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Rabbi Shmuley Responds to Atheist Richard Dawkins Comparing Him to Hitler

Richard Dawkins, the renowned atheist and arch-critic of religion, sent an open-letter to Rabbi Shmuley Boteach stating that his rebuttal speech to Dawkins' remarks at the 2007 IdeaCity Convention in Toronto was **“delivered with an intemperate stridency of which Hitler himself might have been proud.”**

The open-letter came as a response to an article by Rabbi Shmuley, published in the Jerusalem Post on 13 April, 2008, which reminded Richard Dawkins of a debate he denied ever participating in, and which he lost. Dawkins posted a comment on his website which stated that he never participated in a debate together with Rabbi Shmuley. Shortly thereafter, the Jerusalem Post article and video of a debate from The University of Oxford on 23, October, 1996, was posted on Shmuley.com. Dawkins' comparison of Rabbi Boteach's speech to Hitler was then posted on Dr. Dawkins' website on 2 May.

In a response to Dawkins, Rabbi Shmuley called the comparison to Hitler “loathsome” and stated that such outrageous statements bring both Dr. Dawkins and Oxford University, where he holds a chair, into disrepute. Rabbi Shmuley further requested of Dr. Dawkins to “refrain from ever again trivializing the deaths of six million Jews and hundreds of thousands of your brave countrymen by comparing those who disagree with you to Hitler.”

The full text of Rabbi Shmuley's response, as well as the video of Rabbi Shmuley's rebuttal of to Dr. Dawkins at the IdeaCity Convention, which was later described by the conveners themselves as one of the convention's highlights, can be found at www.shmuley.com.

The Office of Rabbi Shmuley strongly believes that all people of good conscience, who believe there should respect and decency between the two camps of science and religion, should repudiate such extreme hate speech and submit a formal protest to the Dr. John Hood, Vice Chancellor of The University of Oxford, at john.hood@admin.ox.ac.uk. Given the recent history of growing anti-Semitism within British Academia, we believe that it is imperative to send a message that such hatred will not be tolerated.

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