



## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS

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

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*RE: Permitting Terror Supporting Speakers on Campus*

Dear President Magill,

Once again, we write to you regarding disturbing antisemitic behavior by one of the speakers at the recent “Palestine Writes” conference that was held on Penn’s campus and sponsored by Penn. As you may recall we wrote to you in September, prior to the atrocities of October 7<sup>th</sup>, about the dangers of providing a speaking platform for antisemites on campus. In reply to your response of October 6<sup>th</sup>, we wrote to you again in mid-October to demand that Upenn revoke the charter of and ban from campus the so-called Students for Justice for Palestine (SJP) as this student group serves as a front for funneling money onto the campus to fuel continued hatred and violence against Jewish students.

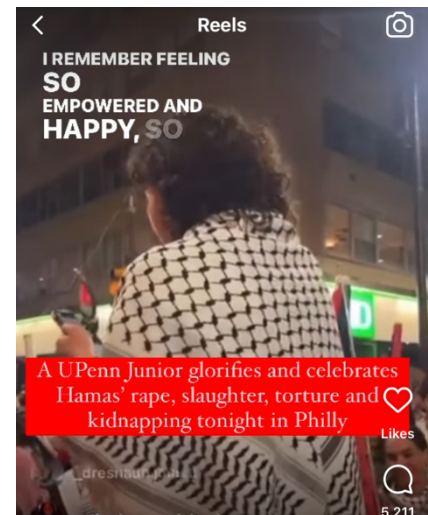
Our parents raised us that it is not polite to say “I told you so”, but we have no choice in this instance. When dealing with rabid antisemitism, rising hate speech and documented threats of violence against Jewish students, and a University which is now unrecognizable to the majority of its alumni and donors – we are compelled to write to you again.

In the weeks after the terror attacks of October 7<sup>th</sup>, as emergency and forensic crews worked through the murder scenes, new gruesome details about the depraved and barbaric acts of terror kept surfacing. A particularly nauseating story was shared by members of the volunteer-based Israeli EMS organization United Hatzalah who found a little baby in an oven after it was baked to death by Hamas terrorists. Social media and various news outlets quickly picked up on this sadistic and sickening tragedy. However, Rafaat Alareer, a guest speaker at the Upenn Palestine Writes conference which we encouraged you to cancel, decided that this would be the appropriate anecdote on which to share a comment. “With or without baking powder?” he wrote in a post on X. (see screen capture below).



We implored you not to let these guest speakers have a voice on campus. We warned that words have consequences, and that those words lead to violence. We are shocked, but not surprised, that a notorious antisemite like Mr. Alareer would lack any shred of human decency and would gloat in the suffering and pain of an innocent baby. When one pauses to think of the pain that the victim must have undergone while being cooked alive, it sickens and saddens in equal measure. It is to Upenn's shame that Mr. Alareer was hosted at the University and either no due diligence was conducted or the administration simply did not care.

Due to Upenn's greenlighting of these speakers and lack of moral leadership since October 7<sup>th</sup>, is it any wonder that a new breed of virulent antisemites are now rising at Upenn? They have learned that Penn tolerates this behavior and that they have the right of way to to escalate from offensive speech, to hate speech to violent speech. We watched in horror as a video surfaced this week which shows Tara Tarawneh, a Junior at Upenn and an organizer of the Palestine Writes conference, wrapped in the known terrorist garb of the black & white keffiyeh while bellowing to a heated crowd how gleeful she was and how "empowered and happy" she felt at the Jewish massacre by Hamas. A month prior she wrote an OpEd to the Daily Pennsylvanian about the upcoming writing conference and the opportunity to "learn from our thinkers, writers and artists" like Mr. Alareer. Once 1,500 innocent Israelis were murdered, and knowing very well she would face minimal repercussions due to Upenn's inaction, her true fangs and motives were revealed for all to see. Upenn seems to be one misstep away from the FBI lockdown that occurred at Cornell, and we urge you to immediately take all action necessary to de-escalate this.





All of this violent antisemitic rhetoric did not spring forth in a vacuum and it has happened on your watch despite our admonitions. These public and high-profile antisemites are well known to us. HonestReporting has tallied that Mr. Alareer has compared Israel to Nazi Germany more than 100 times in speeches and articles he's written and referred to Zionists as "the most despicable filth" and the "root of all evil." These are tropes straight out of the Goebbels playbook. Speakers like Refaat Alareer are known to incite violence and hatred, their "business" is to agitate and provoke in hope of flaming the fire. Having cultivated the problem, Upenn must prioritize its remedy with the utmost urgency.

A clear message must be given to all students, and their parents, that they are safe to attend Upenn 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. The university's recent announcement that it intends to combat antisemitism is simply insufficient given the clear and present danger to all students. Serious action must be taken and the culture must be uprooted. As Marc Rowan recently told us, "Protection from racism is what we were entitled to 10 years ago. Its the bare minimum. Without both a change in the culture that allowed antisemitism to take root and addressing the plunge in Jewish matriculation, none of this matters."

There is no need to gather a task force that will take an inordinate amount of time formulating that which is inadequate. The American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists have many eminent lawyers in our ranks and have formulated the Fighting Antisemitism on Campus Effectively (FACE) Plan to protect not just Jewish students but the entire student body. This can be implemented forthwith and we expect full engagement within 90 days.

Parents entrust their children to Upenn and many duties of care are owed. A failure to implement the FACE Plan will evidence Upenn's breach of its duty to keep student safe.

Yours Sincerely,

Robert Garson  
President

Nadav Besner

**F.A.C.E.**  
**FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUSES EFFECTIVELY**

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- 1.** Ensure the university's non-discrimination policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion. Adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, including all of its examples (collectively, the "IHRA definition"), as official institutional policy for identifying and investigating alleged incidents of antisemitic discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and other conduct. Ensure that all faculty, staff, campus security, and DEIB offices (or other offices whose responsibility it is address issues of discrimination) are educated on the IHRA definition and understand that the IHRA definition is already the law of the land in the United States - under Executive Order 13899 (Combating Antisemitism), the IHRA definition is to be applied by the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies investigating alleged antisemitic discrimination on campus.
- 2.** Establish official institutional policies (i) recognizing that, for the majority of Jewish individuals, Zionism is a core aspect of their Jewish cultural, ethnic, and religious identity and (ii) affirming any discrimination on the basis of "Zionism" shall be recognized, and treated in the same manner, as discrimination against Jews or members of any other religious group, as per the university's non-discrimination policy. Ensure that the full range of Jewish identity, including Zionism, is represented in DEIB-related programming.
- 3.** Ensure that appropriate disciplinary action is pursued against any and all students, faculty and staff engaging in antisemitic conduct within the IHRA definition, or other conduct prohibited by the university's non-discrimination policies, applicable to violative actions against Jews.
- 4.** Closely scrutinize and document the activities of those groups that have been deemed presumptively to be hate organizations (including, but not limited to, Students for Justice in Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace, and Within Our Lifetime) to the extent permitted by law. Revoke or deny university recognition to these organizations and their chapters on campus such that they are ineligible to access university funding or resources.
- 5.** Disclose all funds received by the university from foreign sources, the purpose or conditions attached, and confirm that no such funds have been used to influence the university's curricula, faculty decisions, and overall governance, and that none of such monies have been used to fund any student organizations.
- 6.** Develop and mandate a semester-long course and faculty training program, to be maintained in perpetuity, that focuses on the Holocaust, expulsion of Jews from Arab lands, the Black & Jewish alliance during the civil rights movement, as well as IHRA and modern forms of antisemitism. The course should foster productive discourse, constructive debate, and fact interrogation.
- 7.** Conduct a thorough evaluation of the university's security resources and implement a comprehensive plan to ensure the safety of Jewish students and that events and meetings relating to Judaism (including Zionism) are able to proceed peacefully, free from agitation, and without significant disruption. This plan should also address the curbing of violent speech, glorification of terrorism, and the curbing of disruptive rallies, safeguarding students' free academic engagement and campus movement. Limit demonstrations and gatherings exclusively to those that adhere strictly to the university's policies and codes of conduct, and allow only individuals affiliated with the university to attend.
- 8.** Implement security protocols, requiring valid government issued identification, in accordance with universally accepted security measures, for any student or faculty that enters university property. This includes limiting dormitory and university building access to students and other university-authorized individuals.
- 9.** Sanction student organizations or professors if the university's logo (or other indications of official school sponsorship or endorsement) is used on any materials, messages, or events that conflict with university's codes of conduct or policies, including but not limited to, non-discrimination policies, as implemented above.