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May 10, 2022



How SJP's Antisemitism and Violent Harassment Threaten Jewish Students

Dear Friend of FLAME:

A radical Palestinian poet, Mohammed El-Kurd—who spoke a few weeks ago during Duke University’s Israel Apartheid Week—advocated “Palestinian liberation,” telling his cheering audience, “We want our land back from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea.”

When asked what would happen to 7 million Israelis who live on most of this land, El-Kurd replied, “I don’t care. I truly, sincerely, don’t give a f....” Hooting, laughter and thunderous applause.

El-Kurd, who claims “Zionists have an unquenchable thirst for Palestinian blood”—and most other speakers at the anti-Israel event—were sponsored by the notorious Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).

SJP currently lists active chapters at some 200 U.S. colleges and universities, and while the group officially claims to oppose antisemitism, its members and sponsored speakers routinely oppose Israel's existence and support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement—both universally accepted hallmarks of antisemitism.

Ironically, the Duke Student Government recently voted to support the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Association) definition of antisemitism, which condemns most ideas espoused at Israel Apartheid Week. In fact, apparently oblivious to the contradiction, the DSG spent \$16,000 supporting the IAW program, including \$5,000 for El-Kurd.

The Duke event serves as an alarming example of the Jew-hatred rampant on American campuses and the double-standard applied to this hatred—especially compared to the instant condemnation and cancelling of any teacher, student group or speaker who offends other ethnic minorities.

The damage done to Jewish students by SJP members and its activities is real,

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not theoretical.

For most Jews worldwide—and certainly for most American Jewish college students—Israel represents the pinnacle of national self-determination and refuge, the achievement of a millennia-long yearning of the Jewish people to return to its ancient homeland.

Yet SJP communications consistently accuse Zionists of being racist and assert that one cannot be a good Jew and support Israel. Jews are frequently barred from serving in student government or participating in social justice activities simply because they are Jewish and may sympathize with Israel.

This demonization of Jewish identity resembles nothing more than the ostracization of Jews during Hitler’s Third Reich.

Some 100 NYU Law students recently demanded that their university condemn list-serv posts by NYU Law SJP and affiliated groups. These students correctly cited references to “Zionist-funded US and Western media,” the Zionist grip on the media” and “Ashkenazi Jewish whiteness” as evidence of classic antisemitic racism.

While SJP’s spewing of slanderous anti-Israel accusations and outright Jew-hatred is morally despicable, the group’s harassing efforts to shut down Jewish and pro-Israel opinion clearly violates free speech civil rights.

A YouTube video of screaming SJP protesters at a 2017 pro-Israel event at UC Irvine gives a flavor of the thuggish, vitriolic tactics the group’s members use. Speakers at that event—as at many such campus forums—had to be escorted from the venue by police to protect them from protester violence.

During an SJP-sponsored protest in New York City, student leaders of CUNY Law’s SJP chapter asserted that “Zionist professors are not welcomed” on campus, and demanded that “Zionist students” be banned from “spaces where Palestinian students are.”

Not surprising, a recent survey by the American Jewish Committee revealed that almost 23% of American Jewish millennials agreed that the following statement describes their own views “very well” or “somewhat well”: “Anti-Israel climate, on campus or elsewhere, has forced me to hide my Jewish identity.”

According to a study conducted at Brandeis University, one of the strongest predictors of students perceiving hostility because of their Jewish or pro-Israel identity is the presence of an SJP chapter on their campus.

AMCHA, a non-profit that fights antisemitism on campus, reports that “SJP and other anti-Zionist student groups are a major source of antisemitic rhetoric and behavior at many schools. Reports analyzing antisemitic incidents . . . indicate a significant increase in actions which directly harm or threaten Jewish students, including physical and verbal assaults, destruction of property, harassment discrimination and suppression of speech, at schools with an SJP or similar anti-Zionist chapter.

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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Despite SJP's consistent promotion of anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish speech and its harassment of pro-Israel speakers, few of its chapters are ever censured, let alone shut down by school administrations or governments.

One exception is New York's private Fordham University, which after many legal appeals was granted the right to ban SJP on its campuses because of the group's threatening antisemitic activities.

At the New York Supreme Court, Fordham's counsel, Jim Ryan, attested that Dean of Students Keith Eldredge did "extensive research" and concluded that "SJP chapters regularly disrupted and interfered with students and campus operations. The promotion of BDS was the cause of many of the safety and security issues associated with other SJP chapters."

Thus, the crisis on college campuses for Jewish students has *two dimensions*:

First, Jews and Israel are attacked relentlessly with antisemitic slander—both traditional tropes of Jew hatred (e.g., "Jews control the media"), as well as attempts to delegitimize (and therefore destroy) the Jewish state. Such attacks are usually excused by administrators as "mere" exercises of free speech.

Yet similar "free speech"—attacks on Black, Brown or transgender students—would never be tolerated by administration officials . . . let alone by student governments. This free-speech double standard adds injury to insult for Jewish students.

Solution: Hate speech on campus must be regulated consistently and fairly. No exceptions for antisemites.

Second, most campuses helplessly permit hostile harassment of Jewish students and pro-Israel speakers. While many schools pay lip service to "safe environment" and anti-harassment policies, they usually offer protection from violent speech disruption only if the victims are members of a protected class.

According to the interpretation of most schools, physical harassment of Jewish students for their support of Israel does *not* qualify for protection either under religious or ethnic grounds.

The obvious solution is to forbid—and harshly punish—*all physical harassment or speech disruption* of any member of the campus community, whether student, professor or visiting speaker.

Please express to friends, family, colleagues and elected representatives that a) it's unjust to permit hate speech against Jews and the Jewish state on campus, while banning hate speech directed against other minorities; and b) all harassment or disruption of free expression on campus should be forbidden and strictly enforced.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to forward this message to friends, visit FLAME's lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new *hasbarah* campaign—which further exposes "[The Israel Genocide Slander](#)" and the anti-Semites

who make this false accusation.

Best regards,

James Sinkinson, President

Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Whoopi Goldberg's comments recently about the Holocaust underscored perhaps the greatest "public relations" problem Israel faces: Lies, slander and misinformation. One of the greatest of these falsehoods is the accusation of genocide against the Jewish state. Last May, actor Mark Ruffalo tweeted that Israel commits genocide. A college student in a public forum told Vice President Harris that Israel commits "ethnic genocide." I think you'll agree that the only antidote to these lies is the truth. To clarify the outrageous accusation of genocide by Israel, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[The Israel Genocide Slander](#)." I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which ran in the *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Orlando Sentinel* and other media nationwide. It spells out why the State of Israel does not and has never committed genocide—and why accusers should be branded anti-Semites. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Harris and President Biden. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider [giving a donation now](#), as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate](#) now. Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Biden stay committed to fighting anti-Semitic actions by individuals, politicians and commercial companies.

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