



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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May 17, 2010

BY FAX

Chancellor Michael V. Drake, M.D.
University of California, Irvine
The Chancellor's Office
Irvine, CA 92697-1900

Dear Chancellor Drake:

We were very troubled to see that once again, you have failed to exercise your First Amendment right and moral duty as UC Irvine's leader by clearly and forcefully condemning, by name, the Muslim Student Union and its speakers and activities last week, which promoted hatred of Jews and Israel on your campus. We fear that this vicious and ugly verbal violence against Jews could lead to physical attacks against Jews on your campus.

On May 13, 2010, Amir Abdel Malik Ali spoke at UC Irvine as part of the Muslim Student Union's annual anti-Semitic and Israel-bashing event, this year entitled "Israel Apartheid Week." In response to a question from the audience, Malik Ali unhesitatingly admitted that he supports Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad. All three groups have been designated by our government as Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Hamas' charter specifically calls for the destruction of Israel and the murder of Jews. Malik Ali even said that he supports jihad on campus, "as long as it's in the form of bringing truth to power." His truth is that there should be no Jewish State of Israel.

Malik Ali also admitted that he opposes dialogue on campus with Jews whom he described as "the new Nazis." Here are his exact words:

The reason why I said do not sit down, that it's not a good idea to sit down with Zionists, is because when you sit down with Zionists for cookies and cake and talk about issues, that kind of thing, right, it gives the impression that Zionism is like, it's okay, it's okay. Now, you Jews, in all due respect, you wouldn't sit down with Nazis for tea and cake, no you wouldn't. If a Nazi came up to you and said, 'Look, look, look, we're, we're the Third Reich, we're the Third Reich. You're Jews. Let's sit down for tea and crumpets.' You would say, 'Get outta here, I ain't, I'm a

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Jew, I ain't sittin' down with no Nazis for tea and crumpets.' Y'all the new Nazis. So we're saying, we ain't sittin' down with you all for tea and crumpets.

The message that Malik Ali subtly delivered last week is ominous: The Nazis committed unspeakable crimes against Jews and humanity, and it was thus our right and moral duty to fight them, kill them, and destroy them. Malik Ali strongly implied in his message that because the Jews are the so-called "new Nazis" and Israel the Nazi apartheid state, it is our right and moral duty to fight Jews and Israel and destroy them. His speech, together with the other speeches and programs that the Muslim Student Union has sponsored on the campus this year and in previous years, conjure up images of the Munich beer halls in the 1930's, when the Germans demonized the Jews and incited hatred and violence against them.

We understand that you were not present at this speech in which Malik Ali endorsed terrorism against Jews and Israelis and called Jews "the new Nazis." UC Irvine's law school dean, Erwin Chemerinsky, reportedly was not present either, which explains why he could promote the lie that there is no anti-Semitism at UC Irvine when he wrote in the *LA Jewish Journal* in February that "[i]n my almost two years of working and living on campus, I have not seen the slightest indication of anti-Semitism."

You and Dean Chemerinsky surely could not have missed the Muslim Student Union's disgraceful display of posters and cartoons adjacent to the administration building. Among them was a picture of a young boy wearing a yellow Star of David, who is saying "I am Palestinian!" Another picture depicted a soldier wearing a tallit (Jewish prayer shawl), stepping on the face of a man who also says, "I am Palestinian!" Yet another picture showed a Ku Klux Klansman standing over an African American, with a noose hanging on a tree nearby; the African American man also proclaimed, "I am Palestinian!"

Making dehumanizing and demonizing allegations about Jews is anti-Semitism, not just by our standards, but by the standards of the U.S. government. (See U.S. Department of State's Contemporary Global Anti-Semitism Report, released March 2008.) These photos, like Malik Ali's speech, were hateful and intended to incite hatred of Jews and Israel. We wonder if the Muslim Student Union does not have a hidden agenda to promote violence against Jews and Israelis. Yet you did not condemn the photos, the speakers, the Muslim Student Union, or any of the group's other activities last week

Instead, you issued a vague and tepid statement in response to what you described as "offensive remarks supporting terrorism." You noted several speeches, lectures and discussions last week that were "very difficult and offensive to listen to." You said that "we condemn the speaker's endorsement of terrorism." And you described his remarks as "deplorable."

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Your statement did not make it clear to your community what was offensive, why it was offensive, and who the offenders were. To be truly meaningful, your statement should have condemned Amir Abdel Malik Ali by name. You should have denounced his outrageous and odious comparison of Jews to Nazis as anti-Semitism, plain and simple. Indeed, you did not even use the word "anti-Semitism" in your statement. And you never condemned the Muslim Student Union by name for continuing to promote bigotry against Jews and Israel, and advocating violence against them. Malik Ali and the Muslim Student Union are not getting the message that you mean them, and that you are disgusted and revolted by their conduct. Faculty and students are also not getting that clear message.

The Muslim Student Union's actions are harmful and dangerous, instilling fear in members of your community. You are no doubt aware of the statement that over 60 members of your faculty recently issued, objecting to the Muslim Student Union's activities on campus that "foment hatred against Jews and Israelis." These members of your faculty say that the Muslim Student Union's conduct has caused some faculty, students, and community members to "feel intimidated, and at times even unsafe."

It is your obligation to ensure that these deplorable circumstances finally stop. The "Campus Climate Council" that you recently announced is not the answer. It will have little if any impact on the hateful rhetoric that the Muslim Student Union continues to promote against Jews and Israel. You have described this council as seeking to encourage collaboration and to open channels of communication. But that is of no interest to the Muslim Student Union. When the group's speaker Malik Ali last week called for no dialogue with those support the State of Israel's right to exist, his words were disturbingly met with cheers from the crowd.

UC Irvine should never even have permitted the Muslim Student Union to sponsor last week's event. This group has repeatedly violated university policies, and possibly federal and state law. You had the authority – and the obligation – to suspend the Muslim Student Union and to deny it the privilege of being a registered student group with access to university facilities, equipment, etc. There is no doubt that you would be cracking down on individuals and groups that were routinely demonizing African Americans and Hispanics and calling them Nazis.

It has been one year since the Muslim Student Union engaged in fundraising on campus for George Galloway's Viva Palestina, a group that has furnished material support and resources to Hamas. We notified you last September that the Muslim Student Union had apparently used the campus as a base for fundraising for a terrorist group and may have violated not only university policies but also federal anti-terrorism laws. Although the university said that it took the matter seriously and pledged to complete an investigation, you have done nothing. Congressman Brad Sherman urged you in a letter last week to "complete this investigation expeditiously. Delay is unwarranted when there are individuals and/or groups on your campus that may be providing material support for terrorists."

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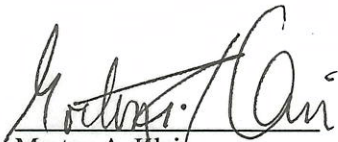
It has also been several months since members of the Muslim Student Union repeatedly disrupted Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren's speech in February at UC Irvine. Last month, you were furnished with evidence that the Muslim Student Union orchestrated the entire scheme, even though the group had claimed that it was not responsible, and had assured the administration before the speech that the group would not interfere with it.

Your continuing failure to discipline the Muslim Student Union is sending a dangerous message. You are telling the university community that UC Irvine holds the Muslim Student Union to a different standard of conduct than everyone else, and that when it comes to this group, university policies are meaningless and will not be enforced.

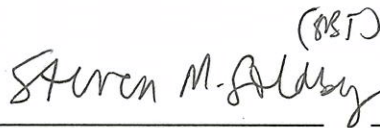
As Paul Johnson, the noted historian, said in his book, *A History of the Jews*, the demonization of Jews and continuous verbal attacks against Jews often lead to physical violence against them. In this time of increasing anti-Semitism on college campuses and around the world, we urge you to start leading by example and forestall physical violence on your campus. Instead of issuing general statements and forming new councils, you must take clear and decisive action. The Muslim Student Union's registered status should be revoked. Its continuing verbal attacks against Jews, and its promotion of terrorism against Jews and Israel, should no longer be tolerated.

We urge you to immediately issue additional statements condemning Malik Ali and the Muslim Student Union by name, as well as their speech and conduct last week.

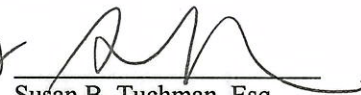
Very truly yours,



Morton A. Klein
National President



Steven M. Goldberg, Esq.
VP, ZOA-LA Chapter
Vice Chairman, National Board



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

P.S. We also look forward to hearing from you about the status of UC Irvine's investigations into the Galloway and Oren events.

cc: UC President Mark Yudof
The Honorable John Campbell
The Honorable Brad Sherman
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Assemblyman Chuck Devore
Rabbi Marvin Hier, Simon Wiesenthal Center
Rabbi Marc Dworkin, American Jewish Committee

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Dr. Kevin O'Grady, Anti-Defamation League

Ted Bleiweis, Orange County Independent Task Force on Anti-Semitism

Alan Solow, Esq., Chairman, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

Malcolm I. Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

Shalom Elcott, President, Jewish Federation of Orange County

Jeffrey Margolis, Co-Chair, Jewish Federation of Orange County's Rose Project