I am not Israeli nor Jewish but as a citizen of Toronto I feel intimidated by the angry protests and encampments at the universities that are occurring here. It does not feel like Toronto and since last fall I try to just stay within my own community. I grew up in Liverpool UK which has had its share of strikes and demonstrations. In fact, Prime Minister Maggie Thatcher tried to break the dockers union and kept them out on strike for two years but it never felt like this.

The pro Palestinian protests and occupation of the university campuses feels like intimidation and although organizers say it is free speech, as far as I am concerned with the number of Palestinian flags and the keffiyeh covered faces it feels like an invasion. In my view it is also not free speech to block roads and bridges, cover the windows of Indigo with red paint, try to stop people from entering a Jewish owned Aroma coffee shop, climb scaffolding at Mount Sinai Hospital or shoot at Jewish schools.

I do believe that the truck convoy that encamped in Ottawa over Covid vaccines has changed opinions about what is and what is not acceptable behaviour. It was a mistake to allow them to become entrenched and cause so much discomfort for regular people living there. The Prime Minister, Premier and Mayor must be very clear about free speech, our rights and more importantly our responsibilities and what we accept as Canadian values.

I admire the Chief of Police for accepting submissions from the community and to have a clear vision for the future and what we are willing to accept when citizens wish t protest.