



August 24, 2010

Lieutenant Colonel Allen West
140 N. Federal Highway
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Dear Colonel West,

We write to object to your comparison of a videographer from the opposition party attending a recent campaign event to the Nazis' Gestapo.

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The Anti-Defamation League is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry. We are non-partisan and take no position with respect to any of the candidates for Florida's 22nd Congressional District.

However, according to multiple news outlets, you said the following at an August 19th campaign event about an individual videoing your speech:

I know here today we have a representative from the Florida Democratic Party and he is here to film me and his whole purpose of filming me is to take what I say and allow other people to distort it so they can misrepresent me. You know if we allow those Gestapo-type intimidation tactics to prevail in the United States of America what happens to our liberties? What happens to our freedoms?

Regardless of this individual's family history, we believe that the use of Nazi references to underscore a political point is inappropriate and offensive under any circumstance. Comparisons to Nazis trivialize the extent of the Nazi regime's crimes against humanity, diminish the suffering of survivors, and offend those who understand the profound evil that Nazism represented.

We therefore urge you to publicly repudiate your remarks and to prospectively refrain from making Nazi references or comparisons for political purposes.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Andrew L. Rosenkranz
Florida Regional Director

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

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