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May 29, 2018

Principal Ruth Lacey
Beacon High School
522 W 44th Street
New York, NY 10036

Dear Ms. Lacey:

According to the New York City Department of Education, your school is trying "to provide inclusive environments where students are able to respectfully discuss current events," and it is for this reason that the school held a moment of silence on behalf of "Palestinians killed in Gaza" — although 85% of those killed were members of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror organizations, as proudly stated by leaders within those groups.

With all due respect, in what other situations have you held moments of silence for the victims? Are students indeed "learning to engage with the world around them and honor each person's humanity," as claimed in a letter of support signed by parents?

Have you held a moment of silence for students shot in school this year:

- The 17 murdered at the Parkland, Florida Douglas High School in February?
- The 10 gunned down at Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas earlier this month?
- The students killed, injured and impacted in the 21 other school shootings so far this year alone?

Have you memorialized domestic victims of terrorism:

- The fourteen office workers shot to death at a holiday party in San Bernardino, California in December, 2015?
- The 49 people murdered at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida in June, 2016?
- The eight pedestrians struck and killed by a terrorist's rented pickup truck near the World Trade Center in October, 2017?

Have you commemorated global victims of terrorism:

- The 130 civilians murdered by terrorists in Paris and Saint-Denis, France, in November 2015?
- The 22 young victims of a suicide bombing at the Manchester Arena after an Ariana Grande concert, in May 2017?
- The 103 massacred when terrorists detonated an ambulance loaded with explosives in Kabul, Afghanistan this past January?

Still no? Have you held a moment of silence for:

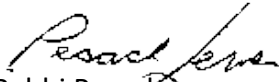
- The dozens, including children and babies, gassed to death in April by Syria's Al-Assad?
- The over 273 people shot by terrorists in May alone — and counting?
- Or, needless to say, the 65 Israelis killed and 923 wounded by other members of the same organizations whose recent losses you memorialized, just since 2015?

We close with just one final question:

If the school is only going to commemorate those killed while trying to murder Jews, but not victims of terror attacks around the world, is the school honoring humanity, or barbarism?

We suggest that if you truly wish to teach students to engage with the world and honor humanity, there are better ways. We await your earliest reply.

Yours Sincerely,



Rabbi Pesach Lerner

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cc: William Stroud, Assistant Principal
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