



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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November 6, 2009

Mr. Mark G. Yudof
President, University of California
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

Dear President Yudof:

In letters sent in September and October, we apprised you of the very troubling possibility that the Muslim Student Union and one of its speakers solicited funds at UC Irvine, which may have been distributed to the terrorist group Hamas. We now alert you to the disturbing possibility that UC Santa Cruz itself solicited funds that also may have been distributed to Hamas.

If this in fact occurred, then there are serious legal implications. Hamas has been designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the U.S. State Department. The group's objectives couldn't be clearer: Hamas' charter calls for the murder of Jews and the destruction of the State of Israel. Providing material support and resources to a Foreign Terrorist Organization like Hamas is illegal under 18 U.S.C. § 2339B.

The Muslim Student Union and its Featured Speaker used UC Irvine to
Raise Funds that may have gone to the Terrorist Group Hamas

Based on the letters we sent to you in the last two months, you know that a student group called the Muslim Student Union and its featured speaker, radical British politician and Israel-basher George Galloway, solicited funds at UC Irvine for a group called Viva Palestina. There is evidence that Viva Palestina brought convoys of vehicles, including money, goods and supplies, to Hamas in Gaza in violation of U.S. law. The Investigative Project on Terrorism, headed by renowned terrorist expert Steven Emerson, recently issued a 31-page report about Viva Palestina, a copy of which we have already forwarded to you. The report concluded that Viva Palestina's goal is not charity, but to support the terrorist group Hamas.

UC Santa Cruz's Cowell College Raised Funds
that may have gone to the Terrorist Group Hamas

Now it appears that the University of California itself may have been involved in the solicitation of funds for Viva Palestina, and that those funds may well have ended up in Hamas' hands. In January 2009, Cowell College, a residential college at UC Santa Cruz, sponsored an event called "A Pulse on Palestine." UC Santa Cruz heavily

Mr. Mark G. Yudof
November 6, 2009
Page 2

advertised the event, listing it in the official Cowell College January Calendar of Events (which appeared on-line and was also delivered in hard copy to faculty mailboxes), and posting flyers all around campus.

Ignoring Community Concerns and in Violation of University Policies, UC Santa Cruz's
Cowell College Sponsors a Political Event Bashing Israel

As soon as the event was publicized, numerous individuals called on Cowell College to rescind its sponsorship of the event, alleging a violation of University of California policies. A deeply concerned faculty member provided detailed information to several UC Santa Cruz administrators, including Chancellor George Blumenthal and Vice Chancellor David Kliger, explaining her concerns. A student wrote to administrators, objecting to Cowell College's conduct. In addition, 90 students signed a petition calling on Cowell College not to sponsor the event "because it is politically biased and discriminates against the Jewish student population." The concerned individuals informed the administration that based on the anti-Israel film that was going to be shown at the event ("Occupation 101"), the anti-Israel views of the panelists and moderator, and the anti-Israel actions of the co-sponsoring organizations, it was clear that the event would demonize Israel and contribute to a hostile campus environment for Jewish students.

The faculty member raised another concern with the UC Santa Cruz administrators: The University was advertising and promoting the fact that at the event, donations would be accepted to support the Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA), an organization that is unabashedly anti-Israel. Enclosed is a copy of the University's flyer soliciting funds for MECA.

The faculty member gave the University administration detailed information about MECA's anti-Israel agenda. She reported that MECA was established as a financial arm of the International Solidarity Movement, an organization that has aided and abetted Palestinian Arab terrorism against Israel. She noted that MECA had signed a letter advocating that U.S. Senators vote against a resolution affirming that Israel's security fence was legal and justified. She pointed out that MECA promotes boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel, including boycotts of Israeli academics. She reported that MECA supports Palestinian organizations with links to terrorism and incitement to violence against Israel. And she noted that MECA's offices in Berkeley have frequently displayed anti-Israel political propaganda.

Regardless of MECA's anti-Israel agenda, soliciting funds for the group would be a violation of University policies, which require that as a State instrumentality, the University remain politically neutral. By raising funds for MECA, the University would lose any semblance of neutrality, and would be perceived as supporting MECA's political platform against the State of Israel. In addition, University policies expressly prohibit the University from sponsoring or funding political activities. Yet here, the university would be doing both, by sponsoring the political event called "A Pulse on Palestine," and by

promoting and soliciting funds for MECA. Cowell College's misconduct was made even more egregious by the fact that it was sponsoring a blatantly biased event that would be promoting demonizing falsehoods about Israel and advocating ways to harm the Jewish State.

The UC Santa Cruz administration dismissed all of the objections. Cowell College sponsored the event, which turned out to confirm in every way the concerns raised by faculty and students. The event was filled with anti-Israel falsehoods and factual distortions, including the outrageous charges that Israel is guilty of ethnic cleansing, and that Israel itself is entirely responsible for the plight of Palestinian Arabs and their violence against Israel. In addition, the panelists encouraged students in the audience to engage in anti-Israel political activity. One panelist, Nora Barrows-Friedman, reportedly encouraged students to demand that American universities divest from Israel, and to promote academic boycotts and economic sanctions against Israel. Another panelist, Scott Kennedy, reportedly encouraged students to join or donate money to organizations offering "material and political support for Gaza," which is controlled by Hamas.

In addition, funds were solicited for MECA at the Cowell College-sponsored event. MECA reportedly had its own table there and solicited donations, just as had been advertised and promoted by the University in the flyer it distributed.

Cowell College may have Solicited Support for the Terrorist Group Hamas

Besides violating University policies, the Cowell College-sponsored event raised another troubling concern: It has since come to light that MECA has provided support and resources to Viva Palestina and the Viva Palestina convoys to Hamas-controlled Gaza. In promoting donations to MECA, the University itself may well have assisted in supporting the terrorist group Hamas.

On its Web site and in its publications, MECA is proudly advertising that it "became home to the Northern California Viva Palestina-US organizing committee to raise funds for the convoy to Gaza." Indeed, MECA promotes the fact that it donated \$70,000.00 to the Viva Palestina convoy, and that MECA's director participated in the July 2009 convoy. (See article on MECA's Web site at <http://www.mecaforpeace.org/article.php?id=468>; and MECA's Newsletter, fall 2009 at <http://www.mecaforpeace.org/downloads/meca%20news8-09.pdf>.) Some of MECA's \$70,000.00 donation to the Viva Palestina convoy may well have been raised at the Cowell College-sponsored event last January.

There is evidence that the July 2009 convoy, which MECA supported and participated in, provided material support and resources to Hamas in Gaza. As we informed you in a letter last month, a rapper known as M1 of Dead Prez participated in the July 2009 convoy. He spoke about his experience, and made clear that Viva Palestina was not a humanitarian mission whose resources were going to the people of Gaza, but

Mr. Mark G. Yudof
November 6, 2009
Page 4

instead “what [M1] saw happening was we were giving our resources toward the government of Gaza” – meaning the terrorist group Hamas.

Once again, a University of California campus was used to solicit funds that may have ended up in the hands of the terrorist group Hamas. But this time, it was not a student group that solicited the funds or a speaker sponsored by the student group, which is what occurred at UC Irvine in violation of University of California polices and possibly in violation of federal law. At UC Santa Cruz, it was the University itself doing the soliciting.

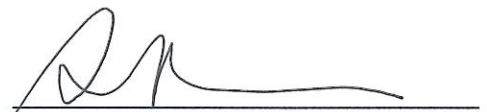
It is of no matter that at the time that funds were solicited for MECA, the University may not have known that MECA would become involved in promoting and supporting Viva Palestina and the group’s convoys to Gaza, or that the convoys were providing material support and resources to Hamas. The University was well aware before the “Pulse on Palestine” event that MECA was virulently anti-Israel and that it engaged in activities to demonize and harm the Jewish State. The University was well aware that Cowell College’s sponsorship of the event and its open promotion of MECA violated University policies. Cowell College should never have gone ahead and sponsored this political event and solicited funds for a political group. The College – and the UC Santa Cruz administration -- was duly warned, but deliberately ignored the warnings.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience regarding how you will be responding to this troubling situation, and how such situations will be avoided in the future. Given that it is now two University of California campuses that may have been involved in providing resources and support to the terrorist group Hamas, your intervention and swift action are crucial.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


Morton A. Klein
National President


Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.
Director, Center for Law and Justice

Enclosure

cc: UC Santa Cruz Chancellor George Blumenthal
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Barbara Boxer

The Honorable Sam Farr
The Honorable Brad Sherman
The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
The Honorable Jon Kyl
The Honorable Joe Lieberman
The Honorable Arlen Specter
The Honorable Shelley Berkley
The Honorable Eric Cantor
The Honorable Jane Harman
The Honorable Peter T. King
The Honorable Trent Franks
The Honorable Paul C. Broun, M.D.
The Honorable Sue Myrick
The Honorable John Shadegg
Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members, House Committee on Education and Labor
Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members, House Committee on Appropriations
Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members, House Committee on Homeland Security
Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members, Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
Assemblyman Chuck DeVore
Rabbi Marvin Hier, Simon Wiesenthal Center
Rabbi Marc Dworkin, American Jewish Committee
Dr. Kevin O'Grady, Anti-Defamation League
Ted Bleiweis, Orange County Independent Task Force on Anti-Semitism