

## 80 Organizations Request Clarification about Illegality of Hateful SFSU Departmental Facebook Posts

*SENT VIA EMAIL*

September 3, 2019

Dear Chancellor White and General Counsel Jones,

Last month our 80 organizations asked SFSU President Mahoney to uphold her university's obligations under a recent [legal settlement](#) by addressing the hate-filled on-line postings of an SFSU academic unit that appears to clearly violate California Education Code [89005.5](#). (Please see our [letter](#)). In subsequent communications that we received from President Mahoney, we were pleased to learn of the university's recent efforts to create a welcoming campus climate for Jewish students, as well as steps the university's Senate will soon be taking to review social media policies. However, we remain deeply concerned that an [image](#) from AMED Director Abdulhadi [stating](#) "Zionism = Racism" and "Boycott! Divest! Sanction!", as well as the program's [re-posting](#) of Abdulhadi's statement declaring "welcoming Zionists to campus...to be a declaration of war against Arabs, Muslims, [and] Palestinians," remain visible on AMED at SFSU's Facebook page.

So too, now, is a recent AMED at SFSU [posting](#) that links readers to the website "[SupportProfAbdulhadi.org](#)" and includes a request for readers to "Support and Donate to our legal fund: [launchgood.com/supportRabab](#)," which links to a [webpage](#) explaining that the money being solicited from readers is to be used to fight "the Israel Lobby" and to pay for Prof. Abdulhadi's lawsuits against SFSU. Like the other two AMED at SFSU postings, this one, too, apparently violates California law: CA Government Code section [8314](#) states that it is unlawful for any state employee to use public resources for personal gain.

When we raised our serious concerns about the apparent illegality of the postings with SFSU, the response was that the AMED Facebook page is a private page unaffiliated with the university. That response is completely insufficient. The official AMED logo and "San Francisco State University" are displayed front and center for all to see. Furthermore, a suggested university disclaimer that the views of the site "are not those of the university" will not address the continued blatant misuse of an SFSU program's logo and the name of the university. An SFSU academic program should never be allowed to use its departmental logo and the name "San Francisco State University" to disseminate politically-motivated and hate-filled messages.

It is important to point out that we are **not** calling for you to shut down the AMED at SFSU Facebook page or to suppress Professor Abdulhadi's speech as a private individual. Indeed, she is free to engage in whatever forms of speech she likes on her own private social media accounts. However, Professor Abdulhadi and the program she directs continue to use official university channels to disseminate highly offensive materials and to engage in activities that appear to violate at least two California state laws. The longer these illegal, venomous postings bearing the imprimatur of an academic program and

the name of "San Francisco State University" are permitted by President Mahoney and your own administration to remain online, and university faculty are allowed to flagrantly misuse the name and resources of the university, the more deeply concerned we become for the safety and well-being of Jewish students, and all students, at SFSU.

Since, to date, SFSU has been unwilling to acknowledge and address this very serious matter, we are turning to you. Do you consider the three AMED at SFSU postings we have cited to be violations of California state law? If so, please let us know how you intend to address this matter. If not, please explain to us why these three postings, which seem to be egregious violations of both the law and the public trust, are not being addressed by your administration.

Thank you for your consideration,

Academic Council for Israel  
Academic Engagement Network  
Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity (AEPi)  
Alums for Campus Fairness - National  
Alums for Campus Fairness - UC Davis  
Alums for Campus Fairness - UC Riverside  
Alums for Campus Fairness - UCLA  
AMCHA Initiative  
America Israel Cooperative Enterprise  
American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists  
American Council of Trustees and Alumni  
American Institute for Jewish Research  
American Truth Project  
Americans Fighting Antisemitism  
Americans for Peace and Tolerance  
B'nai B'rith International  
Bobcats for Israel at Ohio University  
Boston Israel Action Committee  
Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law  
Bulldogs for Israel (Brooklyn College)  
California Association of Scholars  
Campus Anti-Semitism Task Force of the North Shore  
Center for Combating Antisemitism  
Christians and Jews United for Israel  
Club Z  
Coalition for Jewish Values  
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)  
CUFI on Campus  
Davis Faculty for Israel  
Eagles Wings  
Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)  
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)  
Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors  
Hasbara Fellowships  
Herut North America, U.S. Division

Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel  
Iranian American Jewish Federation  
Iranian Jewish Women's Organization  
Israel in NYC  
Israel Matters  
Israel on Campus Coalition  
Israel Peace Initiative (IPI)  
Israeli-American Civic Action Network  
Israeli-American Civic Education Institute  
JAM  
Jewish American Affairs Committee of Indiana  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa (JIMENA)  
Middle East Forum  
Middle East Political and Information Network (MEPIN)  
National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel  
National Conference on Jewish Affairs  
National Council of Young Israel  
NCSY  
NH4Israel  
North Carolina Coalition for Israel  
Proclaiming Justice to the Nations  
Rabbinical Alliance of America  
Rhode Island Coalition for Israel  
Russian Jewish Community Foundation  
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East  
Simon Wiesenthal Center  
Slugs for Israel (University of California Santa Cruz)  
StandWithUs  
StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department  
Stop Anti-Semitism Now  
Stop BDS on Campus  
Students and Parents Against Campus Anti-Semitism  
Students Supporting Israel at Columbia  
Students Supporting Israel at Drake University  
Students Supporting Israel at San Jose State University  
Students Supporting Israel at UCLA  
Students Supporting Israel National  
Swarthmore Alumni Against Antisemitism on Campus  
The Israel Christian Nexus  
Tufts Friends of Israel  
WoMen Fight Antisemitism  
Young Jewish Conservatives  
Zionist Organization of America  
ZOA's Fuel for Truth

Cc: Winston & Strawn, LLP

The Lawfare Project, Brooke Goldstein Executive Director

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