

OUR OWN TOP 10 RACISTS SCUMBAGS!



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LES APATRIDES ANONYMES

WHY A “RACISTS SCUMBAG!” CAMPAIGN?

Apatrides Anonymes has long denounced security laws and paranoid immigration policies which oppress migrants and often separate families and shatter dreams of reconstructing one's life. This is the reason we are launching a campaign to expose the voices and faces of racism in Quebec and Canada. Those who, by their hatred and words, feed prejudice and fear of the other.

Our aim is to decry and denounce people and institutions whose vicious actions, writings and talk ooze with a latent racism that is already far too widespread and that is largely accepted by much of the population.

CANADIAN RACISM IN 2009-2010

Every day, racist individuals and institutions operate around us, helping to divide and exclude us, and to continuously expand the limits of the acceptable. The government creates laws, deports, imprisons, and sends people to torture; police apply racist laws and carry out racial profiling; columnists, effectively channels of communication for this institutionalized violence, stigmatize people and entire communities with complete impunity.

VOTE ONLINE!

The following are our “Top 10 of the very worst” racists, listed in no specific order. We invite you to vote (yep!) on the ranking each of the nominees deserves (#1 being the “very worst”). Vote online at www.apatridesanonymes.info.

STEPHEN HARPER AND THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

If racism were a pathology—which, unfortunately and obviously it isn't; it arises from conscious thought, often systematized—the Prime Minister of Canada and his party would be found to be severely affected. Among the symptoms: security paranoia, expressed as a general tendency to view everyone who is not white or practising Christian as a potential threat; various obsessive and compulsive behaviours towards everyone who is not white or practising Christian; denial of the pathology, either by downplaying it or giving it another name or definition. Briefly reciting a few of the misdeeds of the Conservative Party and its leader, the Playmobil Man: voting against the UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous People (out of 147 countries, only Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand voted against it); introducing a new security certificate regime almost identical to the former one (which was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court), thus perpetuating a racist system of two-tiered justice; stubbornly refusing to repatriate Omar Khadr and Abousfian Abdelrazik; being the first government to cut supplies to the Palestinian Authority (PA) after the election of Hamas; unconditionally supporting the Israeli offensives on the Gaza strip and on Lebanon.



LAWRENCE CANNON

As Minister of Foreign Affairs, he hasn't ceased to astonish us with his unrelentingly stupid decisions, running contrary to our laws, constitution, charters, the advice of his bureaucracy and court judgements. A brief summary: refusal to participate in a UN conference against racism, deliberately blocking Abdelrazik's repatriation, arrogant intransigence in the file of Omar Khadr (who still rots in Guantanamo), indifference to the difficulties of Suaad Hagi Mohamud, unjustly imprisoned in Kenya because her passport photo didn't sufficiently resemble her, etc. These three Canadians were innocent and... Canadian, but the Minister refused to help them out of their difficulties. In contrast, Brenda Martin, a truly white anglo-saxon with a “normal” English name (who had only been convicted of fraud and laundering money in Mexico), had the right to be repatriated on a government-chartered plane.



JASON KENNEY

Kenney recently admitted, “I plead guilty, I'm a racist”, during a visit to McGill University at the end of 2009. As the Minister of Immigration, he is in fact guilty: recent maltreatment of Sri Lankan migrants in British Columbia; refusal to permit George Galloway to enter Canada; arbitrary funding cuts to several organizations, including the Canadian Arab Federation, Alternatives and Kairos; negative changes in the status of migrant workers (while at the same time pushing more applicants into this category); lifting the moratoriums on deportations to Burundi, Rwanda and Liberia; refusal to recognize American war resisters as refugees. He is also the author of several inflammatory remarks, notably on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict (Hezbollah compared to Nazis), and on some people applying for status, whom he describes as profiteers bent on abusing an overly generous system.



“I PLEAD GUILTY, I'M A RACIST.”
— JASON KENNEY

CANADIAN MINISTRY OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS

This ministry, as well as its Minister, Chuck Strahl since August 2007, is charged with applying the Indian Act, a racist, colonial law dating back to 1876 established to “govern” services and programmes for indigenous peoples. The law was aimed at the “promotion of the assimilation of Indians into non-Indian society”. The ministry controls the resources and lands of indigenous peoples, as well as the money accruing from these. This is not only paternalistic, it is theft, and one which has continued for hundreds of years. This same Ministry leaves entire indigenous communities without running water or electricity: conditions worthy of the third world, in a G8 country! Finally, this ministry is also responsible for cultural genocide and racist policies against generations of indigenous children who were kidnapped from their communities and placed in the residential school system, paid for by the government and managed by the church. Denying this history, at the closing of the recent G20 summit in Pittsburgh, Stephen Harper seriously stated, “We [Canada] have no colonial past”!



CANADIAN BORDER SERVICES AGENCY (CBSA)

This government body oversees the integrity and impermiability of our borders. The CBSA cuts indigenous reserves in half, views Arabs as terrorists, frames Latinos as “illegitimate applicants” and doesn’t consider Czechs to be “real tourists”. The agency makes such people languish at customs, interrogates them for hours, and turns them away. The CBSA was recently militarized, carrying out surprise raids on workplaces, arresting and hand-cuffing all “suspect” nationals. The CBSA also handles deportation logistics. In sum, the CBSA is the operational centre of our racist policies.

CSIS AND THE RCMP

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) act as strong arms to enforce the Canadian government’s immigration “insecurity” policies. These two shadowy forces—notorious for their direct role in the criminalization, harassment and profiling of refugees, immigrants and non-status

people—infiltrate immigrant communities and political groups, intervene in the process of selecting refugees, immigrants and visitors, create incriminating and erroneous files on individuals, put pressure on refugees and permanent residents to



spy on their own communities. The RCMP, like CSIS, was reprimanded sternly by Judge O’Connor in 2006 for the role it played in the deportation and torture of Maher Arar; O’Connor also recommended an inquiry into the cases of El-Maati, Nouredine and Al Malki. Finally, it is important to recall the role these agencies have played in the security certificate drama, with irregularities such as secret evidence, information obtained under force or torture, and leaks in the media.

LE SERVICE DE POLICE DE LA VILLE DE MONTRÉAL (SPVM)

The SPVM is a powerful organization, quasi-independent of political and administrative control. In the last 20 years, 40 people—for the most part recent immigrants—have died at its hands: from Anthony Griffin to Fredy Villanueva, Martin Suazo and Mohamed Anas Bennis.

In each of these files, the police officer who committed the murder has either not faced justice at all or has been acquitted. Moreover, the SPVM has developed a policy of systemic discrimination on three levels: social profiling (targetting people living on the street), political profiling (targetting activists) and, obviously, racial profiling. The statistics, derived from the PDQ’s own figures, speak volumes: in 2006-2007, 59% of the arrests in Rivière des Prairies involved Blacks, even though this group made up only 18% of the neighbourhood. On the other side of the island, in Ste Anne de Bellevue, where Blacks represent only 1% of the population, they were the victims of 13% of police interventions. Every complaint against racial profiling brought before the Human Rights Commission has been vigorously contested by the SPVM, with the active support of the City of Montreal.



LA FRATERNITÉ DES POLICIERS ET DES POLICIÈRES DE MONTRÉAL (FPPM)

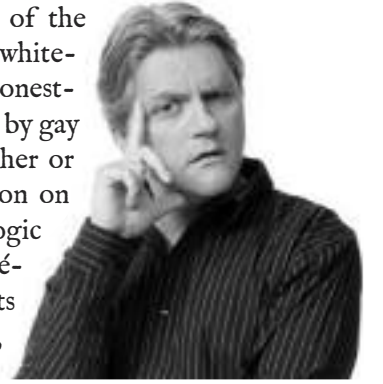
The FPPM is a corporate union of 4,600 cops in Montreal; it is very active in the individual defence of its members accused of murder, violence and discrimination. Systematically denying all charges of racial profiling, it stretches to the absurd its defence of the acts—including murder—of all of its members. Recently, the FPPM obstructed a coroner’s inquiry into the death of Mohamed Anas Bennis, going to the length of obtaining an injunction to halt it entirely. In the case of the killing of Fredy Villanueva, the FPPM fobbed off their own responsibility for the affair onto the attitude of Montreal North youth and denounced every attempt to look into the murder. At the same time, the group decried the lack of official support for Jean-Loup Lapointe and Stéphanie Pilote, the presence of the Mayor of Montreal at young Fredy’s funeral and sent an official demand to media outlets, forbidding them from naming the two police

officers involved. Responding to the SPVM’s recently announced policy against racial and illicit (!) profiling, the president of the FPPM, the subtle Yves Francœur, called the policy a “machine to produce unfounded complaints”. According to him, “in the end, the police force is a paramilitary organization...”

“IF THE POLICE NEED TO BE BETTER TRAINED, IT ISN’T TO CHANGE ATTITUDES TOWARDS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES, BUT TO UNDERSTAND THE NEW VOCABULARY AND THE OFTEN CUNNING ARGUMENTS WHICH SOME PROFESSIONALS FROM PRESSURE GROUPS MAKE USE OF TO GIVE WEIGHT TO THE APPEARANCE OF RACIAL PROFILING.”
—FPPM MEMO TO THE BOUCHARD-TAYLOR COMMISSION, OCTOBER 2007

RICHARD MARTINEAU/JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL

Notorious Islamophobe, this André Arthur of the Plateau will stop at no ends to defend the white-man-middle class-heterosexual-car-driving-honest-worker, whose rights are constantly threatened by gay pride marches, the Koran, feminism and kosher or halal food. Knowing nothing, with an opinion on everything, he serves up his nasal, demagogic babbling on the radio, in newspapers and on Télé-Québec. This scab is one of the major architects of the reasonable accommodation psychosis, incessantly repeating that the terrorists are in the house. Special racist mention to the *Journal de Montréal* for providing Martineau a platform, and for its sensationalist front page articles like “more turbans trying to displace our Christmas trees”, for his phoney surveys like “Are Quebecois racist?” and for publishing profiles, with photos, of wanted migrants.



TRASH RADIO

Emerging from American-style trash radio, “radio poubelle” fuels contempt, slander, discrimination and ignorance. Unfortunately, the sexism and racism these radio shows spew out find an echo among the population. Whether it is Jeff Fillion, André Arthur or “Doctor” Mailloux behind the microphone, this rubbish plunges listeners into a universe of imbecility, stupidity, and mediocrity of an order difficult to conceive. Calling some people “faggots” and “welfare bum” and others “islamo-terrorists”, these pseudo-hosts are interested only in ratings. They are ready to say anything to make money, as well as to defend their verbal diarrhea before the courts in the name of freedom of expression. An edifying example: during a radio interview, Benoît Dutrizac asked Samira Laouni (an NDP electoral candidate in 2008) whether she had needed her husband’s permission to enter politics. He went on to remark that he found her quite “sexy” with the veil, all while questioning her on the inhumanity of sending kids to school on an empty stomach during Ramadan. Or take Jeff Fillion: addressing the issue of juvenile prostitution in Quebec in 2003, he accused the entire black community of Limoilou of belonging to Wolfpack, criminalized gang at the head of this prostitution network. He went even further, telling all immigrants in Quebec to return to their countries of origin to commit their crimes.