

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS

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

President and Dean Cinnamon P. Carlane Albany Law School 80 New Scotland Avenue Albany, NY 12208-3494

By email to: <u>ccarl@albanylaw.edu</u>

November 1, 2023

RE: Terror Supporting Professor – Action Demanded

Dear President and Dean Carlane,

I write to you regarding disturbing reports of antisemitic behavior by one of your professors, on your campus, which is being condoned by your administration. This not only leads to a hostile environment for Jewish students on your campus but is in breach of the non-discrimination commitments of the college and could affect federal funding.

You are no doubt aware of the gruesome atrocities perpetrated by Hamas terrorists on Israel and innocent civilians of all ages and races on October 7. The nature of these acts and the accompanying celebration with which they were met in Palestinian circles shocks the conscience and is difficult to comprehend.

As the Jewish people were reeling from the events of October 7, 2023, Nina Farnia, an assistant professor at Albany Law who teaches, inter alia, critical race theory and employment law, was not so appalled at the war crimes perpetrated by Hamas. The world, including the Albany Law student body, was learning of Hamas using rape as a tool of war, babies being beheaded, civilians hiding in bomb shelters being blown to smithereens, and kidnapping of civilians, including Americans, on a grand scale. The world wept. Not so Dr. Farnia.

Instead, Dr. Farnia took an image of the destruction of the Israeli border fence, showing terrorists pouring into Israel and through which those same Hamas terrorists dragged innocent civilians, where they remain as hostages to this very day, and tweeted out "Long live the Palestinian Resistance ... the people of the world are rising up & tearing walls down. The Palestinians are a beacon for us all." (See screen capture below).

An Albany Law professor posted a picture of Hamas terrorists breaching a border fence in order to commit atrocities and not only wrongly termed that "Palestinian resistance" but also lent her public support to them. The law is clear. Hamas was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization entity by the Secretary of State on December 8, 1997. This professor is teaching law students that the laws of the United States are suggested guidance, and that Hamas should be treated differently than the law demands.





Even more troubling is that the vast majority of Albany Law students will be admitted to practice in the State of New York and will be expected to swear an oath to uphold the constitution of the United States and the State of New York. However, their understanding of the law will be tainted by Dr. Farnia's view that war crimes are acceptable the Constitution does not apply to them, because the victims are Jews/Israelis.

We are now seeing the effects of the intellectual cover provided by academics such as Dr. Farnia, as the short-lived Pax Americana has been shattered, our illusions of safety gone. Tens of millions of people have taken to the streets of the world explicitly supporting the subhuman terrorist beasts who killed our children, tortured our families, and are still holding our young and old hostage. They are not a beacon, but a self-confessed Hezbollah and Iran-supported Daesh-copycat death cult.



I ask you to consider what your response might be to a professor who shared a picture on Juneteenth denying African American slavery in the United States and praising southern farmers for protecting their property rights. I venture you would find your voice quickly. However, where is it now?

A clear message must be given to all students, and their parents, that they are safe to attend Albany Law and that they will not be subjected to hate speech, hate conduct, or the threat of physical violence against property or person by students or faculty. This is to protect the entire student body, not just Jewish students. It is clear as day that a professor who has long decried American imperialism and is elated by terrorist actions against Jews and Americans on foreign soil, would be similarly supportive should such war crimes be perpetrated domestically.

The AAJLJ demands not condemnation, as that is a given, but robust and swift action.

We are available to discuss this matter with you and to provide what assistance we can. We look forward to hearing what steps you have taken to address this unconscionable professor.

Yours,

Robert Garson President

Chair of GS2Law

cc. Dean @cinna (DEI), Tom Torello



## About the AALJ

The AAJLJ 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 AAJLJ also advocates on matters affecting the global Jewish community, in particular, the scourge of antisemitism, including antisemitism disguised as antipathy toward Israel.

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