



2014: Actualizing AMCHA's Mission

MISSION

AMCHA Initiative is a non-profit organization dedicated to investigating, documenting, educating about, and combating antisemitism at institutions of higher education in America.

Investigating, Documenting, Educating, Combating.

These aren't just words. They are actions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **INVESTIGATING:** AMCHA Initiative's research arm carries out systematic, in-depth research and analysis of antisemitic activity and has developed a comprehensive method for defining, documenting, and analyzing manifestations of antisemitic behavior on campus, as well as the institutional structures that legitimize it and allow it to flourish. In 2014, AMCHA's investigative techniques were evidenced in:
 - The 102-page **Antisemitic Activity and Anti-Israel Bias at the Center for Near East Studies, University of California Los Angeles 2010-2013 report**, which tracked antisemitic discourse and anti-Israel bias in public events sponsored by UCLA's Center for Near East Studies (CNES) over a three-year period, from 2010 – 2013. Findings included: 93% of the Israel-related events were anti-Israel; 75% of the Israel-related events displayed antisemitic discourse; 61% of all events pertaining to significant Middle East conflicts pertained to Israel; 84% of speakers at Israel events had engaged in antisemitic activity prior to CNES; and 100% of the CNES directors had engaged in anti-Israel and antisemitic activity.
 - A **book chapter written by AMCHA co-founder Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, which explored the research activities of faculty boycotters and the impact of their advocacy of BDS on their campuses.** The chapter revealed that of the 938 boycotting faculty studied: 86% are in the humanities or social sciences (21% in English or literature); only 7% are affiliated with engineering and natural science; and 92% of boycotting English professors' research focuses on Class, Gender, Race or Empire. Academic boycotters have brought BDS to their campuses in multiple ways: in course curricula, in academic conferences, on university websites, departmental sponsorship of BDS events, in the academic senate, advising pro-Palestinian student groups, and through faculty advocacy groups.

"To my knowledge at least, Tammi Rossman-Benjamin offers the first concrete numerical evidence for a phenomenon that I have observed for years." - Andrei S. Markovits, Professor University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- **DOCUMENTING:** AMCHA Initiative carefully monitors media sources, social media accounts, submitted accounts, and witnessed incidents for evidence of campus antisemitism, and documents antisemitic activity on the AMCHA

website. In 2014, AMCHA monitored 368 campuses and documented 23 student body divestment initiatives - 6 passed and the remainder failed or were overturned; 1,661 U.S. academics that signed a public BDS petition; 50 individual quotes from students who were mentioned in media as being bullied/harassed/intimidated on campus for being Jewish or pro-Israel in 2014 - spanning 24 separate U.S. campuses; and 35 Jewish events on U.S. campuses disrupted by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).

- **EDUCATING: As an organization founded by academics, educating about campus antisemitism is a crucial component of AMCHA Initiative's work. From presentations in front of university boards of governors, lecturing at universities across North America and in Israel, authoring op-eds and educating new audiences via media and social media coverage of the organization's work – AMCHA's efforts to bring attention to the nature and scope of campus antisemitism are extensive.** In 2014, 6 presentations in front of boards of governors were given by AMCHA co-founders; 6 academic talks were given by AMCHA co-founders, including at Harvard University, McGill University, Indiana University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; 25 op-eds were penned and published by AMCHA co-founders, 33 bulletins were sent to AMCHA supporters, 27 press releases exposing campus antisemitism were distributed, and 455 articles that mentioned AMCHA's efforts were published.
- **COMBATING: AMCHA had several notable successes in 2014 in combating campus antisemitism, including:**
 - **Strength in numbers:** AMCHA established an at-will coalition of 23 civil rights, education and advocacy organizations to strategize about and participate in joint actions to combat campus antisemitism.
 - **Favorable administrator responses:**
 - AMCHA garnered the first-ever public acknowledgement by a top University of California administrator that UC policy prohibits both *faculty* and *graduate student instructors* from promoting anti-Israel propaganda and BDS in their classrooms.
 - AMCHA obtained the successful removal of a San Francisco State University student for promoting violence against Israelis and Jews, following AMCHA's revelation to SFSU and law enforcement officials of dozens of his violent social media postings.
 - AMCHA witnessed a 5-year audit of SFSU professor's travel expenses, following AMCHA's disclosure to University officials and CA State Controller of documents showing the professor had used state monies to travel to the Middle East and meet with individuals affiliated with terrorist organizations.
 - AMCHA achieved a strong public condemnation by UCLA Chancellor Block and UC President Napolitano of the UCLA Students for Justice in Palestine for harassing students who had taken trips to Israel sponsored by Jewish organizations, following an AMCHA-led coalition letter and presentation before UC Regents.
 - **Exposure of intolerance:** AMCHA disclosed an internal Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) document outlining a strategy for disrupting pro-Israel student events and silencing Jewish and pro-Israel perspectives.
 - **Federal impact:** AMCHA's report on antisemitic activity and anti-Israel bias at the Title VI-funded Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA inspired a joint statement on the need for reform of Title VI of the Higher Education Act by 10 civil rights and advocacy organizations to leaders of the Congressional House Education and Workforce Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and letters from two U.S. Congress members and two Senators calling for investigation of abuse of Title VI funding by the Department of Education.

**AMCHA Initiative will continue actualizing its mission.
Tirelessly, relentlessly, and fearlessly.**