



ACADEMIC EXTREMISM:

How a Faculty Network Fuels Campus Unrest & Antisemitic Violence

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Executive Summary



The surge in antisemitic incidents on U.S. campuses following the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel has reached unprecedented levels. Over the subsequent 10 months, physical assaults on Jewish students skyrocketed by 2,500%, while violent threats—including death threats—rose by 900%. This stark escalation has brought attention to anti-Zionist student groups, particularly Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). Equally if not more concerning is the rise of Faculty for Justice in Palestine (FJP), a nationwide network of over 100 faculty chapters that has amplified these trends and fueled the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement’s academic efforts, especially the implementation of an academic boycott of Israel (academic BDS).

Our investigation focused on more than 100 schools most popular with Jewish students from October 7, 2023 to June 30, 2024, and revealed several alarming findings:

- **FJP Chapters Established Nationwide:** More than 50% of the schools investigated established an FJP chapter in response to a call from the U.S. arm of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI), a key founder of the BDS movement that is linked to organizations associated with Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, both U.S.-designated terrorist groups.
- **Correlation Between FJP Presence and Violence:** Schools with FJP chapters saw a significant increase of physical assaults and threats of violence targeting Jewish students.

These campuses experienced a 7.3-fold increase in the likelihood of physical assaults on Jewish students and were 3.4 times more likely to witness death threats and other violent threats compared to campuses without such chapters.

- **Faculty-Prolonged Protests and Encampments:** Faculty members affiliated with FJP were implicated in prolonging protests, with such activities lasting 2.5 times longer at schools with an FJP presence. Encampments, when they occurred, were likely to last 4.7 times longer at these campuses. Faculty on campuses with an FJP group were likely to have been involved in 9.5 times more days of anti-Israel protest activities than faculty on campuses with no FJP group.
- **BDS Resolutions and Academic Boycotts:** FJP groups played a pivotal role in advancing the BDS movement. Divestment resolutions at schools with FJP chapters were 4.9 times more likely to pass. Moreover, academic BDS demands were nearly 11 times more likely to be included in student demands when FJP chapters were present, suggesting faculty are the primary drivers of academic BDS, with students playing a supporting role.

This report demonstrates that FJP groups are not only influencing student-led antisemitic activism but are also spearheading the promotion of academic boycotts that target Jewish students, faculty, and pro-Israel organizations for harm.

More disturbingly, the presence of FJP chapters correlates strongly with the rise of violent antisemitic behavior on campuses, including physical assaults and death threats. Unless university administrations and policymakers take immediate and decisive action, the violence and antisemitic environment fostered by these faculty groups will continue to escalate, endangering the safety of Jewish students and faculty nationwide.

Introduction



The explosion of antisemitic activity on U.S. college campuses following the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israeli civilians has shocked the nation. But while the scale of this surge is troubling, the more alarming story lies in the growing severity¹ of these incidents and their direct threats to Jewish students' safety. Physical assaults on Jewish students spiked by an astonishing 2500%, and death threats and other threats of physical violence soared nearly 900%.² Yet behind the headlines about student-led protests, another, less scrutinized yet more influential actor has quietly emerged: Faculty for Justice in Palestine (FJP).

Behind the headlines about student-led protests, another, less scrutinized yet more influential actor has quietly emerged: Faculty for Justice in Palestine (FJP).

FJP chapters were established in response to a call³ from the U.S. subsidiary of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI),⁴ which describes itself as “a founding member of the Palestinian BDS [Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions] National Committee (BNC)⁵... tasked with overseeing the academic and cultural boycott aspects of BDS.” It is relevant

¹ Except where explicitly noted, antisemitic activity data is taken from AMCHA Initiative's Antisemitism Tracker: <https://amchainitiative.org/search-by-incident#incident/display-by-date/>

² The number of incidents of physical assault targeting Jews on campus jumped from three incidents in the ten months following October 7th, 2022, to 77 incidents in the 10 months following Oct. 7th, 2023, and incidents involving death threats or threats of physical harm directed toward Jews on campus went from 13 to 129 incidents.

³ <https://usacbi.org/faculty-for-justice-in-palestine/>

⁴ <https://bdsmovement.net/pacbi/>

⁵ <https://bdsmovement.net/bnc>

to note that the BNC's most prominent co-founder—the Council of National and Islamic Forces in Palestine—is a coalition of organizations that reportedly⁶ includes Iran-supported⁷ Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, both designated by the U.S. State Department as terrorist groups⁸ and both committed to the destruction of Israel.⁹ It is therefore not surprising that the core demands of the BNC, promoted by all of its constituent organizations, including PACBI, are understood to be in support of the eradication of the Jewish state, currently home to approximately half the world's Jews.

FJP chapters were explicitly created to vigorously promote PACBI's academic boycott of Israel (academic BDS) on their campuses and in their classrooms. They were also intended to provide direct support to anti-Zionist student groups, particularly Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), facilitating their activism and embedding BDS goals into campus life.

Consistent with academic BDS's overarching goal of combating “the normalization of Israel in the global academy,”¹⁰ FJP chapters were encouraged to engage in activities such as boycotting study abroad programs in Israel, shutting down pro-Israel events and speakers, and fostering academic programs that paint Israel in a wholly negative light. These efforts were often paired with the protest, exclusion, and harassment of Jewish and pro-Israel organizations and individuals.

Our previous research has shown that the presence of anti-Zionist faculty who publicly support an academic boycott of Israel is strongly associated with anti-Zionist student activism and behavior targeting Jewish students for harm.¹¹ The establishment of over 100 FJP chapters since October 2023—supported by an international movement with the single political goal of bringing down a sovereign nation and harming all those who support it on U.S. campuses—introduces a new, more coordinated, and dangerous element to this landscape.

As this report will show, the rise of FJP chapters represents a dangerous new front in the battle against campus antisemitism. Faculty members, empowered by the BDS movement, are using their academic positions to organize against Israel and promote antisemitism on a scale we have never before witnessed.

This report explores the role that these FJP chapters have played in fomenting antisemitism and anti-Israel unrest on campuses. Our investigation alarmingly reveals that campuses with FJP chapters are seeing assaults and death threats against Jewish students at rates multiple times higher than those without FJP groups, providing compelling evidence of the dangerous intersection between faculty activism and violent antisemitic behavior. The presence of

⁶ <https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/bds-umbrella-group-linked-to-palestinian-terrorist-organizations>

⁷ <https://www.state.gov/designating-additional-hamas-and-palestinian-islamic-jihad-officials-and-supporters/>

⁸ <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/>

⁹ Hamas' founding charter calls for a jihad, or holy war, to “obliterate” the Jewish state and murder Jews worldwide (See: https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp); Palestine Islamic Jihad seeks to establish an Islamist Palestinian state that is committed to the destruction of Israel (See: https://www.dni.gov/nctc/ftos/pij_fto.html)

¹⁰ <https://usacbi.org/guidelines-for-applying-the-international-academic-boycott-of-israel/>

¹¹ <https://amchainitiative.org/reports>

FJP chapters also correlates with the extended duration of protests and encampments, as well as with the passage of BDS resolutions on their campuses.

FJP's role in embedding academic BDS demands into the fabric of student activism poses yet another alarming threat. Indeed, the very strong correlation found in the study between the presence of FJP chapters and student promotion of academic boycotts suggests that it is faculty, not students, who are driving these campaigns.

As this report will show, the rise of FJP chapters represents a dangerous new front in the battle against campus antisemitism. Faculty members, empowered by the BDS movement, are using their academic positions to organize against Israel and promote antisemitism (often disguised as anti-Zionism) on a scale we have never before witnessed. If university leaders and government officials fail to act swiftly, this troubling trend will only intensify, posing an ever-growing threat to the safety and well-being of Jewish students on campuses across the country.



Methodology



DATA COLLECTION

The schools investigated in this study were culled from Hillel International's annual list of the 120 public and private colleges and universities in North America with the largest populations of Jewish students.¹² Eliminating from Hillel's list all two-year colleges and Canadian schools, this study focused on the 103 remaining schools.¹³

In Table 1 we list the research questions we posed, together with the corresponding data sources we used to answer them.

¹² Although it has since been updated, we used Hillel's list of the "2022 Top 60 Schools by Jewish Student Population," which was available on Hillel's website at the start of the period under investigation:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20231110045618/https://www.hillel.org/top-60-jewish-colleges/>

¹³ For the purposes of this study, the four City University of New York (CUNY) campuses on Hillel's list of top 60 public schools in 2022—Brooklyn College, Baruch College, Hunter College and College of Staten Island—were collapsed into one school, since all CUNY campuses shared one FJP chapter (CUNY Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine).

TABLE 1: Research Questions and Methods of Data Collection

	Research Question	Data Collection Method
1.	<p>a) How many FJP chapters were established at the schools most popular with Jewish students?</p> <p>b) What was the scope and nature of their activism?</p>	<p>a) The National FJP Network's list of FJP chaptersⁱ and internet searches were used to identify schools' FJP chapters, and this data was used in all subsequent research questions.</p> <p>b) The number of events and statements, and the content of each statement were obtained from FJP social media and internet postings.</p>
2.	Were the number of individual faculty who had expressed support for academic BDS (academic boycotters) prior to 10/7/23 associated with the establishment of an FJP group on that campus after 10/7/23 and its level of activism?	The number of academic boycotters on a campus prior to 10/7/23 was determined from AMCHA Initiative's Faculty Academic Boycotters database. ⁱⁱ To determine the level of activism, we used the number of events and statements described in 1b above.
3.	Was the presence of an FJP group on a campus correlated with the length of anti-Israel protest activities on that campus and faculty participation in them?	Data from the Crowd Counting Consortium ⁱⁱⁱ was used to determine the length of protest activities, including encampments, as well as faculty participation in protest activities.
4.	Was the presence of an FJP group on a campus correlated with student BDS activity on that campus?	Whether a school considered a BDS resolution and whether it passed was determined from AMCHA Initiative's database of BDS votes. ^{iv}
5.	Was the presence of an FJP group at a school correlated with the number of incidents involving the targeting of Jews for harm on that campus?	The number of campus incidents targeting Jews involving physical assault or threats of violence, including death threats, were determined from AMCHA Initiative's Incident Tracker. ^v

ⁱ <https://www.fjp-network.org/chapters-2>

ⁱⁱ <https://amchainitiative.org/faculty-academic-BDS/#faculty-academic-boycotters/display-by-name/>

ⁱⁱⁱ The Crowd Counting Consortium (CCC) is a joint public interest and scholarly project of the Ash Center at the Harvard Kennedy School and the University of Connecticut. The CCC documents protests and demonstrations in the United States using publicly available data on political crowds: <https://ash.harvard.edu/programs/crowd-counting-consortium/>

^{iv} <https://amchainitiative.org/israel-divestment-vote-scorecard/#divestment-resolutions/search-by-date/>

^v <https://amchainitiative.org/search-by-incident/#incident/display-by-date/>

STATISTICAL ANALYSES

This study used a combination of **logistical regression** (for binary dependent variables) and **negative binomial regression** (for continuous dependent variables) to isolate the impact of FJP groups on the following dependent variables, measured at each school from October 7, 2023 to June 30, 2024: 1) Campus unrest: the duration of campus protests and encampments; 2) BDS activity: school BDS votes and whether they passed; and 3) Antisemitic acts: the number of incidents involving physical assault or violent threats (including death threats) targeting Jews on campus. Three other independent factors that we believed could also have an impact on the above dependent variables were: 1) the number of academic boycotters on a campus; 2) the size of the school; and 3) whether it was a public or private institution. These were taken as control variables in each of the regression analyses to ensure that any statistical correlation we found between the presence of FJP and the dependent variable of interest was not an artifact.

In addition, logistical and negative binomial regression analyses were used to investigate whether the establishment of an FJP group after 10/7/23 and its degree of activity (as determined by the number of events and statements it organized and authored) was associated with the number of academic boycotters on a campus prior to 10/7/23.

Results & Discussion



In this section, we report on and discuss the findings of our investigation of Faculty for Justice in Palestine (FJP) chapters established after October 7, 2023 on more than 100 schools most popular with Jewish students, assessing in particular: 1) the presence and strength of FJP chapters and the nature of their activism; 2) the relationship of FJP chapters with the number of individual faculty at those schools who had expressed support for academic BDS prior to 10/7/23; 3) the association of FJP chapters with measures of campus unrest and faculty participation in campus protest activities; 4) the association of FJP chapters with student BDS activity; and 5) the association of FJP chapters and acts targeting Jews on campus for harm.

1

How many FJP chapters were established at the schools most popular with Jewish students and what was the scope and nature of their activism?

At the 103 four-year public and private colleges and universities that we investigated for this study, FJP chapters were established on 57 (55%) campuses by the end of the 2023-2024 academic year, with 30 chapters established at private schools and 27 at public schools.

Though ideologically similar in their commitment to promoting academic BDS (as described in the Introduction), these chapters differed widely in the extent of their on-campus activity, whose

measure we took to be the relative strength of each group: Stronger FJP chapters organized or co-organized many events, such as anti-Israel teach-ins, rallies and strikes, and issued or endorsed numerous statements expressing their foundational principles, opining on campus or world events, calling students or faculty to action, or demanding action of administrators. Weaker chapters engaged in fewer or none of these activities. [Appendix 1](#) provides the number of sponsored or co-sponsored events, authored or co-authored statements and their total number for each FJP chapter in the study.

Table 2 below shows the ten most active FJP groups in the study and their level of activity.

TABLE 2: Most Active FJP-Affiliated Chapters by Total Number of Events Organized or Co-Organized and Number of Statements Authored or Co-Authored from 10/7/23 to 6/30/24

Schools	Number of Events Organized/Co-organized	Number of Statements Authored/Co-authored	Totals
University of Minnesota	53	12	65
New York University	30	14	44
UC Santa Cruz	18	22	40
The New School	22	13	35
University of Pennsylvania	16	14	30
University of Michigan	18	10	28
Columbia University/Barnard College	16	11	27
City University of New York	11	12	23
Georgetown University	13	10	23
University of Chicago	11	12	23

As can be seen in Table 2, the strongest FJP chapters, which are found at both public and private institutions, contributed to organizing and authoring a significant number of events and statements, thereby increasing the chapters' opportunity to influence campus discourse and behavior in support of their anti-Zionist mission.

Many FJP groups were directly involved with anti-Zionist student organizations and academic departments in organizing events and authoring statements. **Nearly 70%** of FJP chapters co-spon-

sored events and/or co-authored statements with one or more student organizations, a collaboration that not only provided academic legitimacy to the student organizations and helped propel their anti-Zionist activism, but also assisted the FJP groups in spreading their own messaging among student activists. In addition, **more than one-quarter (26%)** of FJP groups co-sponsored events and/or co-authored statements with academic departments, which provided additional institutional approval and support for FJP's activism.

An analysis of each of the statements authored or co-authored by 49 of the 57 **(86%)** FJP chapters in our study revealed that not only did **100%** of the groups who issued statements use one or more of them to advertise their anti-Zionist ideological and activist commitments, including support for anti-Israel boycotts, but nearly all **(98%)** also used their statements to support and defend their right, and the right of students and faculty generally, to engage in anti-Zionist advocacy and activism on their campuses. For example, **96%** of the groups issued one or more statements in defense of the freedom of speech of activist students and faculty and their right to hold protest rallies and set up encampments (even though most schools prohibit camping on campus); **88%** used their statements to defend faculty's right to incorporate pro-Palestinian advocacy and activism into their teaching and research under the mantle of academic freedom; **80%** of groups issued one or more statements insisting that anti-Zionism is not antisemitism, in order to shield anti-Zionist activists from charges of antisemitism and its disciplinary consequences; and **71%** demanded that student and faculty activists facing disciplinary or legal sanctions for violations of school policy or the law be granted full amnesty.

See [Appendix 2](#) for a full analysis of the prevalence of different themes in FJP statements across campuses.

2

Were the number of individual faculty who expressed support for academic BDS (academic boycotters) prior to 10/7/23 associated with the establishment of an FJP group on that campus after 10/7/23 and its level of activism?

In seeking to understand which campuses were more likely to play host to a faculty group affiliated with the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI), an obvious starting point was an examination of the relationship between the establishment of FJP—an academic BDS-promoting faculty group—and the presence of faculty on that campus who had already expressed support for the academic BDS campaign. And indeed, we found that the establishment of an FJP group after 10/7/23 was highly correlated with the number of academic boycotters present on that campus prior to 10/7/23. (Wald Chi Square = 16.0; $p < .001$).

In addition, the strength of an FJP group (as determined by the total number of events and statements it participated in organizing and authoring) was also very strongly correlated with the num-

ber of academic boycotters present on that campus prior to 10/7/23. (Wald Chi Square = 24.5; $p < .001$)

See [Appendix 3](#) for details of the statistical analyses supporting the above findings.

These results strongly suggest that the academic boycotters present on a campus prior to 10/7/23 likely played a major role in establishing their campus' FJP group and organizing its activities.

3

Was the presence of an FJP group on a campus correlated with anti-Israel protest activities on that campus?

The sudden establishment of dozens of FJP chapters nationwide after 10/7/23 co-occurred with an unprecedented surge in anti-Israel protest activity—such as rallies, building takeovers and encampments—on campuses across the country, including at 87% of the schools in our study, as well as the extensive faculty participation in the protest activities at some schools.

This prompted us to examine the possible relationship between the presence of an FJP chapter and a) the duration of any kind of anti-Israel protest activity at a school after 10/7/23; b) the duration of a campus encampment in particular; and c) the extent of faculty participation in campus protest activity. We found that:

- The total number of days of anti-Israel campus protests was strongly associated with the establishment of an FJP group, with protest activity likely to last **2.5 times longer** at schools with an FJP group. (Wald Chi-Square: 14.7; $p < .001$)
- The length of an on-campus encampment was very strongly associated with the establishment of an FJP group, with encampments likely to last **4.7 times** more days at schools with an FJP group. (Wald Chi-Square: 35.8; $p < .001$)
- The total number of days of faculty participation in on-campus anti-Israel protest activities was strongly associated with the presence of an FJP group: Faculty on campuses with an FJP group were likely to have been involved in **9.5 times** more days of anti-Israel protest activities (Wald Chi-Square = 45.7; $p < .001$) than faculty on campuses with no FJP group.

Interestingly, the number of academic boycotters on a campus, which was included in our statistical models as a control variable (see Methodology), was only mildly associated with the duration of any kind of protest activity (Wald Chi-Square: 3.9; $p = .05$), and not significantly associated with either the duration of an on-campus encampment or the participation of faculty in protest activity. This suggests that the organization of faculty into an activist group played a

more significant role than the activism of individual faculty members in determining the strength of on-campus anti-Israel protest activities and the extent of faculty participation in them.

See [Appendix 4](#) for details of the statistical analyses supporting the above findings.

4

Was the presence of an FJP group on a campus correlated with student BDS activity on that campus?

A central component of post-10/7/23 protest activities on virtually every campus on which they occurred was the promotion of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement and its two largest campaigns: 1) an economic boycott intended to hurt Israel economically, primarily expressed on campus as the demand for schools to divest all of their financial holdings from companies that do business with Israel, but occasionally expressed as the demand for a school to stop buying Israeli products, such as Sabra Hummus, for campus use; and 2) an academic boycott (also known as academic BDS), intended to ensure that Israel and Zionism are not “normalized” in the academy by, for instance, cutting off a school’s educational ties with Israeli academic institutions and scholars, cancelling or shutting down Israel-related programming and activities at the school, and severing a school’s relationship with Israel-supporting Jewish organizations and prominent Zionist individuals connected with the school.

Expressions of academic BDS promotion since 10/7/23 have included: demands to shut down a school’s study abroad programs in Israel and research collaborations with Israeli academic institutions; calls for a school to sever its ties with Hillel (the largest Jewish campus organization in the country, with chapters on each of the schools in our investigation), the Anti-Defamation League and other pro-Israel Jewish organizations; as well as demands for pro-Israel individuals to step down from positions of power at the school, such as from the board of trustees.

Campus activism around both anti-Israel divestment efforts and efforts to promote academic BDS soared after 10/7/23. For example, whereas in the 2022-2023 academic year only one of the schools in our study voted on (and passed) an anti-Israel divestment resolution, in the 2023-2024 academic year student governments at 41 (40%) of these schools voted on anti-Israel divestment resolutions, with 31 of the resolutions being adopted. In addition, at 47 schools in our study (46%), the list of demands made of university administrators by anti-Zionist student activists included the demand that the school engage in a “full academic boycott of Israel” or some component of that boycott, such as canceling the school’s study abroad programs to Israel.

Given FJP’s close affiliation with the academic arm of the BDS movement and the inclusion of advocacy for academic BDS, divestment, and the BDS movement more broadly in its core

mission, we hypothesized that the presence of an FJP group would be highly associated with student BDS activity, as measured by a) the student government's consideration and passage of a divestment resolution after 10/7/23, and b) by whether student activist demands of administrators post-10/7/23 included calls for academic BDS. We found that:

- Contrary to what we presumed, a student government's consideration of an anti-Israel divestment resolution was not significantly associated with the presence of an FJP group. However, the presence of an FJP group was associated with the *passage* of such resolutions: Divestment resolutions at schools with an FJP group were **4.9 times** more likely to pass than at schools with no FJP group (Wald Chi-Square = 7.1; $p = .008$).
- The inclusion of academic BDS in student demands of administrators was strongly associated with the presence of an FJP group: Academic BDS was **10.7 times** more likely to be included in student demands at schools with an FJP group than at schools with no FJP group (Wald Chi-Square = 17.4; $p < .001$).

The number of academic boycotters on a campus prior to 10/7/23 was not significantly associated with any of these measures of student BDS activity.

See [Appendix 5](#) for details of the statistical analyses supporting the above findings.

The fact that neither the presence of an FJP group nor the number of academic boycotters on a campus was significantly correlated with their student government's consideration of an anti-Israel divestment resolution, but the presence of an FJP group was associated with a resolution's passage, suggests that while faculty can amplify student activists' efforts, students themselves are the principal drivers of anti-Israel divestment activity on a campus. Conversely, the very strong correlation between students' advocacy for academic BDS and the presence of an FJP chapter suggests it's the faculty organization that is the primary driver of the academic BDS campaign on campus, with students playing a supporting role. This is not surprising, given that the academic BDS campaign on US campuses was launched by faculty and primarily directed towards faculty, and that FJP chapters were created in large part to ramp up support for academic BDS on their respective campuses.

5

Was the presence of an FJP group at a school correlated with the number of incidents involving the targeting of Jews for harm on that campus?

As noted in the Introduction, the proliferation of FJP chapters on campuses nationwide after 10/7/23 coincided with an unprecedented surge of campus antisemitism, including exponential increases in the most severe incidents involving physical assault and death threats or threats

of physical violence targeting Jews on campus, which skyrocketed approximately 2,500% and 900%, respectively, compared to the number of similar incidents the year before. And while the vast majority of incidents were perpetrated by students or off-campus actors, there were compelling reasons to predict that the presence of an FJP group would be significantly linked to these antisemitic acts.

First, our previous studies found consistently strong correlations between the number of academic BDS-supporting faculty and acts targeting Jewish members of the campus community for harm. This led us to predict that the presence of an academic BDS-supporting organization like FJP, which could potentially amplify the impact of individual boycotters, would have its own unique and significant association with campus antisemitism. Second, the core tenets of academic BDS itself, which serve as FJP's organizing principles, include the suppression of all on-campus Zionist expression, behavior that inevitably leads to the antisemitic harassment of Jewish students, faculty and staff.

We tested our prediction by examining the correlation between the presence of an FJP group and the incidence of physical assault and death threats and/or threats of physical violence targeting Jews on campus. We found that:

- The number of incidents involving physical assault targeting Jews on campus was significantly associated with the presence of an FJP group: Schools with an FJP group were **7.3 times** more likely to have incidents involving physical violence targeting Jews than schools without an FJP group. (Wald Chi-Square = 8.4; $p = .004$)
- The number of incidents involving death threats and/or threats of physical violence targeting Jews on campus was also strongly associated with the presence of an FJP group: Schools with an FJP group were **3.4 times** more likely to have incidents involving death threats or threats of physical harm targeting Jews than schools without an FJP group. (Wald Chi-Square = 7.9; $p = .005$)

In addition, as in our previous studies, the number of academic boycotters at a school prior to 10/7/23 was strongly associated with the number of physical assaults (Wald Chi-Square = 9.5; $p = .002$) and death threats and/or threats of violence targeting Jews on campus (Wald Chi Square = 8.2; $p = .004$).

See [Appendix 6](#) for details of the statistical analyses supporting the above findings.

These results confirmed our prediction that, over and above the association of individual academic boycotters to incidents that target Jews for harm, FJP groups had their own unique contribution to the surge in campus antisemitism after the Hamas attack.

Conclusion and Recommendations



We have never seen faculty organize to this extent, within a national network that is supported by an international movement with the single political goal of bringing down a sovereign nation, and harming its inhabitants and those who support them on U.S. campuses, including their own students and colleagues. This is an extremely alarming development, which shows no sign of diminishing.

Our extensive data collection and statistical analyses strongly suggest that Faculty for Justice in Palestine chapters, established after the horrific Hamas attack on October 7, 2023 at more than half of the 4-year colleges and universities most popular with Jewish students, played a pivotal role in the unprecedented explosion of anti-Israel unrest and antisemitism that continues to grip many U.S. campuses. These groups were most likely established by faculty who, prior to the Hamas attack, were self-declared supporters of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (academic BDS).

While our previous studies found that the presence and number of individual academic boycotters was strongly associated with anti-Zionist expression and acts targeting Jewish students for harm, once launched, the FJP groups,

which link faculty to each other and to a national and international network with a unity of purpose, took on a life of their own. We found that FJP groups made unique contributions to anti-Zionist expression and acts of antisemitism, above and beyond the contribution of individual boycotters.

Leveraging their position as faculty, with easy access to both institutional support from politicized academic departments and large numbers of students eager to do their professors' bidding, FJP groups were in a unique position to promote the tenets of academic BDS that are at the heart of their organizational mission. These include not only working towards getting their schools to cut all ties to Israeli academic institutions and scholars, but far more insidious efforts to implement the academic boycott's core goal of ensuring that Israel is not "normalized" in the academy by purging all Zionist expression—and Zionists—from their respective campuses. This goal was carried out on ubiquitous placards and in chants demonizing and delegitimizing Israel and calling for its elimination, attempts to shut down pro-Israel events, explicit statements that Zionists were not welcome on campus, and physically impeding campus access to Jewish students and faculty who did not denounce Israel.

Unless immediate steps are taken, the growing and strengthening of the FJP network will surely lead to further exacerbation of already unprecedented levels of campus unrest and antisemitism.

We have never seen faculty organize to this extent, within a national network that is supported by an international movement with the single political goal of bringing down a sovereign nation, and harming its inhabitants and those who support them on U.S. campuses, including their own students and colleagues. This is an extremely alarming development, which shows no sign of diminishing.

FJP groups are proud of what they have accomplished, and they are strengthening and widening their efforts.¹⁴ As clearly expressed in the recent "Back to School" statement of the National FJP Network, "On the eve of the new academic year, we are looking forward to a renewal of pro-Palestinian expression on our campuses. With the arrival of a fresh class of students who are invested in freedom in Palestine and beyond, the work to educate and organize will continue and grow in new ways."¹⁵ Specifically, they are calling on FJP chapters nationwide to "respond to the decision of the BDS leadership in Palestine" to prioritize the dismantling of their campus' Study Abroad in Israel programs.

Unless immediate steps are taken, the growing and strengthening of the FJP network will surely lead to further exacerbation of already unprecedented levels of campus unrest and antisemitism.

College and university leaders and government officials must recognize that the existence and unfettered activism of FJP groups represent a clear and present danger to the safety and well-being of Jewish students and faculty who identify with Zionism or support the Jewish state. Such

¹⁴ <https://www.memri.org/tv/california-state-university-san-bernardino-prof-ahlam-muhtaseb-jordan-tv-campus-protests>

¹⁵ <https://fjp-network.squarespace.com/back-to-school-fall-2024>

activity will also negatively impact the research and teaching missions of their campuses—to the detriment of all members of the campus community.

School administrators must establish robust safeguards and enforcement mechanisms to prevent faculty from using their academic positions and departmental affiliations to promote politically motivated advocacy and activism that directly targets their own students and colleagues for harm.

State and Federal legislators who are responsible for ensuring that government monies given to institutions of higher education are used for educational purposes rather than political ones, especially the implementation of academic BDS that intentionally subverts the educational process, should consider establishing legislation that would withhold government funding of schools that permit faculty to engage in such behavior.¹⁶

Finally, in the absence of such action on the part of school leaders or government officials, parents and prospective students should consider avoiding schools with active FJP chapters,¹⁷ and donors should consider withholding funds.

¹⁶ In September, 2023, Texas became the first state in the nation to enact a law prohibiting state-funded colleges and universities from implementing academic boycotts: <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/analysis/html/SB01517F.htm>

¹⁷ <https://amchainitiative.org/sjp-chapters>

About the Authors

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TAMMI ROSSMAN-BENJAMIN is cofounder and director of AMCHA Initiative, and was a faculty member in Hebrew and Jewish Studies at the University of California Santa Cruz from 1996–2016. Rossman-Benjamin has written articles and reports about academic anti-Zionism and antisemitism and lectured widely on the growing threat to the safety of Jewish students on college campuses. She has presented her research in scholarly talks and academic conferences at several universities, including Indiana University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Harvard University and McGill University. Rossman-Benjamin's research has been featured in several volumes on antisemitism. Articles and opinion pieces from Rossman-Benjamin have been published in *Newsweek*, *The Hill*, *New York Daily News*, *Los Angeles Daily News*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Contra Costa Times*, *Jewish Journal of Los Angeles*, and dozens of others.

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Appendix 1

The number of Sponsored or Co-sponsored Events and Authored or Co-authored Statements for Each FJP-Affiliated Chapter

FJP = Faculty for Justice in Palestine

FSJP = Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine

FCJP = Faculty Coalition for Justice in Palestine

AJP = Academics for Justice in Palestine

ASJP = Academics and Staff for Justice in Palestine

EJP = Educators for Justice in Palestine

FLAGSJP = Faculty, Librarians, Alumni, Graduate Students & Staff for Justice in Palestine

School	FJP-Affiliated Group	# Events	# Statements	# Total
American University	FSJP	0	3	3
Arizona State University	Scholars for Palestine	1	4	5
Boston University	FSJP	0	1	1
Brown University	FCJP	0	2	2
Claremont Colleges	FJP	2	8	10
Columbia University/Barnard	FSJP	16	11	27
Cornell University	FJP*	0	0	0
CSU Northridge	FJP	3	4	7
City Univ. of New York (CUNY)	FSJP	11	12	23
Dartmouth College	FSJP	2	6	8
DePaul University	FJP	0	6	6
Drexel University	FSJP	1	4	5
Duke University	ASJP	2	8	10

Emerson College	FSJP	5	6	11
Emory University	FSJP	4	5	9
Fordham University	FJP	0	4	4
Georgetown University	FSJP	13	10	23
Harvard University	FSJP	1	7	8
Indiana University Bloomington	AJP	2	2	4
Michigan State University	FJP*	0	0	0
New York University	FSJP	30	14	44
Northeastern University	FSJP	1	4	5
Northwestern University	EJP	4	6	10
Ohio State University	FSJP	8	10	18
Pennsylvania State University	FJP*	0	0	0
Princeton University	FJP	1	2	3
Rutgers Univ. New Brunswick	FJP	5	9	14
Sarah Lawrence College	FSJP	8	8	16
Stanford University	FJP	12	6	18
SUNY Buffalo	FJP*	0	0	0
Syracuse University	Faculty for Palestine	10	5	15
Temple University	FSJP	1	2	3
The New School	FJP	22	13	35
Tufts University	FJP*	0	0	0
University of Arizona	FJP*	0	0	0
UC Berkeley	FJP	3	6	9
UC Davis	FJP	5	3	8
UC Los Angeles	FJP	9	9	18
UC Santa Barbara	AJP	10	2	12
UC Santa Cruz	FJP	18	22	40

University of Chicago	FJP	11	12	23
University of Colorado Boulder	Faculty & Staff Fighting for a Free Palestine	0	3	3
University of Florida, Gainesville	FJP	5	3	8
Univ. of Illinois Urbana Champaign	FJP	0	6	6
University of Maryland	FSJP	0	1	1
Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst	FJP	16	4	20
University of Michigan	FSJP	18	10	28
Univ. of Minnesota Twin Cities	EJP & FLAGSJP	53	12	65
University of Oregon	FSJP	11	4	15
University of Pennsylvania	FJP	16	14	30
University of Rochester	FJP	0	1	1
University of Southern California	Palestine Justice Faculty Group	4	3	7
University of Texas Austin	FSJP	4	13	17
University of Washington	FSJP	6	13	19
University of Wisconsin Madison	FJP*	0	0	0
Vassar College	FSJP	1	0	1
Yale University	FJP	9	6	15

FJP*—indicates that according to the National FJP Network website, an FJP chapter was established at that university but no online evidence can be found for the presence of a group.

Appendix 2

An Analysis of the Content of Statements Authored or Co-Authored by 49 FJP Chapters From 10/7/23 to 6/30/24

Of the 49 FJP groups that issued one or more statements:

■ **Number of groups expressing anti-Zionist ideological and activist commitments:**

- 49 groups (100%) expressed partisan support for the Palestinian cause
- 39 groups (80%) committed themselves to educating about Palestine at their universities
- 46 groups (94%) expressed support for BDS in general or some kind of anti-Israel boycott
- 41 groups (84%) called for divestment
- 35 groups (71%) called for an academic boycott of Israel
- 33 groups (67%) called for the right of return of all Palestinian refugees
- 14 groups (29%) called for or condoned the elimination of the Jewish state

■ **Number of groups supporting and defending their right, and the right of students and faculty generally, to engage in anti-Zionist activism on their campuses, and deflecting charges of antisemitism:**

- 48 groups (98%) expressed support for or defended student and/or faculty activists
- 47 groups (96%) defended freedom of speech for students and faculty activists
- 43 groups (88%) defended academic freedom for faculty
- 35 groups (71%) called for amnesty for students and faculty from disciplinary or legal sanctions
- 39 groups (80%) insisted anti-Zionism is not antisemitism
- 6 groups (12%) called for the university president to resign or be fired for mistreating activists

Appendix 3

Were the number of individual faculty who had expressed support for academic BDS (academic boycotters) prior to 10/7/23 associated with: 1) the establishment of an FJP group on that campus after 10/7/23; and 2) its level of activism?

1. Logistic Regression analysis of predictors of the establishment of an FJP group after 10/7/23: a) Number of academic boycotters prior to 10/7/23; b) Total undergraduate population; c) Public or private school

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
# Academic Boycotters Step 1 ^a	.236	.059	15.969	1	<.001	1.266
Total Undergrads	.000	.000	5.644	1	.018	1.000
Public /Private	1.746	.952	3.364	1	.067	5.731
Constant	-5.981	2.091	8.182	1	.004	.003

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: # Academic Boycotters prior to 10/7/23, Total Undergrads, Public /Private

2. Negative Binomial Regression analysis of predictors of the level of activity of an FJP group: a) Number of academic boycotters prior to 10/7/23; b) Total undergraduate population; c) Public or private school

Parameter Estimates

Parameter	B	Std. Error	Wald-Chi Square	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
(Intercept)	.926	.2141	18.702	1	<.001	2.524
# Academic Boycotters	.038	.0076	24.474	1	<.001	1.038
Total Undergrads	6.533E-6	1.4235E-5	.211	1	.646	1.000
[Public /Private=1]	-.036	.3761	.009	1	.924	.965
[Public /Private=2]	0	.	.	.	.	1

Dependent Variable: FJP Events & Statements

Model: # Academic Boycotters prior to 10/7/23, Total Undergrads, Public /Private

Appendix 4

Was the presence of an FJP group on a campus associated with: 1) the duration of any kind of anti-Israel protest activity post-10/7/23; 2) the duration of an encampment; and 3) the extent of faculty participation in anti-Israel protest activity?

1. Negative Binomial Regression analysis of predictors of the duration of any kind of campus anti-Israel protest activity: a) Presence of an FJP group; b) Number of academic boycotters prior to 10/7/23; c) Total undergraduate population; d) Public/ private school

Parameter Estimates

Parameter	B	Std. Error	Wald-Chi Square	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
(Intercept)	3.013	.2527	142.165	1	<.001	20.355
[FJP=0]	-.932	.2428	14.733	1	<.001	.394
[FJP=1]	0 ^a	.	.	.	<.001	1
# Academic Boycotters	.012	.0062	3.853	1	.	1.012
Total Undergrads	5.826E-6	1.2820E-5	.207	1	.050	1.000
[Public /Private=1]	-.091	.3495	.068	1	.650	.913
[Public /Private=2]	0	.	.	.	.794	1

Dependent Variable: # Days of Protest

Model: Presence FJP group, # Academic Boycotters prior to 10/7/23, # Undergrads, Public /Private

2. Negative Binomial Regression analysis of predictors of the duration of an on-campus encampment: a) Presence of an FJP group; b) Number of academic boycotters prior to 10/7/23; c) Total undergraduate population; d) Public or private school

Parameter Estimates

Parameter	B	Std. Error	Wald-Chi Square	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
(Intercept)	2.982	.2743	118.209	1	<.001	19.735
[FJP=0]	-1.551	.2592	35.797	1	<.001	.212
[FJP=1]	0 ^a	.	.	.	.	1
# Academic Boycotters	.011	.0065	2.750	1	.097	1.011
Total Undergrads	-3.446E-5	1.5356E-5	5.037	1	.025	1.000
[Public /Private=1]	.415	.3782	1.204	1	.273	1.514
[Public /Private=2]	0	.	.	.	.	1

Dependent Variable: # Days of Encampment

Model: Presence FJP group, # Academic Boycotters prior to 10/7/23, # Undergrads, Public /Private

3. Negative Binomial Regression analysis of predictors of the number of days of faculty participation in anti-Israel protest activity: a) Presence of an FJP group; b) Number of academic boycotters prior to 10/7/23; c) Total undergraduate population; d) Public or private school

Parameter Estimates

Parameter	B	Std. Error	Wald-Chi Square	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
(Intercept)						
[FJP=0]	-2.250	.3329	45.656	1	<.001	.105
[FJP=1]	0 ^a	.	.	.	.	1
# Academic Boycotters	-.002	.0061	.068	1	.794	.998
Total Undergrads	1.641E-5	1.7365E-5	.893	1	.345	1.000
[Public /Private=1]	.009	.4626	.000	1	.984	1.009
[Public /Private=2]	0	.	.	.	.	1

Dependent Variable: # Days of Faculty Participation in Anti-Israel Protests

Model: Presence FJP group, # Academic Boycotters prior to 10/7/23, # Undergrads, Public /Private

Appendix 5

Was the presence of an FJP group on a campus associated with: 1) the consideration of an anti-Israel divestment resolution by a student government post-10/7/23; 2) the passage of the resolution; and 3) whether student activist demands of administrators post-10/7/23 included calls for academic BDS

1. Logistical Regression analysis of predictors of the consideration of an anti-Israel divestment resolution by a student government post-10/7/23: a) Presence of an FJP group; b) Number of academic boycotters prior to 10/7/23; c) Total undergraduate population; d) Public/private school

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
FJP Step 1 ^a	.819	.514	2.536	1	.111	2.268
# Academic Boycotters	.014	.011	1.672	1	.196	1.014
Total Undergrads	.000	.000	.044	1	.835	1.000
Public /Private	-1.230	.683	3.248	1	.072	.292
Constant	.993	1.360	.533	1	.465	2.698

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: # Academic Boycotters prior to 10/7/23, Total Undergrads, Public /Private

2. Logistical Regression analysis of predictors of the passage of an anti-Israel divestment resolution by a student government post-10/7/23: a) Presence of an FJP group; b) Number of academic boycotters prior to 10/7/23; c) Total undergraduate population; d) Public/private school

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
FJP Step 1 ^a	1.589	.596	7.118	1	.008	4.898
# Academic Boycotters	.018	.011	2.917	1	.088	1.018
Total Undergrads	.000	.000	3.880	1	.049	1.000
Public /Private	-2.072	.780	7.057	1	.008	.126
Constant	2.106	1.498	1.978	1	.160	8.219

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: # Academic Boycotters prior to 10/7/23, Total Undergrads, Public /Private

3. Logistical Regression analysis of predictors of whether student activist demands of administrators post-10/7/23 included: a) Presence of an FJP group; b) Number of academic boycotters prior to 10/7/23; c) Total undergraduate population; d) Public/private school

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
FJP Step 1 ^a	2.369	.567	17.444	1	<.001	10.690
# Academic Boycotters	.006	.013	.171	1	.679	1.006
Total Undergrads	.000	.000	.359	1	.549	1.000
Public /Private	.188	.789	.057	1	.812	1.207
Constant	-1.838	1.629	1.272	1	.259	.159

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: # Academic Boycotters prior to 10/7/23, Total Undergrads, Public /Private

Appendix 6

Was the presence of an FJP group on a campus associated with: 1) acts involving the physical assault of Jews on campus and 2) acts involving death threats or threats of physical harm directed at Jews on campus post-10/7/23

1. Negative Binomial Regression analysis of predictors of acts involving the physical assault of Jews on campus post-10/7/23: a) Presence of an FJP group; b) Number of academic boycotters prior to 10/7/23; c) Total undergraduate population; d) Public/ private school

Parameter Estimates

Parameter	B	Std. Error	Wald-Chi Square	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
(Intercept)	-.778	.4428	3.083	1	.079	.460
[FJP=0]	-1.985	.6849	8.400	1	.004	.137
[FJP=1]	0a	.	.	.	.	1
# Academic Boycotters	.026	.0084	9.476	1	.002	1.026
Total Undergrads	6.121E-6	2.4392E-5	.063	1	.802	1.000
[Public /Private=1]	-.432	.7051	.375	1	.540	.649
[Public /Private=2]	0	.	.	.	.	1

Dependent Variable: # Incidents Physical Assault

Model: Presence FJP group, # Academic Boycotters prior to 10/7/23, # Undergrads, Public /Private

2. Negative Binomial Regression analysis of predictors of acts involving death threats or threats of physical harm targeting Jews on campus post-10/7/23: a) Presence of an FJP group; b) Number of academic boycotters prior to 10/7/23; c) Total undergraduate population; d) Public/ private school

Parameter Estimates

Parameter	B	Std. Error	Wald-Chi Square	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
(Intercept)	-.488	.3601	1.835	1	.175	.614
[FJP=0]	-1.232	.4375	7.935	1	.005	.292
[FJP=1]	0 ^a	.	.	.	.	1
# Academic Boycotters	.020	.0070	8.188	1	.004	1.020
Total Undergrads	2.138E-5	1.8157E-5	1.386	1	.239	1.000
[Public /Private=1]	-.525	.5395	.946	1	.331	.592
[Public /Private=2]	0	.	.	.	.	1

Dependent Variable: # Death threats/threats of physical harm

Model: Presence FJP group, # Academic Boycotters prior to 10/7/23, # Undergrads, Public /Private

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