

Re: Request to meet LFP editorial board, pls

**Mark Vandermaas, Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca**

**From:** Joe Ruscitti [Joe.Ruscitti@sunmedia.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 05, 2011 5:33 PM  
**To:** Mark Vandermaas, Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca  
**Subject:** Re: Request to meet LFP editorial board, pls  
Mr. Vandermass,

- BUT OK. TO WRITE PIECES ABOUT LONDON'S ANTI-ISRAELI CONNECTIONS TO GAZA BOAT

I've spoken now to the two reporters and their editor and I'm satisfied with their explanations that they did not feel they drew enough of sufficient broad reader interest from the interviews or the protest - the numbers of people, what if any stir it might be causing, etc - to include in our related stories on those days.

I'm sure that won't be satisfying to you, I'm sorry.

I would only add that you may guess given the volatility of the Gaza boats story and the charged emotion on both sides, we have been very circumspect about what we are writing locally about the subject.

You should know, for instance, that I have turned away unsolicited opinion pieces by writers from each side in recent days and we have been very careful about the letters we're allowing into print.

Joe Ruscitti  
--  
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519.667.4524

On 7/4/11 1:16 PM, "Mark Vandermaas, Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca" <info@voiceofcanada.ca> wrote:

Dear Mr. Ruscitti:

Thanks so much for getting back to me. I appreciate it.

1. Dale Carruthers spoke to me by phone before writing his original June 28th piece: 'Londoners join Gaza flotilla.' I told him were to find the evidence to back up my statements (in BACKGROUND & REFERENCES section of my original media release <<http://voiceofcanada.wordpress.com/2011/06/22/former-blue-beret-to-protest-london-ontario-muslim-mosque-support-for-canadian-boat-to-hamas/>> ). Note: After the Jewish Trib article appeared I provided a more detailed chronology w/documents rebutting the mosque's denial to the Trib reporter of being 'involved' with the Boat to Gaza. See my Day 7 update here:

<http://voiceofcanada.wordpress.com/2011/06/23/updates-blue-beret-protests-at-london-ontario-muslim-mosque/>

2. Mashoka Maimona came out to interview me on-site on Day 6 (June 28/11). She interviewed me at length, told me she hadn't read Christie Blatchford's book (*Helpless*) about Caledonia and our work there, but knew about it. She took my photo. She interviewed a former Israeli paratrooper, and one of the ladies who has been coming out nearly every day. Mashoka was very nice, very professional, unbiased, and very interested in the background to my passion for the issue. I told her that a Jewish group was coming in from Hamilton the following Sunday (yesterday) and she gave me her email address and phone # to keep in touch which I've been doing as I update the vigil each day. I seem to remember her somehow indicating that she might be available based on her schedule - but I can't swear to it. She certainly did not confirm that she was coming.

3. I've worked with many journalists in connection w/the Caledonia crisis, so I know there's no guarantee of coverage, you have the right to decide what and how to cover it,

7/5/2011

and that you're in a crazy business with deadlines (never mind a long weekend), limited resources and people bugging you like me. Plus, I have great respect for the role of journalists in preserving democracy. That's why I'm doing my best not to demonize the LFP when I report the facts to readers. I've specifically told people in my updates not to send 'nastygrams' to you - so I appreciate you looking into it.

If we don't need to waste time with a meeting, that would be great. I suggested it because people are asking why they haven't seen anything, and I just couldn't offer any reason to them for the lack of coverage after 2 interviews during the past 11 days. Just wanted to give you the chance to get any questions answered that might have been holding you back for a reason.

(I'll be out of town until very late tonight, then back on Oxford from 10-11 tomorrow, so won't be available to respond till after 11:30)

Thanks again,

Regards,  
Mark

**Mark Vandermaas 519.457.0709**  
**Caledonia Victims Project** <<http://www.caledoniavictimsproject.ca/>>  
VoiceofCanada.ca  
IpperwashPapers.ca  
ConservativesAgainstFantino.ca  
HelplessByBlatchford.ca

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Joe Ruscitti [<mailto:Joe.Ruscitti@sunmedia.ca>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 04, 2011 10:34 AM  
**To:** Mark Vandermaas, Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca  
**Subject:** RE: Request to meet LFP editorial board, pls

Dear Mr. Vandermaas

I will ask reporters and their editors what came of these interviews and get back to you but I'm not sure that requires a meeting on the subject - as you know, an interview with a member of the press does not guarantee coverage. Do you recall who the other reporter is to whom you spoke?

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**From:** Mark Vandermaas, Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca  
**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2011 9:10 AM  
**To:** Joe Ruscitti  
**Subject:** Request to meet LFP editorial board, pls

<<File: 110630 Handout.pdf <File: 110630 Handout.pdf> >><<File: 110703 Why I carry a Palestinian flag in my pocket.pdf <File: 110703 Why I carry a Palestinian flag in my pocket.pdf> >>  
Joe Ruscitti, Editor  
London Free Press

Dear Mr. Ruscitti:

I'm wondering if I can get together with you and/or your editorial board ASAP to address the paper's reasons for not reporting the other side of the local angle to the Canadian Boat to Gaza story, namely, the Blue Beret vigil I have been conducting for the past 11 days at the London Muslim Mosque, and the reasons for it.

I've now been interviewed twice by your reporters about my daily vigil at the London Muslim Mosque regarding its support for this mission to break the blockade of weapons to Hamas yet, no story has been published. I informed Mashoka Maimona when she interviewed me last week on Day 6 (June 28) that a group of Jews were coming from Hamilton to support yesterday's vigil, and she asked me to keep her

informed, which I have been doing.

Unfortunately, no one from the London Free Press was there yesterday for Day 11 which saw the largest group of supporters to date -approximately two dozen Jews, Christians and others who came from as far away as Hamilton and Caledonia to support the Blue Beret vigil - quietly, peacefully and with dignity. You can see photos of us here:

<http://voiceofcanada.wordpress.com/2011/06/23/updates-blue-beret-protests-at-london-ontario-muslim-mosque/>

After interviewing me on Dale Carruthers' story about the two 'delegates' on the Boat to Gaza from London was published on June 28th, and then updated June 29th with a Q&A interview with them from Greece, yet the key facts about the London mosque's involvement in supporting the Boat to Gaza were not included in that story, nor did it explain to its readers why a London resident who happens to be a former United Nations peacekeeper is standing every day on Oxford Street across from the mosque with his blue beret, a U.N. flag and some signs. By comparison, the Jewish Tribune has already published a story written by a reporter who drove from Toronto to report both sides of the story:

- o Jewish Tribune, June 28/11: [Former UN peacekeeper staging daily protests against London mosque](#)

Given the rabid anti-Israel propaganda that has characterized the Middle East debate over the past years, and the fact that this is a current event, it seems to me that not only would London readers might want to know about the mosque's role in supporting the Boat to Gaza, perhaps an air of reality can be brought to the discussion if readers were also made aware of the little-known, yet vital truths that a) Israel was created by a U.N vote, and b) that the official charter of the organization which will benefit if the mission of these two London 'delegates' is successful - Hamas - has been condemned by the U.N. Human Rights Council for its call to kill Jews and "obliterate" Israel.

I and the people who come to support me are not giving up our time to speak out only for the Jews who will die if Hamas gets more weapons, we are also speaking out for the Palestinians who will be caught in the crossfire if Israel is forced to defend herself, a fact that I have made plain from the beginning of my vigil.

I have attached a copy of an article based on content from my Day 9 Updates at VoiceofCanada.ca. It is called, '*Why I carry a Palestinian flag in my pocket.*' I would ask you to read it and then let me know if you and/or your editorial board are willing to discuss this issue. I have also attached a copy of my protest 'guide' entitled, 'OUR GOALS TODAY' (Ms. Maimona was provided a copy during her interview). I am also willing to provide the name of my London Police liaison if you wish to speak to him.

I don't expect the London Free Press to necessarily agree with me, but I would expect it to at least report both sides of the London angle to the story so Londoners can make up their own minds.

You can learn more about me here: <http://caledoniavictimsproject.wordpress.com/about-3/resume-mark-vandermaas-2/>

Respectfully,

Mark Vandermaas  
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London, ON N5Y 1G4  
519.457.0709

**Mark Vandermaas 519.457.0709**  
**Caledonia Victims Project**  
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HelplessByBlatchford.ca

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