



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS

U.S. Affiliate of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

April 28, 2024

USG Executive Board

Tanisha Thakkar, Sky Young, Saiki Ho, Doris Wang, Ella Londoño, Akanksha Somani, Kathy Liu, Zena Cui, Ebube Nwaeme, Rachel Lee, Maddy Ma, Ella Netland, Eileen Shum, Alice Bui and Ruby Li

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Re: Abuse of Authority and Misuse of Elected Position by Reason of Antisemitism

Dear Ms. Thakkar and members of the Undergraduate Student Government,

We have had sight of the email sent out by the Undergraduate Student Government Executive Board (“USGEB”) on April 24, 2024 (“Offensive Email”) which demonstrates, on its face, that the individuals comprising the USGEB are lacking judgment on a number of levels. As such it compels me to call for your removal from the USGEB or expulsion from New York University (“NYU”).

First and foremost, the USGEB must clearly believe the student body, and the students as a whole to be fools. The unlawful encampment that was erected, without permission or time, place or manner permits, was not designed for any legitimate protest, debate or free academic discourse but rather to bully, intimidate and harass Jewish students and the student body at large. Unfortunately, these serial violations of NYU Student Expectations, where anti-Semitic tropes are chanted with impunity, have become a regular sight not only on this campus but on many others. It is therefore surprising that the USGEB did not first call for those among its ranks to obey student policies and the law. However, that might have been difficult as the encampment itself was directly adjacent to buildings containing classrooms. Instead of criticizing the NYU administration for its lawful and undoubtedly correct actions, you should have been thanking them for keeping the student body safe from those fomenting thuggish behavior. Evidently, student safety is not at the top of USGEB’s priorities.

Secondly, the shameless attempt to try to cast a racist pall over the actions of the NYU administration or the police is nothing short of despicable. USGEB seems to forget that the object of the illegal encampment was to hurl abuse at Israel, which itself is also comprised of people of color. There are many black Jews, Jews of Arab lands, Druze, Arab Muslims and Arab Christians that not only live in Israel but also serve in the IDF. This is something that the USGEB has failed to acknowledge, that those people of color who were arrested for erecting an illegal encampment, themselves were engaged in an antisemitic protest, which is racism. There has been no rise of Islamophobia on campus, as the USGEB claims, this is simply a device to give license those people chanting for violent “intafadas,” the ethnic cleansing of Israel of its indigenous Jewish inhabitants and the support of Jihadist rapists. To crack down on such individuals on campus should be welcomed not discouraged.

Thirdly, the USGEB betrays not only its biases but its collective ignorance in accusing NYU of complicity in “the genocide of the Palestinian people.” Such ignorocracy is an embarrassment to NYU and should be

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grounds for immediate expulsion. There has been no genocide and it is simply a blood libel to Israel's actions as such in furtherance of its right to defend itself and rescue the hostages, of which at least 100 are still being held. It is undisputed that Israel has always possessed the military capacity to eradicate Gaza and its inhabitants; it has never done so. Quite the contrary, Israel has taken extraordinary measures to avoid harm to Gazans to the extent required by international humanitarian law. In fact, Israel has spent billions of dollars developing the Iron Dome, a defensive shield, so that it could carry on living under constant rocket fire. Israel's intent has always been for peace and not war and intent is an essential element of genocide. In contradistinction, if the USGEB wishes to see evidence of genocide, it needs only look to the stated intention of Hamas to eradicate all Jews from the face of the earth. Yet, this has been ignored, and the USGEB has adopted the narrative of the aggressor.

Finally, the USGEB's remaining arguments are simply idiotic. On the one hand you criticize NYU for using the term "Middle East" because it is a "Euro-centric" term but then continue to use the word "Palestinian" which too is a Euro-centric term as it was imposed on Judea by the Romans (who just in case you did not appreciate, came from Europe.) Of course, what is going on in Israel is a war in the Middle East, as that is what Hamas claims it to be. Any humanitarian crisis that may have emerged is purely due to Hamas's crimes in raping, pillaging, kidnapping and murdering Muslims, Jews and Christians before, on and after October 7, 2023. Your request for the NYU administration to adopt terms that suit your quest for ignorance rather than facts, or indeed history, should lead to your immediate expulsion. You simply do not belong at a top tier university.

I sincerely hope that if NYU allows you to stay, that you avail yourselves of the wonderful libraries, the thoughts of those professors that are not part of the growing ignorant class and engage in actual debate. If you do that, you might be employable.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Garson
President
cc: Linda Mills office.president@nyu.edu

About the AAJL

The AAJL is a national nonprofit association that represents the American Jewish legal community on issues of importance such as freedom of religion, civil rights, human rights, access to justice, and defense of the rule of law. The AAJL also advocates on matters affecting the global Jewish community, in particular, the scourge of antisemitism, including antisemitism disguised as antipathy toward Israel.