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Violence erupts at Kahane lecture

Rabbi taunts foes, yelling match ensues

By Risa Berg
Herald Staff Writer

Shouting to be heard over a hundred protesters, Rabbi Meir Kahane declared the non-existence of Palestine before he was arrested and removed from the stage by university police at the Psychology Building Monday night.

Kahane, a former member of the Israeli parliament who has been outlawed in Israel as a racist and known for supporting the removal of Arabs from Israel, spoke to a crowd of about 300 but was barely heard among the various chants and protests.

"If I have to be here until midnight tonight to speak I will," Kahane told the audience.

Kahane countered accusations of being a "racist rabbi" and a "fascist."

"All you can do is call me names, but I live in Israel and you never will," Kahane taunted.

Kahane stated there is no Palestine and there never will be a Palestine. When pro-Palestinian protesters responded to this, Kahane repeated his statement.

The majority of Kahane's speech was a shouting match between himself and the pro-Palestinian protesters.

"Eat your hearts out," Kahane repeatedly told the protesters. "You guys are just natural-born losers; we beat you in 1948 and in 1958 and we'll beat you again."

Kahane stated the reason some Palestinians want peace now is because they know they can not win a war against Israel.

At the protesters' chanting "long live the PLO," Kahane responded, "You should live so long. The PLO is dandruff; you can't just

brush them away."

Kahane said the problem was not with the PLO, but was with Jews who supported the Palestinian cause.

"The PLO murders Jewish children; is there any normal Jew who supports the PLO?" Kahane questioned.

Kahane also stated his well-known belief that Arabs should be removed from Israel. Holding up a sign that said, "transfer the Arabs," Kahane stated, "The Arabs have 22 countries, the one country that belongs to us is mine."

Kahane said as much as he wanted peace, having a Jewish homeland was more important.

"Zionism wasn't created to make peace, it was created to form a Jewish state," he said.

During the speech two protesters, Sajid Qazi and Patrick McKloskey, were forcibly evicted, and another Palestinian protester fled after throwing a shoe into the crowd which hit Alan Einisman, a member of the audience.

Kahane was arrested and was forcibly removed from the stage at 9:15 p.m. by university police. Kahane attempted to hold on to the podium to remain in the room, but was taken away by Chief of Police and Security Ralph Hanson.

He was immediately released but was not



'Eat your hearts out...'
Rabbi Meir Kahane used a megaphone to yell over the crowd of 100 protesters at his controversial speech Monday night.

Herald photo by Dorna Cohen

allowed to go back on stage. After this, a crowd surged on stage protesting Kahane's removal.

"Are we in America?" one audience member questioned. "Madison used to be a liberal moral campus - what country are we in when we can't hear a person speak?"

Dean of Students Mary Rouse expressed her disappointment with Kahane's speech.

"Kahane did his best to incite and to provoke the audience, which is one of his specialties," stated Rouse. "It was a volatile, intense evening where no meaningful dialogue was created."

Rent withholders could face...

By Karen...