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ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
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November 24, 2026

VIA EMAIL

President Michael A. Fitts
Tulane University
6823 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear President Fitts:

After many objections expressed to Tulane University – including from the Zionist Organization of America – we were pleased that Dr. Salman Khan did not deliver his reprehensible lecture – titled "Israel's Weaponization of Infectious Disease in Gaza" – at Tulane as originally scheduled on October 22, 2026. As we explained in our letter to you urging that the October 22 lecture be canceled (enclosed again), Dr. Khan is spreading a baseless claim that Israel is knowingly and purposefully spreading disease in Gaza. His accusations are an updated version of the false fourteenth century charges that Jews were poisoning water wells across Europe to spread disease, which resulted in the massacre of thousands of Jews across hundreds of European communities.

Almost forty percent of Tulane's undergraduate student body identify as Jewish and now they, as well as Jewish staff and faculty, are being endangered, too. Shockingly, Tulane is scheduled to host Dr. Khan's lecture on December 1, 2026, when he will irresponsibly and dangerously encourage students to believe that Israel is deliberately using infectious diseases in Gaza to harm and kill Gazans. We urge you to cancel this lecture without delay, which you can legally do and morally must do. The lecture will incite hatred of Jews and Israel based on lies, it will create fear and worry among Tulane's sizable Jewish community and jeopardize their safety, and it will violate Tulane's commitment to academic excellence and to building a community that is welcoming and respectful to all.

Tulane has no legal obligation to host this lecture, as you surely know. As a private university, Tulane is not bound by the same First Amendment requirements that bind public universities. There are many examples of private universities rescinding an individual's invitation to speak on campus because of racist, bigoted statements by the speaker which were deemed incompatible with the universities' values.

For example, in 2026, Western Michigan University revoked an internet personality's invitation to headline a Halloween performance on campus, based on her history of racist and other "controversial behavior." In 2024, Dickinson College rescinded an individual's speaking invitation and honorary degree after students and faculty raised concerns about the individual's past statements about Arab Americans and Muslims.

In 2018, Wesleyan University's planned commencement speaker withdrew after students and alumni complained about the speaker's past racist and sexist comments. Although the university framed the withdrawal as mutually agreed on, it happened directly in response to demands that the commencement speaker be disinvited.

Indeed, Tulane University itself has revoked speakers' invitations. In 2020, Tulane denied a campus venue to a program called "Life of a Klansman: A Family History in White Supremacy," after the

student government objected and demanded that it be cancelled. The mere discussion of one family's history of racism was enough for Tulane to cancel it.

Of particular significance here, please consider Sienna College's 2024 decision to rescind a physician's speaking invitation after she posted "troubling" statements that "crossed an intolerable line." The physician had posted, "The presence of Zionism in U.S. medicine should be examined as a structural impediment to health equity." In a letter to the college community explaining the college's rescission decision, Sienna's president wrote, "Since the onset of the conflict in the Middle East, Dr. Marya has actively engaged in anti-Israel commentary on her social media. She seems to dangerously conflate all Jewish people with a particular political ideology, as well as a racist trope – and that's not only hurtful, it's hateful."

Dr. Khan's statements also cross an intolerable line, and they are equally hurtful and hateful. We urge you to demonstrate the same moral leadership and rescind Dr. Khan's invitation to speak at Tulane. Especially at this time of surging Jew- and Israel-hatred, Dr. Khan's false accusations about Israel will fuel these problems, at the expense of Jewish and Israeli members of your university community. Please recall the words that historian Paul Johnson wrote in his book, *A History of the Jews*: "One of the principal lessons of Jewish history has been that repeated verbal slanders are sooner or later followed by violent physical deeds. Time and again over the centuries, anti-Semitic writings created their own fearful momentum which climaxed in an effusion of Jewish blood."

In addition to the danger the lecture poses to the Jewish community at Tulane, it is chilling to consider the impact that Dr. Khan's abhorrent lies may well have on Tulane's pre-med students who attend his lecture. These are future caregivers who, after hearing Dr. Khan's lies, may not provide Jewish and Israeli patients with the safe, respectful and compassionate care that every patient deserves.

Tulane should not give Dr. Khan's hateful, antisemitic lies even an ounce of legitimacy by allowing him to deliver them from a Tulane podium on the Tulane campus. The groups that are insistent on spreading the lies can host Dr. Khan elsewhere, without support from or connection to the university. But they – and the rest of the Tulane community – should get the clear and unequivocal message from Tulane that the university is committed to evidence-based education and analysis, not the dissemination of one person's false and bigoted views; that Jew- and Israel-haters are not welcome at Tulane, as no bigots should be; and that the university is serious about fulfilling its mission to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all its students, including those who are Jewish and Israeli.

We look forward to hearing from you and remain here to assist you.

Respectfully,

Morton A. Klein
National President

Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.
Director, Center for Law and Justice

Enclosure