

## **Follow Up Letter to SFSU President Lynn Mahoney Concerning Upcoming Leila Khaled Event and Academic Freedom Abuse**

SENT VIA EMAIL

September 22, 2020

**RE: 86 Organizations Ask about Academic Freedom Abuse and SFSU Event**

Dear President Mahoney,

Our 86 organizations are perplexed by your response to our letter and believe you have misunderstood our serious concerns. Our key issue is not the upcoming Khaled event *per se*, nor its featured speaker. Rather, it is the long and well-documented pattern of abuse perpetrated by the event's organizer, College of Ethnic Studies Professor Rabab Abdulhadi, who, since she was hired by SFSU in 2007, has *continuously and intentionally* used her faculty position and the name and resources of a state-funded university to promote her own hateful anti-Zionist propaganda and encourage political activism, even violence. The upcoming departmentally-sponsored event featuring a convicted terrorist, whom Prof. Abdulhadi has previously lionized and whose terrorism she has condoned, is simply the latest example in a very long list of such abuse.

Our organizations, many representing faculty who are well versed in academic freedom and deeply committed to its tenets, firmly believe that using the classroom or other academic platforms for one's own political ends is not a legitimate use of academic freedom, but an abuse of it. If you, however, believe that this event and the pattern of abusive behavior of which it is a part are protected by academic freedom — as your *J Weekly* op-ed, interview and response to our letter imply — then we have grave concerns about the quality of education and the safety and well-being of Jewish students at San Francisco State University.

Sincerely,

Academic Council for Israel  
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 Institute for Jewish Research

American Jewish International Relations Institute  
American Truth Project  
Americans Fighting Antisemitism  
Americans for a Safe Israel  
Americans for Peace and Tolerance  
B'nai B'rith International  
BEAR: Bias Education, Advocacy & Resources  
Black Americans for Inclusive Ethnic Studies  
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  
CAMERA on Campus  
Campus Anti-Semitism Task Force of the North Shore  
Chovevei Zion  
Christians and Jews United for Israel  
Club Z  
Coalition for Jewish Values  
Combat Anti-Semitism Movement  
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA)  
CUFI on Campus  
Davis Faculty for Israel  
Eagles Wings  
Education Without Indoctrination  
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 Peace Initiative (IPI)  
JAM  
Jewish American Affairs Committee of Indiana  
Jewish Student Union at San Jose State University  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa (JIMENA)  
Latinx for Quality Education  
Magshimey Herut  
Michigan Jewish Action Council  
Middle East Forum  
Middle East Political and Information Network (MEPIN)  
National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel  
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  
Ruach Fund (Real Estate Against Crimes of Hate)  
Russian Jewish Community Foundation  
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East  
Simon Wiesenthal Center  
StandWithUs  
StandWithUs Center for Combating Antisemitism  
StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department  
Stop Anti-Semitism Now  
Stop BDS on Campus  
Students and Parents Against Campus Anti-Semitism  
Students Supporting Israel at Columbia University  
Students Supporting Israel at Drake University  
Students Supporting Israel at Foothill College  
Students Supporting Israel at UCLA  
Students Supporting Israel National  
Swarthmore Alumni Against Antisemitism on Campus  
The Israel Christian Nexus  
The Israel Group  
Tufts Friends of Israel  
World Jewish Congress North America  
Zachor Legal Institute  
Zionist Organization of America