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# Ambassador John Bolton's Visit Ends in Heated Altercation

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JEFFREY BERGMAN, 1L

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On October 20, 2010, a panel discussion, entitled "The De-Legitimization of Israel," featuring former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. John Bolton, took place in front of a near capacity crowd in the Jacob Burns Moot Court Room. The discussion was sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League and Cardozo's Jewish Law Student Association, and engendered an altercation between a Cardozo student and an individual who does not attend the school. Bolton is a polarizing

political figure known for his hard-line support of Israel.

During the question and answer segment of the panel discussion, Sarah Farhadian, 1L, asked the panel why members of the political left are generalized as being anti-Israeli by the right. Farhadian pointed out that, like her, there are many Democrats who are staunch Israel supporters. Iffraim Inbar, one of the panelists, provided a response, but Farhadian believed that this response did not answer her question. As a result, she asked her question again.

Before a panelist could again

respond to Farhadian, however, an unidentified audience member yelled "sit down, we've had enough of you." Shortly after this incident, the panel discussion's moderator decided to end the question and answer segment. However, exchanges between Farhadian and the audience member were not over; a screaming match took place between the two during the post-panel discussion reception in the lobby.

That such an altercation ensued, even at Cardozo, is not entirely surprising. Bolton's views are known to spark controversy.

At the panel discussion, Bolton said that the Obama administration's unwillingness to support Israel outright would lead to Israel's de-legitimization. "This administration should take more affirmative actions in defining the United States' position towards Israel. It is important that they forthrightly endorse Israel, and let the world know that we, as Americans, support the nation of Israel and their people," said Bolton. Additionally, without adequate U.S. support, Bolton said, the United Nations could apply more pressure to Israel, ultimately resulting in Israel's res-

toration to its pre-1967 borders.

Bolton also criticized the media for harming Israel's image in the international community. He said that the media portrays Israel in a negative light by stressing that its military uses "disproportionate force." What the media ignores, he explained, is that such force is necessary to eliminate future threats to Israeli citizens.

Given the series of panel discussions planned to take place here in the next few weeks on Israel and the Middle East, the potential for future similar altercations seems high.