
From: H

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Sent: 5/25/2009 8:29:57 PM +00:00

To: 'brian'

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CC: 'sullivanjj@state.gov'

Subject: Follow up

Here is the situation as I understand it.

The film festival returned funds that it had received from the Israeli Embassy, after protests from some UK film figures (Ken Loach) and Palestinian solidarity groups.

The Israeli director is now being funded directly by the festival.

The organizers issued a sort of apology today.

Given outcome -- director going and film being shown --we will make sure that Embassy London and Consulate Edinburgh are engaged with the issue and have made our view clear -- That although the director will participate and the film will be shown, it is unfortunate and wrong that Israel was singled out in this way. Cultural exchanges should not be subject to this kind of political posturing.

Let me know if you hear anything else.

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