



APAN
Australia Palestine
Advocacy Network

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Correspondence
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24 January, 2011

Mr Michael Ebeid
Managing Director
Special Broadcasting Service
Locked Bag 028,
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Re: The Promise

We write in regard to the mini-series *The Promise* that was aired on SBS TV late last year.

We wish to write on behalf of our member organisations to applaud the SBS for showing this critically acclaimed drama.

We note that the EACJ has made a lengthy complaint to yourself, and publicised the fact through the media and their website. We also note that their complaint has not been upheld.

While there are clearly many different perspectives to the events in Israel and Palestine, APAN believes that the Australian public is disproportionately exposed to one particular narrative. This narrative rightly condemns horrendous deeds committed against Jewish people in the recent and distant past; however it does not address some of the past and current concerns about Israel's policies and practices.

APAN believes that it is vital that public broadcasters are able to present a range of reasonable views in the material they broadcast. We note that the SBS has screened a range of material that addresses Palestine and Israel from a variety of perspectives, and we congratulate you on this.

The Promise deals with some very uncomfortable issues. However to echo the words of the Writer-Director of the film Peter Koxminsky "If criticism of Israel becomes entirely synonymous with anti-Semitism, it becomes almost impossible to attempt any kind of reasoned analysis of what is clearly one of the saddest and most intractable conflicts facing the human race of today".

We again thank you for the screening of this series. Given the level of interest in this series, we request that it might be screened again for those who were unable to watch it the first time.

Yours sincerely

Rev James (Jim) Barr
President