

**Alpha Epsilon Pi  
AMCHA Initiative  
American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists  
Americans for Peace and Tolerance  
Christians United for Israel  
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)  
David Horowitz Freedom Center  
Hasbara Fellowships  
Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel  
Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law  
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East  
Simon Wiesenthal Center Campus Outreach  
StandWithUs  
Zionist Organization of America**

September 24, 2014

Dear \_\_:

We are national organizations deeply concerned about what Jewish students are likely to face on their campuses this academic year due to the Hamas war against Israel. This war has provoked a frightening backlash against Jews around the world, including right here in the U.S. Demonstrators have chanted such ominous threats as “Death to Jews” and “Jews, your end is near.” Synagogues and Jewish property have been vandalized and destroyed. Many of our organizations have been threatened with anti-Semitic phone calls and on-line attacks. Jews have even been physically assaulted. We urge you to take the necessary steps to safeguard Jewish students’ physical and emotional safety and well-being on your campus, as you surely would do if any other vulnerable minority group were being targeted. Indeed, you are required to take such steps under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

At least two campuses have been tainted by anti-Semitic violence already. The mailboxes at a Jewish fraternity house at the University of Oregon were defaced with swastikas. And during Temple University’s recent Temple Fest – an event for new students to learn more about campus activities and organizations – a Jewish student was hit in the face by another student – knocking off and breaking his glasses – at the informational table for the hate group that calls itself “Students for Justice in Palestine” (SJP). Others seated at the SJP table reportedly yelled vile anti-Semitic taunts such as “kike” and “Zionist pig.”

The SJP has a history of harassing and intimidating Jewish students. At Vassar College, this hate group tried to shut down a class trip to Israel to study water issues. Last May, the SJP posted a disgusting Nazi propaganda poster on its Tumblr page, depicting a many-armed figure

holding a bag of money, with an American flag flying on top and a Jewish Star of David dangling from the bottom. The impact on Jewish students has been serious. As one student reported, “This year, SJP has made Vassar an unsafe environment for me and for other Jewish students. From their harassment of students participating in the spring break trip, to the Nazi incident and anti-Zionist rhetoric about ethnic cleansing that verges on blood libel, SJP has done everything in its power to make Vassar an unsafe space for Jews.”

At Northeastern University, the SJP has endorsed terrorism against Israeli Jews and called for Israel’s destruction. The group’s hateful rhetoric has caused Jewish students to feel unsafe on campus. During midterms last February, the SJP invaded students’ privacy rights by planting authentic-looking “eviction notices” under dorm room doors, which made demonizing allegations against Israel, alarming and intimidating Jewish students in their homes. NYU’s SJP chapter engaged in similar anti-Semitic intimidation tactics, but on that campus, the “eviction notices” were even more blatantly geared to inciting hatred of Jews, by falsely accusing Israel of trying to “ethnically cleanse” the region of Arabs. One NYU student reported that the anti-Israel eviction notices “made me feel targeted and unsafe in my own dorm room, and I know others feel exactly the same as myself.”

While justifying its hatred and bigotry as protected under the First Amendment, the SJP employs tactics geared to silencing and marginalizing the views of Jewish students who support Israel. At Northeastern, SJP members deliberately disrupted a Holocaust Awareness Week event. At Temple University, the SJP demanded that a pro-Israel speaker be cancelled, threatening that otherwise Jewish students would face increasing hostility on campus. At UCLA, the SJP demanded that candidates for student government sign a pledge not to go on any trip to Israel sponsored by three Jewish organizations. One UCLA student reported, “For myself and other Jewish and pro-Israel students, the atmosphere is poisonous. We feel attacked, ostracized, and threatened. Our identities are being rejected and our right to express our beliefs endangered. Our academic performance is being harmed unjustly; and our supporters are now targets of hate campaigns, baseless accusations, and unfair political and social retaliation.”

There are many regimes around the world guilty of unspeakable atrocities and grave human rights violations. But student groups like the SJP – with support from anti-Israel faculty and outside groups – focus their rage singularly on Israel, condemning the Jewish State with a viciousness that is not applied to anyone else. And Jews around the world are being held collectively responsible for Israel’s actions, which are defensive and undertaken to protect its people. This is anti-Semitism, according to U.S. government standards. We have enclosed a copy of these standards, set forth in the U.S. State Department’s report on contemporary global anti-Semitism.

We urge you not to tolerate Jewish students being targeted on your campus. They are already a vulnerable group. According to the FBI’s latest hate crime statistics, two-thirds of all religious hate crimes committed in 2012 targeted Jews. We recommend that you take the following steps, all of which are appropriate and doable:

- Review and augment campus security and ensure that security personnel are prepared for the potential for violence and are appropriately trained to respond to it. Local police officials should also be alerted.

- Ensure that there is a clear mechanism for reporting harassment, intimidation and hate crimes on campus, and that students are made aware of it.
- Issue strong public statements to the university community, urging students, faculty and other members of the community to engage in discussion and debate in a civil, tolerant and respectful manner.
- Respond promptly to any anti-Semitic incidents that do occur, by publicly condemning the anti-Semitism and the perpetrators, and publicly affirming that anti-Semitism is inconsistent with the university's values of civility, respect and tolerance.
- Immediately and thoroughly respond to possible infractions of university rules and policies (including student-filed grievances and complaints), and hold wrongdoers accountable for their misconduct. No student or student group should be given special treatment and allowed to violate rules and policies without consequence. If a student group engages in hateful, bigoted conduct that creates a climate of fear or disrespect on campus, then that group should not be entitled to the rights and privileges afforded to registered student groups and those rights and privileges should be revoked.
- Immediately report alleged or suspected criminal conduct (e.g., violence, threats of violence, vandalism) to the appropriate authorities.
- Familiarize administrators, faculty, security and other university personnel with the U.S. government standards on anti-Semitism (enclosed), so that they will recognize when anti-Israelism and anti-Zionism cross the line into anti-Semitism.
- Ensure that anti-Semitism in all its forms (using the U.S. government standards on anti-Semitism as a guide) is a focus of the university's diversity education for students, staff and faculty. Students and student groups that engage in anti-Semitic conduct should be supervised and appropriately mentored.
- Issue a statement to faculty making it clear that students must be able to express their views in class without fear of intimidation or reprisal from other students or professors.
- Exercise your moral duty as a leader and educator and publicly speak out if anti-Israel speech and conduct on campus cross the line into anti-Semitism.

We appreciate that college campuses should encourage free and open debate and the robust exchange of ideas. We support these principles. But none of us should tolerate a campus where students and student groups flagrantly disregard university rules and policies – supported by university funds, no less – without consequences. None of us should tolerate a campus climate of fear or disrespect, which can seriously impair the physical and psychological health of students and create conditions that negatively affect their learning and their ability to achieve their full potential. Indeed, these were the words that the U.S. Department of Education used in a policy letter confirming that Jewish students have the legal right under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to a non-hostile learning environment, and that publicly-funded schools have the legal

responsibility to protect them. Schools that fail to comply with their obligations under Title VI risk losing their federal funding.

We are ready to work with you to ensure that the climate on your campus remains physically and emotionally safe and conducive to learning for all students. We will also be reaching out to our alumni network to keep them informed.

Respectfully submitted,

Alpha Epsilon Pi  
AMCHA Initiative  
American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists  
Americans for Peace and Tolerance  
Christians United for Israel  
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)  
David Horowitz Freedom Center  
Hasbara Fellowships  
Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel  
Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law  
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East  
Simon Wiesenthal Center Campus Outreach  
StandWithUs  
Zionist Organization of America