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13 Kislev 5782
November 17, 2021

Joseph M. McShane, S.J.
Office of the President, Fordham University
441 East Fordham Road
Bronx, NY 10458
via email: president@fordham.edu

Dear Father McShane,

First and foremost, please accept the grateful thanks of the 1,500 rabbis represented by the Coalition for Jewish Values, for Fordham University's principled refusal to accept a chapter of the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) as a student organization, and for the University's willingness to defend this refusal in court to a successful conclusion.

As I personally outlined in a recent [opinion piece](#), those SJP honors are limited to murderers, terrorists, and promoters of antisemitic tropes. In several years of research and challenges to students, even a single exception to the preceding rule has never been found or presented.

It should be inconceivable that SJP be accepted on any campus, but, in the time-honored model of antisemitic bias, it hides itself behind a socially acceptable veneer. In Germany it was the untenable "antisemitism," applicable only to Jews but not to Semitic Arabs, and today it is the equally untenable "anti-Israel," when no other country is faced by an anti- movement—not Cuba, Saudi Arabia, China or North Korea—with the possible exception of the United States. No one is anti- a country, but antisemitism finds a facade.

I have offered this information on many campuses, and am willing to debate it in any fair forum—one of SJP's core tactics is preventing dialogue, because any equitable contest is one they cannot win.

It is to Fordham's great credit that you did not fall for the facade. We know that you are and will be facing ongoing pressure to reverse the University's decision, now that they were unable to use the courts to force you to do so. I close, then, with a traditional Jewish expression of both congratulations and encouragement: **יָמְךָ וְצִדְקָתְךָ** - be strong and courageous.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yaakov Menken".

Rabbi Yaakov Menken
Managing Director