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1 Adar II 5784
March 11, 2024

Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Regents
1111 Franklin St., 12th floor
Oakland, CA 94607

To the University of California Board of Regents:

We write to call upon the UC Board of Regents to take action to stem the explosive growth of anti-Semitism on the campuses of the University system. In this, we join with others, notably the [letter](#) of Roz Rothstein, CEO and Co-founder of StandWithUs, and Julie R.F. Gerchik, Partner Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro LLP, demanding the same.

It is truly a disgrace that so many college students around America in general, and the University of California system in particular, find the genocidal Hamas terror organization to be admirable while transferring Hamas' murderous intentions, of which the atrocities of October 7 are merely a foretaste, to Israel when it acts in self-defense. Such accusations are especially despicable in the light of observations by authorities such as British Colonel Richard Kemp, who saw combat action in Iraq and Afghanistan, that the Israel Defense Force (IDF) is actually the world's most moral military. It puts its own soldiers at risk to minimize civilian casualties in a manner that no other army, including those of the US, UK and other NATO countries, do not. The ratio of civilian to terrorist casualties in Gaza is the lowest in recorded history.

This undeserved calumny is only a modern-day version of the standard antisemitic trope the murderous Jew. This accusation is rooted in racism, plain and simple, yet tolerated throughout the UC system.

Defamatory actions against Jewish and Israeli students have run the gamut. Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, in its BDS Monitor publication, documents the following examples:

- "At the University of California at Berkeley hundreds of masked pro-Hamas protestors shouting "intifada, intifada" and "You can't run! You can't hide! We charge you with genocide!" attacked a theater where an Israeli speaker was to appear, smashing windows and forcing the Jewish students inside to be evacuated through tunnels. The university chancellor and provost condemned the incident in which Jewish students were called "dirty Jew" and assaulted by the crowd. A university spokesman expressed shock at "The size of the crowd, the size of what was a mob, and the willingness and readiness of that mob to engage in violent behavior."

- “The University of California at Davis student government voted in favor of a divestment resolution that prohibits any of the organization’s \$20 million budget being invested in Israel.
- “The UCLA student government passed a BDS resolution which alleged that Israel is engaged in “apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and genocide.” The resolution also alleged that Israeli academic institutions, companies and unions “profit from Israel’s settler colonial genocide.” The vote came shortly after the graduate student association passed a similar resolution. In response the university administration stated that “These resolutions run counter to the position of the University of California and UCLA, which, like all nine other UC campuses, has consistently opposed calls for a boycott against and divestment from Israel.”

These are but representative manifestations of a sickness that pervades American higher education from coast to coast, from the Ivy League to the University of California system. The campus atmosphere is reminiscent of Germany in the early 1930’s, and history tells us that the rise of the Nazi regime was largely propelled by its collegiate adherents. Immediate action is needed to restore civilized order.

The Rothstein-Gerchik provides two pages of required measures, which need no further justification. Antisemitism cannot be treated with less concern than other forms of bigotry.

Today’s collegiate would-be revolutionaries and their Islamist enablers need to be disciplined, not coddled. The Board of Regents must exercise its responsibility to preserve the America that the Founders bequeathed to us, before it descends into the tyranny that has been the fate of the great civilizations of the past.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yoel Schonfeld', written in a cursive style.

Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld
President