

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