

## Former American soldiers burn uniforms in honor of American soldier Aaron Bushnell

Yemen News Agency (SABA)

February 29, 2024 Thursday

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Length: 365 words

### Body

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[29/February/2024]

PORTLAND February 29. 2024 (Saba) - Former soldiers in the US Army have burnt their official military uniforms in a protest demonstration in the city of Portland in support of occupied Palestine and in solidarity with Gazans in the Gaza Strip.

Local media reports reported on Thursday that participants described this gathering as an influential act of solidarity in support of the ceasefire, as veterans burned their military uniforms, in a protest hosted by veterans against the war.

This was after very influential speeches, including a speech by a Vietnam War veteran, who was part of the Social Democratic Party and organized many anti-war events, according to the American activists' accounts.

A protest was organized in honor of the spirit of American pilot Aaron Bushnell, in front of the Zionist Consulate in Los Angeles, California.

On Sunday afternoon, the American pilot set himself on fire in front of the Israeli embassy in Washington, in protest against his country's policy of supporting the aggression against Gaza.

"I will no longer be complicit in genocide," Bushnell, who was wearing military uniform, said in a video broadcast live on the Internet, after identifying himself as a soldier currently serving in the US Air Force.

## Former American soldiers burn uniforms in honor of American soldier Aaron Bushnell

On his way towards the Zionist embassy building, he added: "I will organize a very violent protest now, but my protest is not large compared to what the Palestinians are experiencing at the hands of their occupiers." Then he set himself on fire while shouting, "Freedom for Palestine."

The American newspaper "Politico" considered the death of the American soldier the culmination of the growing wave of dissatisfaction against the White House's policy regarding Gaza.

The American newspaper expressed the ruling establishment's fear that the Bushnell incident would lead to the crystallization of more public actions by state employees or elements in various branches of the armed forces to express their feelings against current policies.

A number of protesters wore clothes that read, "Stop shooting now." They stressed that American foreign policy financed and armed genocide in Gaza.

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## **PEN America Condemns UC Berkeley Protests That Turned Violent, With Reported Antisemitic Bigotry**

Targeted News Service

March 1, 2024 Friday 8:10 AM EST

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**Length:** 528 words

**Byline:** Targeted News Service

**Dateline:** NEW YORK

### **Body**

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PEN America issued the following news release on Feb. 29, 2024:

PEN America today condemned protests at the University of California-Berkeley earlier this week that turned violent, included antisemitic slurs and gestures, and led to the cancellation of a planned lecture with Ran Bar-Yoshafat, deputy director of the Kohelet Policy Forum, an Israeli think tank.

"The violent protests and reports of antisemitic bigotry that led to the event cancellation are abhorrent," said Jonathan Friedman, director of free expression and education programs at PEN America. "No student should have their physical safety jeopardized for attending a public event on campus. While protest of any speaker is within students' rights, violence, threats, and harassment are never appropriate. These protesters crossed the line -- violating the rights of other students who organized the event and came to listen."

The lecture had been organized by multiple Jewish student organizations. Despite efforts by the University to safeguard the event, even moving it to a second location, it was ultimately canceled for safety reasons, in response to escalating violence. According to reports, about 200 protesters gathered outside the event venue on campus, before forcing their entry inside, smashing two windows and a door. Students who had come to attend the lecture have reported being physically assaulted, spit at, and injured, and that some protesters taunted them with antisemitic slurs. In response, the university has opened a formal criminal investigation and has initiated its student code-of-conduct process. An official statement from the University Chancellor and Provost said the attack on the event and the building constituted "an attack on the fundamental values of the university."

"University campuses must be a place for dialogue, even when there are deep disagreements," Friedman continued. "This is a heckler's veto taken to the extreme. We applaud Berkeley's efforts to try to have the event go forward despite the planned disruption, to reach out to the affected students, and to investigate and enforce their policies in the aftermath. They should pursue appropriate accountability for those found responsible for the violence, threats, antisemitic slurs, and damaged property, as part of the investigation underway. While campuses must ensure that the fullest breadth of protected political speech can be heard, they must be able to take assertive steps so that events like this can be held safely."

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## PEN America Condemns UC Berkeley Protests That Turned Violent, With Reported Antisemitic Bigotry

### About PEN America

PEN America stands at the intersection of literature and human rights to protect free expression in the United States and worldwide. We champion the freedom to write, recognizing the power of the word to transform the world. Our mission is to unite writers and their allies to celebrate creative expression and defend the liberties that make it possible. Learn more at [pen.org](https://pen.org).

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Original text here: <https://pen.org/press-release/pen-america-condemns-uc-berkeley-protests-that-turned-violent-with-reported-antisemitic-bigotry/>

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'I have become traumatized.' Jewish students describe campus antisemitism

## 'I have become traumatized.' Jewish students describe campus antisemitism

CNN Wire

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**Length:** 904 words

**Byline:** By Matt Egan, Elisabeth Buchwald and Samantha Delouya, CNN

**Dateline:** (CNN)

### Body

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New York (CNN) — Jewish students at major universities told lawmakers on Thursday they feel unsafe on campus amid a surge in antisemitism.

At a roundtable hosted by the House Education and Workforce Committee, students from Columbia University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other schools described hearing violent chants on campus and complained administrators are not doing enough to fight antisemitism.

"In the past five months, I have become traumatized," said Talia Khan, a second-year graduate student at MIT.

Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel and the subsequent outbreak of conflict in Israel and Gaza has stoked tension on college campuses across the nation. Both Jewish and Muslim students have said they've experienced an uptick in hate speech and harassment on campus.

Khan, graduate student president and co-founder of the MIT Israel Alliance, said MIT has become "overrun with toxic antisemitism" and by "terrorist supporters that directly threaten the lives of Jews on our campus."

"It is not overly dramatic to ask that something be done when our very existence is under threat," Khan said.

An MIT spokesperson told CNN that the incidents Khan brought up "are known to us, with some already addressed and others being addressed."

The spokesperson said the university has, in some cases, taken disciplinary action against students who have committed antisemitic acts. MIT is also "responding with an array of educational steps."

"These efforts are well underway and ongoing," she said.

Khan referred to statement like that as "lip service" in the hearing.

Some attacks have turned physical, students say

Eden Yadegar, a junior at Columbia University, described how Jewish students were attacked by people wielding sticks outside of the university library, and how she has been mocked on campus as well as on social media.

"We have been attacked by sticks outside our library. We have been attacked by angry mobs and we have been threatened to 'Keep f-ing running,'" said Yadegar, president of Students Supporting Israel at Columbia University

'I have become traumatized.' Jewish students describe campus antisemitism

Columbia spokesperson Samantha Slater said in a statement to CNN that antisemitism is "antithetical" to the university's values.

"We are using every available tool to keep our community safe and that includes protecting our Jewish students from antisemitic discrimination or harassment," Slater said. "Maintaining a safe, civil, inclusive, and respectful campus environment is always a core priority for the University administration and never more so than at present."

Hannah Beth Schlacter, an MBA student at the University of California, Berkeley's Haas School of Business, accused the university of fostering an environment where Jewish students are not given equal opportunity to learn and participate in activities.

Schlacter described the difficulty she and a fellow student faced getting help from the university's police force after the student reported being spit on and called a "dirty Jew" during an on-campus protest.

"When you do not call out hate against Jews based on shared ancestral identity, that sends the message to other students on campus that it is okay, socially acceptable, tolerated behavior to actively hate Jews on campus," she said.

Earlier in the week, protesters disrupted an event by banging on and shattering glass doors to the auditorium where Israeli Defense Forces soldiers were scheduled to speak, videos posted on social media show. The university's chancellor published a statement on Tuesday condemning the violent protests that took place the prior day.

"I did not go to class Tuesday," Schlacter said. "How could I when Berkeley will not protect us from a riot?"

The university launched a criminal investigation into "all that happened on Monday night," Dan Mogulof, a UC Berkeley spokesperson, told CNN.

"What happened on Monday night has no recent precedent on campus and we understand that we are now in new territory that demands changes in how we operate in support of student safety and well-being, and their right to hear and express any perspectives or beliefs they wish," Mogulof said.

Investigations into campus hate

Since last fall, the House Education Committee has been investigating campus antisemitism, focusing on how Ivy League universities are combating hate.

The committee held a hearing in December questioning the presidents of Harvard, MIT and the University of Pennsylvania about antisemitism. The testimony was so disastrous that within weeks, the presidents of both Harvard and UPenn had stepped down.

Rep. Virginia Foxx, the Republican chairwoman of the committee, has demanded UPenn, Harvard and Columbia turn over documents to aid her committee's investigation. Foxx has accused Harvard of "obstructing" the investigation by failing to turn over various documents.

Earlier this month, her committee took the unprecedented step of issuing multiple subpoenas to Harvard, compelling the school to produce documents by March 4. It's the first time the committee has ever issued a subpoena to a university since it was founded in March 1867.

In November, the Department of Education launched an investigation into Columbia and other schools after receiving complaints about alleged incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia.

By Matt Egan, Elisabeth Buchwald and Samantha Delouya, CNN

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'I have become traumatized.' Jewish students describe campus antisemitism

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## The warning signs in symbols and slogans of the pro-Palestine cause

Jpost.com (The Jerusalem Post online edition)

March 1, 2024 Friday

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**Length:** 1374 words

**Byline:** LIAT COLLINS

### Body

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The humble watermelon provided me with food for thought lately. Until recently, it symbolized for me a refreshing summer fruit – the sort of treat Israelis naturally serve when guests arrive, invited or by chance. Choosing a watermelon is a skill, and the subject of heated debate in more peaceful times when the general public can afford to be distracted by such arguments. (For what it's worth, based on experience gained when I picked them years ago, I'm among those who believe the way to select a ripe watermelon is to hear a hollow sound when you tap it.)

But the watermelon has been hijacked by Hamas and its supporters. It is no longer just an innocent fruit. It is a symbol. The role of its colors – red, green, and white, with black seeds – has been revived as a proxy for the Palestinian flag. Triangular slices of watermelon feature on pro-Palestinian apparel and social media posts of the type that leave me with a bad taste in my mouth.

My social media feeds are full of clips of clueless Palestinian supporters struggling to answer the question "Between which river and which sea?" they are referring to in their call: "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." It's not easy for Israelis like me – living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea – to hear people calling for our genocide and replacement, even if many of those shouting are idiots mindlessly following today's cause célèbre.

I often wonder how the same protesters would fare if they were presented with the Palestinian flag and the almost identical flag of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and had to guess which is which – let alone considering the reasons the two flags are so similar and whether, perhaps, the Palestinians already have a state.

'From the river to the sea' slogan

THE SO-CALLED free world has become dangerously used to rowdy, sometimes violent, protests in major cities where the mantra "From the river to the sea" is a recurring theme, but last week, London saw a new display of hatred and it was seen in a way that should not be ignored. During the parliamentary debate on the situation in Gaza, initiated by the opposition Scottish National Party (SNP), the "From the river to the sea" slogan was projected onto the side of the Elizabeth Tower, better known as Big Ben.

The debate – if you could call it that – was a farce. The Speaker of the House, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, flouted normal parliamentary procedure and, as has been pointed out in multiple commentaries since, acted out of fear. Labour



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MPs feared the consequences, were they not able to vote on their own ceasefire amendment, rather than the SNP motion. Parliamentarians were intimidated and there are reports that some MPs had received threats to their families.

Since the fatal jihadist-inspired car-ramming and stabbing attack outside the Houses of Parliament in 2017 and the assassination of Conservative MP Sir David Amess in October 2021 by ISIS-supporting Ali Harbi Ali, you can't blame them for taking the threats seriously. It is the way the threats are dealt with – or not – that is the problem.

At the beginning of the month, Justice Minister and Conservative MP Mike Freer, representing Finchley and Golders Green, announced he would be stepping down in the wake of the threats he has received, including an arson attack on his office in January. According to The Guardian, "When asked whether he was being targeted because he represented a constituency with a large Jewish population, Freer said: 'I can't draw any other conclusion... The level of abuse I get standing up for my constituents on antisemitism and on Israel has to be a factor.'"

"I am very, very concerned about the security of all members," the Speaker told the House of Commons last week regarding the debate debacle. "I was very concerned, I am still concerned, and that is why the meetings I have had today were about the security of members, their families, and the people involved."

Why a Scottish party decided to use its precious time to initiate a debate on a war in the Middle East and call for an immediate ceasefire is also worth considering, but let's focus on the message that put the spotlight on Big Ben. Or rather, the message that was spotlighted on Big Ben.

The sound-and-light show was beyond irregular. Nobody had applied for the necessary permits for projecting the genocidal message onto the seat of British democracy. But the Metropolitan Police did nothing to stop the display of hatred – just as they haven't taken action against calls to "Globalize the Intifada" and other expressions of antisemitism and violence heard during demonstrations and mass rallies.

Fear of being accused of Islamophobia obviously overrides the concerns of the Jewish community, rattled by a wave of antisemitism.

When police are too scared to act, parliament is too frightened to rule, and public figures are too intimidated to speak out, democracy doesn't just squirm. It could be in its death throes.

The choice of Big Ben for the flashy message of hate was not incidental. The Elizabeth Tower of the Houses of Parliament is such an internationally recognized icon that it basically stands for "Britain." And make no mistake, it was Britain and its values that were under attack as much as Israel.

The battle is far from being restricted to the capital of the United Kingdom and its symbols. In the United States, blood-red paint has been smeared by anti-Israel protesters on the gates of the White House and the Lincoln Memorial, among other hallowed sites. Places with national significance are being turned into venues for often lawless mass rallies around the globe.

From London to Sydney, police have warned Jews that they are not safe near these demonstrations. Keep in mind that these protests are not just anti-Israel, they are pro-Palestinian – an expression of support for Hamas and Islamic Jihad that carried out the monstrous invasion and mega-attack of October 7, with its mass murders, torture, rape, and abductions.

The deliberate targeting of national symbols can be seen behind al-Qaeda's 9/11 assault on the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and the presumed destination of the White House by the terrorists on a fourth plane. There is a dotted line that leads from 9/11 to October 7. It's painted in drops of blood. A lot of blood.

At the crux of the current crisis is an inability to read the Middle East's geophysical and political map. A similar phenomenon occurred in 2014 when then-secretary of state John Kerry seemed obsessed with his efforts to force some kind of peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians – ultimately creating the environment that led to

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that summer's deadly war – while ignoring the growth of ISIS that would take over vast areas of the Mideast, murdering millions – first and foremost Muslims.

THE TOPIC of symbolism and flags has been on my mind recently. During a series of talks on "Iran's Tentacles," by independent journalist Ziv Genesove at Jerusalem's Beit Hoffman, Genesove noted in passing the Houthi flag and slogan.

Unlike the watermelon version of the Palestinian colors, the flag of the Iranian-backed Shi'ite Islamist Houthis leaves no room for doubt. It clearly states its raison d'etre in Arabic calligraphy. The motto on the flag states: "Allah is the greatest, Death to America, Death to Israel, A Curse upon the Jews, Victory to Islam."

Nothing is lost in translation, but there are still those who prefer not to read the writing on the wall in any language. In a deadly irony, it should be noted that there are nearly no Jews left in the once-thriving Jewish Yemenite community. They were indeed cursed. They are among those Jewish refugees of the Middle East whom most of the world prefers to overlook.

It's pertinent to keep in mind that Hamas and the Houthis are on the same side – part of the Iran-Russia-China axis of evil. While the Houthis continue to attack shipping in the Red Sea and launch Iranian-provided missiles and drones at their enemies (including Israel and Saudi Arabia), their mission is being voiced by pro-Palestinian protesters in the West: From the River Thames to the US East Coast – and well beyond.

Ripe watermelons might sound hollow, but the threats that accompany their Palestinian symbolism are not.

**Load-Date:** March 1, 2024