

Tchen, Tsebin (Senator)

*Tabled by
Senator Tchen
at Estimates
hearing 3/11/03.*

From: Ralph Zwier [ralph@doublez.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 31 October 2003 6:22 PM
To: Tchen, Tsebin (Senator)
Subject: ICJS Statement



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Dear Tsebin,

The ABC have been badgering me in relation to our ICJS dossier. They are running a Media Watch Monday night "examining ABC bias". The producer was dredging for information on who was behind Senator Alston's dossier of complaints.

I have attached to this email my first response to them on Tuesday, and a stronger response written today. You'd have to ask yourself what business the ABC program on "the Media" has in attacking ordinary members of the public who have made complaints!

Ralph Zwier
Double Z Computer
Tel 613 9521 2188 Fax 613 9521 3945

Ralph Zwier (ICJS)
1A Sagamore Court
Caulfield 3162

David Marr
Media Watch ABC
Fax: 02 8333 4962
31 October 2003

Dear Mr Marr,

On reflection, my responses to the questions by your researcher don't sufficiently address the issue of the role of your program, the attitude you seem to embody and the ABC's general attitude to its public. For the record, if you are reporting ICJS, I would like you to state:

ICJS AND MEDIA WATCH

We are a small group of volunteers for a tiny organisation in Melbourne. Like most Australians, we do not believe it is the role of the ABC's media scrutiny program to investigate, interrogate and bully people who have criticised the ABC.

The role taken by Media Watch and the failure of the ABC complaints processes, including the ICRP, to seriously address genuine and well-founded complaints is not in the public interest, and is jeopardising public support for the \$900 million spent on the Corporation.

Mr Marr, be advised that we do not believe that we will receive fair treatment from your program. Accordingly we will be circulating this statement, together with the ICRP's shabby treatment of our one complaint, to the many Federal parliamentarians on both sides who have an open mind on the ABC's role.

Ralph Zwier

Previous email To: Lisa Macnamara
Media Watch
28 October 2003 17:19

This email confirms our telephone conversation an hour ago about Senator Alston's dossier of complaints to the ABC.

I respectfully suggest that your enquiries regarding Senator Alston would best be directed to the Senator himself. It would be improper of me to answer on his behalf even if I did know the answers to the questions you asked. Here are the points I stand by:

1. ICJS stands for International Committee for Jewish Solidarity.
2. JABM was a campaign undertaken by members of ICJS.
3. The members of ICJS are concerned individuals, not specifically part of any other organisations. (Although I really did not understand what the question meant. "Are the members of ICJS part of another organisation?").
4. No member of ICJS worked on Senator Alston's dossier of complaints. The only similarity between Alston's dossier and ICJS's dossier was the methodology. I said the same to Mark Day many months ago.
5. ICJS members do not know who created Senator Alston's dossier on ABC complaints.