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December 6, 2023



Harvard student is menaced by pro-Palestinian demonstrators and prevented from leaving after he attempts to take photos of them. Such illegal behaviors—as well as civil rights violations—are currently being challenged by law suits, donor outrage and Congressional legislation.(YouTube screenshot)

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# How to shut down antisemitic assault, bullying and bias on campus

Dear Friend of Israel, Friend of FLAME:

At Columbia University, one student was reportedly hit with a wooden stick upon confronting another student ripping down flyers with names and pictures of Israelis kidnapped by Hamas. At the University of Massachusetts, a student was arrested after apparently punching a Jewish student and spitting on an Israeli flag. A suit just filed in U.S. District Court alleges that “on-campus displays of hatred, harassment and physical violence against Jews” have erupted anew at UC Berkeley since Hamas’s October 7 massacre. These incidents represent a small sample of the outrageous—and illegal—antisemitic incidents occurring on campuses in recent weeks.

As a result of violent pro-Hamas support and opposition to the Jewish state, many Jewish students are afraid of going to class, let alone attending in an explosively hostile lecture hall.

Anti-Israel activities and rhetoric routinely violate university Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies, as well as schools’ antisemitism strictures. Moreover, much of this vitriolic Jew hatred and anti-Israel activity violates federal law. Yet response from college administrators has been notoriously cowardly, effete and ineffective.

While the structures and liberal values of higher education are crumbling before our eyes, some defenders of the Jewish people—and civil liberties on campus—are beginning to stand up and take action against today’s vicious Nazi-like hounding of Jewish students.

Pockets of concerned alumni are revolting, some few

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college administrators are banning the worst of antisemitic student organizations, and a spate of new lawsuits are calling a half dozen or more prominent offending institutions to account.

Indeed, donors have threatened to withhold financial support for colleges that don't fight antisemitism. Business executives have committed to not hiring students who take part in antisemitic actions. Elected officials are seeking new legislation to cut funding for offending schools and others are seeking to deport terror-supporting foreign students. Finally, lawsuits have the potential to cut off billions of dollars in federal aid to thousands of U.S. universities.

**Clearly, however, the most powerful weapon against hate attacks on Jewish students and the stifling of free speech on campus is the U.S. Constitution and the laws that protect it.** While it's not illegal to criticize Israel or even call for Israel's destruction—as so many campus haters do—these supporters of Hamas invariably swerve into violations of policy and the civil rights of Jewish students.

Hamas supporters on campus have committed a number of illegal acts. They have assaulted Jewish students, like Nathaniel Miller, who was hit with a flagpole when he tried to stop a man from burning an Israeli flag at Tulane University. At Harvard, pro-Hamas students crowded around an Israeli student filming their protest, verbally and physically assaulting him—a criminal act known as “menacing.” At Cooper Union, Jewish students locked themselves in a library as pro-Hamas protesters pounded on the doors and windows—an act of “making criminal threats.” And at American University, swastikas and a Nazi slogan were sprayed on the doors of Jewish students—“vandalism.” Yet where is the enforcement?

Unfortunately, Hamas supporters' crimes go beyond misdemeanors. Jewish students have had their civil rights violated, specifically their rights under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or nationality in “any program or

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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activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

Colleges fall into this category, which means they are obligated to protect Jewish students from discrimination. DEI policies are formulated by colleges for this purpose. But as recent events have demonstrated, these policies are rarely employed to protect Jewish students. Indeed, most DEI programs include little if any programming to fight antisemitism, the largest category of religious hate.

Take, for example, the situation at UC Berkeley, where there is an “Exclusionary Bylaw” adopted by some student organizations prohibiting speakers with Zionist views from addressing them. In addition, Berkeley Law Legal Services associations reportedly require Jewish students to take a course called “Palestine 101,” which denies the legitimacy of the State of Israel. Practices like these violate Jewish students’ constitutional rights to Equal Protection and Title VI civil rights, which is why UC Berkeley is now the subject of a lawsuit launched by the Brandeis Center and Jewish Americans for Fairness in Education (JAFE).

More than a half-dozen other colleges are or will be the subject of litigation, including Harvard, Cornell, Columbia, NYU, MIT, Stanford, the University of Pennsylvania and Wellesley College. They are all accused of violating the civil rights of Jewish students and not doing enough to stamp out antisemitism on their campuses.

**Fortunately, a few colleges have taken concrete action against antisemitism.** For instance, George Washington University has suspended its chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), a group notorious for its antisemitic, anti-Israel vitriol. Brandeis University went even further and banned the organization.

**Many college benefactors have also taken a stand against antisemitism on campus.** For instance, more than 1,600 Harvard alumni declared they will withhold donations to the school until it takes urgent action to address antisemitism. Prominent CEOs and law firms

have promised not to hire students who participate in antisemitic activities, such as the students at Harvard who signed a statement blaming Israel for the Hamas massacre.

**Antisemitism on U.S. college campuses has also gotten the attention of elected officials.** The U.S. House of Representatives recently approved a measure to ban funding any institution that “authorizes, facilitates, provides funding for, or otherwise supports” events promoting antisemitism on campus. Some representatives have appealed to the State Department to enforce existing statutes permitting revocation of visas for students who support terrorism. The State of Florida ordered that the college chapters of pro-Hamas groups like SJP be shut down, though this measure faces court challenges.

**Above all, those who violate the civil rights of Jewish students must know** that when Jewish Americans—and all those who support Israel and oppose antisemitism—say “Never Again,” we are dead serious. Our response must be broad-based and unrelenting—encompassing lawsuits, legislation removing funding, deportations, termination of weak-kneed administrators, slashing alumni gifts and blackballing terror-supporting graduates in the job market.

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that we will not allow rampant antisemitism and its sibling anti-Zionism to skyrocket further on a majority of our highest-level universities. The time to fight back is now.

Best regards,

James Sinkinson, President

Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. The events of October 7 have changed our world forever—and especially the world for Israel and the Jewish people. Likewise, the words “Never Again” will never be the same for us. October 7 has shown us that despite all promises of equity and commitments against

hate on campus and on our streets, we can never depend on it. We will likely never be free of the scourge of antisemitism, fueled by the most outrageous slanders. I hope you'll agree that we opponents of Hamas and its savage massacre—and of all who support Hamas, against all humanitarian values—need to speak out. FLAME's new *hasbarah*—explanatory message —“**Hatred of Jews Erupts in Full Fury**”—enumerates five of the most vicious lies against Israel and the Jewish people. I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME intends to publish in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Star Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*. 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** with a donation.

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