

Angry Atheists Back Down on Battle Against Star of David

After thinly veiled threats and reprehensible rhetoric against the inclusion of the Star of David—a symbol of the Jewish people and the atrocities of the Holocaust—in a Holocaust memorial, the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) is publicly backing down.

A few weeks ago, FFRF, an angry atheist group with a long record of failed attempts to expunge any relic for our religious heritage from public life, demanded that the state of Ohio scrap its plans to build the first Holocaust memorial on state Capitol grounds in the nation.

FFRF insensitively called the inclusion of the Star of David “exclusionary” and a “dishonor.” Their letter blamed Christianity for the Nazi Holocaust and analogized their own concept of defending the so-call wall of separation between church and state to preventing “a similar holocaust on our shores.”

In response, 39,000 Americans (more than double FFRF’s total membership) signed on to the American Center for Law and Justice’s (ACLJ) letter to the governor and attorney general of Ohio, defending the Holocaust memorial and the Star of David from these “bizarre” and legally devoid attacks. The ACLJ offered its legal service should the FFRF choose to file a lawsuit against this clearly constitutional memorial.

The ACLJ letter explained how the Star of David was not only a religious symbol of the Jewish religion, but it was a symbol of the Jewish people and the state of Israel. And even more legally relevant in this situation, the Star of David was the symbol the Nazis forced the Jews to wear as part of the systematic murder of 6 millions Jews, two-thirds of the Jewish

population in Europe. The Star of David is a fitting and constitutional way to honor their memory.

FFRF quickly backed down. These angry atheists mellowed, saying they had no plans to file a lawsuit (even claiming they never had plans to sue). In fact, the atheist group reversed their reprehensible rhetoric, stating, "We have no objection to a Holocaust memorial on public property." FFRF still claims to "object" to the Star of David and reserves the right to "speak up." However, as one local newspaper noted, "That is all they will do."

This is a significant victory for the memory of all those tragically affected by the Holocaust. It is a victory for reason. The angry, illogical vehemence of a few was not allowed to drown out reason and constitutionally sound legal arguments. Taking a stand does make a difference.

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