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19 Av 5777
August 2, 2018

Spencer Hart, Esq.
Assistant City Attorney
Office of the City Attorney
11701 South La Cienega Blvd, Room 430
Los Angeles, CA 90045

RE: Criminal Report #18-1206; Prosecution of Illegal Activity at UCLA

Dear Mr. Hart,

The Coalition for Jewish Values is a national organization reflecting the views of over 1000 traditional rabbis in matters of public policy. You are already aware of the aforementioned criminal report, and we know that you previously received a letter from the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law and StandWithUs encouraging you to move forward with prosecution.

Please also know that rabbis across the country are watching this case with extreme interest and concern. We fear that a failure to prosecute this case could release the floodgates for further acts of intimidation and hatred directed against Jewish students and others.

The disruption of an event is not free speech. It is mob suppression of free speech, preventing persecuted minorities from having a voice in the public sphere. And as you saw on video, what began on previous campuses as vocal disruption quickly descended to vandalism and destruction of property.

If this is not stopped, it is not difficult to predict what may happen next, because they are following a well-used script. As rabbis, we follow national and even temporal patterns of attitudes towards Jews.

You are surely aware that a national organization was formed, one which claims that the people of Israel are illegally stealing the property of others and taking advantage of non-Jews. They began a boycott, claiming that this was a peaceful method of response to fix the problem. But those in charge went well beyond peaceful activities, disrupting events of all who oppose them, with a special emphasis upon Jewish events. And this even led to acts of vandalism and destruction of property.

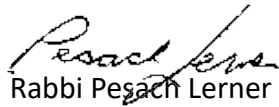
You might logically conclude that I am discussing Students for Justice in Palestine or another contemporary example. In actuality, the

foregoing paragraph was a description of the Nazi Party in Germany, and its *Sturmabteilung* (SA), the storm troopers or "brownshirts." The SA disrupted opposition and Jewish activities, led the boycotters picketing Jewish businesses, and were responsible for the violence and vandalism of Kristallnacht. And, as we know all too well, they did not stop there.

We know that any parallel is extremely troublesome, and we decry frequent, false comparisons to reviled Nazis. But consider the chant you heard in that video: "we don't want two states, we want '48" — when the Arab League threatened not only to destroy the nascent state of Israel, but to conduct a "war of extermination and momentous massacre." This was a thinly-veiled call for ethnic cleansing and even genocide, against the very same people targeted by the Third Reich. We will leave it to others to explain why they feel the comparison is anything less than apt.

We urge you to take prompt and forceful action to prosecute those responsible, lest others imagine that this hateful behavior is welcome to flourish in America.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pesach Lerner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Rabbi Pesach Lerner
President