

In general, GOVERNMENTS have little to do with CULTURE. Usually, Foreign Governments have little to do with the Cultures of foreign peoples.

Additionally, and unfortunately, GOVERNMENTS tend to have different versions of the history of their people. And they want THEIR VERSIONS publicized--it is usually called PROPAGANDA, BRAINWASHING, etc. Governments, in many instances, have no qualms about misrepresenting the truth, and unfortunately in some instances, GOVERNMENTS take extremely drastic actions--in their own territories and abroad--TO REPRESS ANY ONE WHO DISAGREES WITH THEIR VERSION OF EVENTS/HISTORY. In some cases, Governments have vested interests in promoting certain distorted **religious** beliefs. And **artistic expression** is very tightly controlled by some Governments.

For all of the above stated reasons, FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS have absolutely no business,--unless they embrace a DEMOCRATIC FORUM, and fully cooperate in a DEMOCRATIC academic context--, in any type of involvement with PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES in the L.A. city, county, or State of California. And such involvement has NO place, not even if the public conference has only **artistic, religious, or literary** goals.

Issue 2. Role of public educational agencies in guaranteeing U.S. Citizens their **First Amendment** Rights.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) ARAB WORLD CONFERENCE raised another very critical issue in public education today, namely, the role of public educational agencies in censorship.

While censorship can take many forms, in the particular case of the February 6, 1992, ARAB WORLD CONFERENCE, Dr. Margaret Grater, Consultant, School Management, LACOE, publicly stated at the beginning of the conference that "...all **presenters** have been requested to refrain from addressing any political issues...", which also meant, of course, that from that point on, all **participants** were being requested to "refrain from addressing any political issues." She indicated that "**Security**" would enforce this "refraining" order fully.

Is it the role of a **public** employee to request from presenters and participants to a **public** EDUCATIONAL conference, to **refrain** from discussing any topic? In the particular case of this conference where