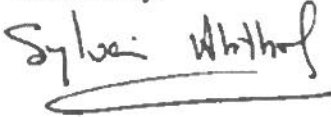
It is our understanding that Elephant Man, along with fellow performer Sizzla, are now in Canada in the midst of a concert tour.

The language that has been attributed to these performers, such as *Queers must be killed! Take them by surprise*, is hateful whether it is spoken or sung. Indeed, the combination of hate speech with music makes the message doubly dangerous: the words are spoken, the tune is hummed and the message and vocabulary are repeated until they become second nature. Such music is generally aimed at a young, often impressionable, audience and unquestionably sends the wrong message for Canadian youth.

Those who protest the proliferation of such language are told that it is "only entertainment" and nothing is meant by it. Minister, hate is hate whether it is sung from the stage or screamed on a street-corner.

We join with the many organizations that have come together to form the *Stop Murder Music* coalition to request that your ministry immediately revoke the visas of these artists and have them removed from Canada. We thank you for your attention to this important matter and look forward to your department taking urgent action to remedy this troubling situation.

Yours truly,



Sylvain Abitbol
Co-President
Canadian Jewish Congress



Rabbi Dr. Reuven Bulka
Co-President
Canadian Jewish Congress