

CANADA

Jagmeet Singh heckler offers explanation

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The woman who got up to heckle federal New Democrat leadership candidate Jagmeet Singh at a recent Brampton campaign event has posted a YouTube explanation of the video encounter that has gone viral.

In the 1:21 post, Jennifer Bush insisted she is not a racist and her verbal confrontation with the Bramalea-Gore-Malton MPP had nothing to do with colour, race or religion.

"They're really not the point here," said Bush, who interrupted to the event to loudly challenge Singh about what she sees as his support to Sharia Law.

Bush is a supporter of Rise Canada, an organization she joined outside Mississauga's John Fraser Sec-

ondary School last June to protest the Peel board allowing Muslim students to pray during school.

The organization posted her explanation to its website - pointing out Bush is not a member of Rise Canada, but a "heroic independent activist" who attended the Singh event of her own volition.

She noted Singh voiced support for Mississauga-Erin Mills MP Iqra Khalid's private members' motion, which passed in the House of Commons last March, condemning Islamophobia, racism and religious discrimination.

Bush, who said she recognizes Singh is Sikh and not a Muslim, added he also expressed opposition to the burka ban in Quebec.

These positions suggest a support for Sharia Law, she indicated.

"I went to confront Jagmeet Singh about his policies, what he votes for, what that represents for Canadians," Bush said in her video.

In a letter posted online and on Twitter after the incident, Singh said he purposely did not address the woman's remarks because he does not accept the Islamophobic premise on which these questions are based.

With #LoveAndCourage pic.twitter.com/eRbu-vOWNJX- Jagmeet Singh (@theJagmeetSingh) September 10, 2017 Instead, Singh and others at the event greeted Bush's remarks with assurances they loved and believed in her and supported her rights.

Bush, who repeatedly warned those in attendance not to touch her, eventually walked out of camera view clapping as she leaves.