

## The Coalition for Justice in Hawaiian Gardens and Jerusalem

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# **NEWS! CALL FOR CRIMINAL PROBE OF MOSKOWITZ CASINO DEVELOPMENT VALIDATES COALITION'S WORK**

**July 16, 2000. The State of California's Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) has called on federal and state authorities to determine whether there was "criminal or corrupt activity" in Irving Moskowitz's development of a casino in the small Los Angeles County city of Hawaiian Gardens. Moskowitz is a leading funder of violence-prone organizations opposing Middle East peace.**

In a report summarizing its eight-month investigation of Moskowitz's dealings with Hawaiian Gardens, the JLAC called on California Attorney General Bill Lockyer to help Hawaiian Gardens recover the \$12 million in public funds plowed into Moskowitz's casino project. The report termed that investment "a gross abuse of redevelopment for the benefit of a single private interest. It demonstrates how [Hawaiian Gardens'] cash-strapped redevelopment agency ... fell victim to an aggressive and litigious redeveloper and his attorney."

More....

The Coalition for Justice in Hawaiian Gardens and Jerusalem welcomed the 150-page report. “We have been saying all along that Moskowitz took cruel advantage of an unsophisticated, predominantly Latino city,” said Coalition Coordinator Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak. “Now, the Moskowitz attorney mentioned in the report is insulting everyone’s intelligence by arguing that statements from the 1997 settlement of a private lawsuit refute the JLAC report’s findings of multiple violations and irregularities.”

In exchange for Moskowitz’s monetary settlement of that 1997 lawsuit, his fund-strapped political opponents who sued to stop the casino were obliged to sign statements dropping their claims of multiple legal violations. The Moskowitz attorney is now arguing that those recitations legally “trump” JLAC’s conclusions, as though they were a judge’s order!

In addition to opposing Moskowitz’s casino license application, the Coalition has been calling on Lockyer: to make Moskowitz return to Hawaiian Gardens the public funds invested in his casino; and to revoke the license for the bingo which Moskowitz operates in Hawaiian Gardens. Notes Beliak: “Moskowitz has used the proceeds from that bingo to get his way in Hawaiian Gardens, as well as for funding ultra-right Israeli organizations.” The Coalition has been raising funds for programs to help Hawaiian Gardens repair the economic and social damage caused by Moskowitz.

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