



P.O. Box 1989  
Fort Lee, NJ 07024 USA  
ph: 201.242.9460  
fx: 201.363.9241  
ws: www.shalomtv.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 22, 2008

## **ADL'S ABE FOXMAN URGES JEWS NOT TO BASE PRESIDENTIAL VOTES ON PREJUDICE**

*Reminds community that there is no truth to rumors that Obama is a Muslim*

*Details concerns with American Jewish-Christian relations*

August 22, 2008 (Fort Lee, NJ) -- Calling suggestions that Barack Obama is a Muslim "unacceptable," Anti-Defamation League National Director Abe Foxman urges American Jews to base their presidential votes on issues, not prejudice.



"We are a 501(c)3; we do not take positions on candidates," explains Foxman in an exclusive Shalom TV interview. "But we checked it out and found that the e-mails circulating that [Obama] was a student in a madrasa was not true; that he was sworn in on the Koran was not true. And we posted it on our Web site."

With no substance to the rumors, Foxman is troubled by lingering stories of the Democratic presidential candidate's religion--especially given the availability of information.

"Talk about issues, about policies, about whether you think he is capable or qualified (or not). But not based on prejudice. This is prejudice and unacceptable."

According to Foxman, "what we should be asking, Democrat or Republican, is 'Who's best for America?' At the end of the day, I believe that answer will also be good for Jews and for Israel."

On Israel, the ADL head believes that differences in American Jewish-Christian relations are playing out in the state.

"Recently, you've had efforts at divestment--which is to single out Israel, to boycott Israel--coming from Protestant churches in this country, [whereas] the evangelical have been very supportive of Israel because of their own theological interpretations," he says.

And even when acknowledging strides taken by the Catholic church toward the Jewish people, Foxman finds that there is much keeping the communities apart.

"The deicide charge--that the Jews killed Christ--is still out there," he notes. "We saw it not only in Mel Gibson's movie, but in the polls that we take. Thirty percent of the American people believe that the Jews killed Christ."

Available across the United States on major cable companies, Shalom TV is a Jewish cultural television network. A complete listing of participating cable systems, major cities and towns served, and Shalom TV dial position is posted online at [www.shalomtv.com](http://www.shalomtv.com).

###