

Remi Kanazi

Anti-Israel Poet and Activist

Remi Kanazi is a poet, writer, and anti-Israel activist. He uses his poetry to spread false and hateful messages about Jews, Zionism, and Israel.

Kanazi supports “anti-normalization,” meaning he rejects all forms of dialogue between Israelis and Palestinian-Arabs to bring peace.

- By supporting anti-normalization, Kanazi does not believe the Palestinian-Arabs should build a relationship with the Israelis in any form (economics, politics, security, **peace talks**, etc). This harms Israelis and Palestinian-Arabs alike, as neither side benefits from working with the other to build peace.
 - He says in his poem “Normalize This!”:
 - “... No, I don’t want to normalize with you...”ⁱ
 - “... I will not fight for your privilege, nor will I seek to normalize it...”ⁱⁱ

Kanazi calls Zionism (the Jewish people’s movement for self-determination) “racist.”

- He says, “...Zionism is the real demographic threat, infecting the minds of millions with racism...”ⁱⁱⁱ
- In reality, however, Zionism is the movement that promotes a safe-haven for the Jewish people from persecution. It is also the Jews’ 2,000-year-old hope for self-determination in their ancestral homeland.
 - **Calling this movement “racist” offends one of the core elements of Judaism.**

Kanazi denies Jewish indigenous rights to the Land of Israel.

- He insults Jews worldwide by implying they have no history in the land. The following are examples of his lies from his poetry:
 - “...paying non-indigenous foreigners to settle land that has already been populated...”^{iv}
 - “...land expropriated for Europeans who called religion ethnicity. Not native, not from here, plant flags, call it home, rename cities and villages...”^v
 - “... I don’t believe in the tooth fairy or two thousand claims of homes you supposedly deserved...”^{vi}
- In reality, Indigenous status cannot be created at will. Rather, it refers to a people who have a strong tie to an ancestral land in which they developed their own language, culture, and traditions.^{vii}
 - Palestinians identify as Arabs, meaning they are indigenous to the Arabian Peninsula, or the Hejaz, unlike the **Jews who are indigenous to Judea (now called Israel)** in the Levant.^{viii} Arabs gained a large presence in the area after numerous Arab empires conquered the land centuries ago.^{ix}
 - Moreover, most Jews living in Israel today are of Middle Eastern descent; they are not Europeans and they are not White.

Kanazi spreads lies about Israel in an attempt to demonize the world’s only Jewish state.

- He falsely accuses Israel of acting as an “apartheid” state when in reality, *Freedom House* ranks Israel as the only completely free country in the Middle East.^x Furthermore, he cheapens the experiences of Black South Africans who lived under real apartheid.
 - **Kanazi ignores the real human rights violations in the Middle East and decides to target the only Jewish state.**
 - Here are a few examples of the myths he spreads in his poetry:
 - “...Nothing normal about apartheid ethnic cleansing... Nothing normal about putting a civilian population on a diet...”^{xi}
 - “...It’s apartheid by definition, fits the ‘73 convention. By law, it is a crime against humanity. Two sets of laws for two people...”^{xii}
 - **Kanazi’s claims are baseless and false. In reality...**
 - Apartheid is a system of discrimination (also manifested in segregation) based on race.
 - All Israelis (Jewish and Arab) live under the same set of laws.

- Israeli-Arabs use the same public facilities, eat at the same restaurants, access the same housing facilities, work at the same companies, serve in the same combat divisions, serve in the same government, and much more.^{xiii}
- Israeli law today states that “There shall be no violation of the life, body or dignity of any person.”^{xiv}

ⁱ Genius. “Normalize This! Remi Kanazi”

ⁱⁱ Genius. “Normalize This! Remi Kanazi”

ⁱⁱⁱ Genius. “Normalize This! Remi Kanazi”

^{iv} Genius. “Normalize This! Remi Kanazi”

^v Youtube. Remi Kanazi. “Remi Kanazi - Nakba.” May 15, 2013.

^{vi} Youtube. Sternchenproductions. “Remi Kanazi- ‘Coexistence,’ London, 12.11.11” November 13, 2011

^{vii} Youtube. Abigail Hirsch. “Elsa Scheider interviews Indigenous Rights Activist Ryan Bellerose” March 21, 2015.

^{viii} Youtube. Abigail Hirsch. “Elsa Scheider interviews Indigenous Rights Activist Ryan Bellerose” March 21, 2015.

^{ix} Youtube. Abigail Hirsch. “Elsa Scheider interviews Indigenous Rights Activist Ryan Bellerose” March 21, 2015.

^x Freedom House: Middle East and North Africa, Countries and Topics.

^{xi} Genius. “Normalize This! Remi Kanazi”

^{xii} Youtube. Remi Kanazi. “Remi Kanazi- This Divestment Bill Hurts my Feelings [Official Video].” February 18, 2014

^{xiii} Discover the Networks: A Guide to the Political Left, Human Rights in Arab Countries.

^{xiv} Discover the Networks: A Guide to the Political Left, Human Rights in Arab Countries.