



## ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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September 3, 2020

### VIA EMAIL

Lynn Mahoney, Ph.D.  
President, San Francisco State University  
Office of the President  
1600 Holloway Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94132

Dear President Mahoney:

We write on behalf of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), the oldest and one of the largest pro-Israel organizations in the U.S., whose mission includes fighting antisemitism and Israel-bashing in schools and on college campuses. We were outraged to learn that two San Francisco State University (SFSU) professors are [hosting](#) a terrorist, Leila Khaled, on September 23, 2020, in their “open classrooms.” We urge you to direct that this program be cancelled immediately, since a violent terrorist has nothing of value to offer your students. If, for some reason, you lack the authority to cancel this abominable event, then you must issue a strong and unequivocal public statement to the entire SFSU community, publicly condemning this upcoming program, and also publicly condemning, by name, the two professors who disgracefully are behind it.

On September 23, 2020, Rabab Abdulhadi (AMED Studies) – who has a [long record](#) of cultivating terrorist ties, glorifying terrorists and spreading hatred of Zionists at SFSU – and Tomomi Kinukawa (Women and Gender Studies) are hosting “A Conversation with Leila Khaled” whom they are falsely promoting as a “Palestinian feminist, militant and leader.” In fact, Khaled is a terrorist. She is a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization. Khaled hijacked an American passenger plane in 1969. She hijacked a second plane in 1970 – an El Al flight from Amsterdam. Mid-flight, Khaled and her accomplice tried to storm the cockpit. They banged on the cockpit door; Khaled had grenades and took the pins out of the grenades with her teeth and ordered the captain to let them in. Luckily, Israeli sky marshals were on the plane; they killed the accomplice and overpowered Khaled and the plane was diverted to London. A month after Khaled’s arrest, British authorities released her in exchange for hostages from another hijacking.

Khaled is thus a serial terrorist. Yet she is unremorseful; indeed, she still supports terrorism. In a [2014 interview](#), Khaled opined that the Palestinian Arabs’ second intifada – which targeted innocent Israeli men, women and children – failed because it was not violent enough. In [2016 interview](#), she said that “Zionism” – which is simply the expression of Jewish nationalism – “is terrorism” and she compared Israelis to Nazis.

Appallingly, the two SFSU professors who are planning to host Khaled not only condone her violence; they are also promoting it. Their ad for the SFSU program includes an image of Khaled holding a rifle next to her smiling face.

You are prominently [quoted](#) on SFSU's website expressing your goal of ensuring "a welcome and inclusive environment for our students." How welcome and included can your Jewish, Israeli and pro-Israel students possibly feel when they learn that their university is not only legitimizing a violent terrorist who supports harming and even killing them, but is also providing this violent terrorist with a prominent and respected academic podium?

Would SFSU ever even think to host Dylan Roof, the white supremacist terrorist who killed nine African-American churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina in June 2015? How about Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the terrorist who, with his brother, was responsible for the Boston Marathon bombing in April 2013, killing three and injuring close to 300 people? And what about Terry Lee Loewen, the terrorist who intended to detonate a bomb at an airport in Wichita, Kansas? It is unfathomable that any professor would give a platform to any of these terrorists – or that SFSU would allow them to.

How then is it acceptable for SFSU to host Khaled? Is it legitimate because her targets were Israelis and Jews?

If you do nothing about this upcoming program, then you are sending the message that the answer to our question is yes. That will surely help solidify SFSU's already [abysmal reputation](#) as a school that tolerates antisemitism and is hostile and unwelcoming to Jewish and pro-Israel students.

This reputation did not develop under your leadership. We urge you to forge a new path at SFSU, which demonstrates zero tolerance for antisemitism – including Israel-bashing that masquerades as legitimate discourse.

Please ensure that the upcoming program with terrorist Leila Khaled is cancelled immediately. If you lack the authority to cancel the event, then we urge you to exercise moral leadership and issue a strong and clear statement to the university community, condemning this program as hateful, hostile, and against SFSU's values. Your statement should also express that you and the SFSU community stand in solidarity with Jewish, Israeli and pro-Israel students at the university, and acknowledge and apologize for the pain and hurt the program will cause them. In addition, your statement should condemn, by name, the two irresponsible professors who are exercising zero professional judgment in order to push their personal anti-Israel agendas. They should get the message from SFSU's leadership that they stand alone and that SFSU opposes and condemns their actions.

We, and our thousands of supporters, await your response.

Very truly yours,



Morton A. Klein  
National President



Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.  
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Jonathan Ginsburg  
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