# STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD; Congressional Record Vol. 169, No. 199 (House - December 4, 2023)

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### **Body**

<u>Washington</u>: The Library of Congress, The Government of USA has issued the following house proceeding:

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 894) strongly condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world. The Clerk read the title of the resolution. The text of the resolution is as follows: H. Res. 894 Whereas acts of hate, intimidation, discrimination, and violence based on ethnicity or religion have no place in our country nor in the global community; Whereas the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism is widely accepted and serves as a critical tool to help individuals comprehend and identify the various manifestations of antisemitism; Whereas, since the massacre of innocent Israelis by Hamas, an Iran-backed terrorist organization, on October 7, 2023, antisemitic incidents of harassment, vandalism, and assault in the *United States* have spiked 388 percent over the same period last year, according to reports from the Anti- Defamation League's (ADL) Center on Extremism; Whereas drastic increases in antisemitic activity has also been seen in Jewish communities around the world since the October 7, 2023, Hamas attacks; Whereas the slogan "From the River to the Sea", which is a rallying cry for the eradication of the State of Israel and the Jewish people, has been used by anti-Israel protesters in the **United States** and globally; Whereas, on October 8, 2023, a car with individuals holding Palestinian flags appeared to intentionally swerve out of its lane, nearly hitting a visibly Jewish family in Clifton, New Jersey, Whereas, on October 15, 2023, an individual in New York, New York, punched a Jewish woman in the face at Grand Central Terminal solely because she was Jewish; Whereas, on October 28, 2023, a Jewish man in Sydney, Australia, was severely injured by 3 anti-Israel rioters, in which he was punched in the head at least 12 times, suffered a concussion, 2 black eyes, and 4 spinal fractures; Whereas, on November 3, 2023, a Jewish woman's store in New York City was attacked by a mob of anti-Israel protesters all because she hung posters of Israeli hostages in the store window; Whereas, on November 3, 2023, 4 masked men walked into a restaurant in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and proceeded to tear down an Israeli flag and yelled "Free Palestine"; Whereas, on November 4, 2023, an Arizona man was arrested by Federal authorities for threatening to execute a local Rabbi

and "every other JEW I can find tonight at midnight of your Sabbath"; Whereas, on November 4, 2023, during an anti-Israel protest in Washington, DC, rioters shouted their support for Hamas massacre on October 7, 2023, and other acts of terror targeting Israel, called for the end of the State of Israel, and spewed hateful and vile language amplifying antisemitic themes; Whereas, during that same protest in Washington, DC, rioters stormed and tried to scale the White House fence, vandalized property by staining blood-red handprints onto the side of the White House pillars, and spray painted "Death to Israel" and "Glory to our Martyrs" on buildings in **DC**; Whereas, on November 6, 2023, Paul Kessler, a 69-year-old Jewish man, tragically died due to injuries sustained when an anti-Israel protester struck him in the head with a megaphone in Los Angeles, *California*; Whereas, on November 11, 2023, as part of a *massive* anti- Israel protest, rioters set off smokebombs in front of a synagogue in London, England: Whereas, on November 12, 2023, police found several headstones at the Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery. a Jewish cemetery in Brooklyn, Ohio, were desecrated with swastikas; Whereas, on November 13, 2023, a mezuzah was torn off the doorpost of a Jewish person's apartment and a knife was stuck into the wood in its place in Milan, Italy; Whereas, on November 13, 2023, the evening before the March for Israel in Washington, DC, anti-Israel rioters vandalized a Jewish medical tent by spray painting ``Free Gaza", ``Palestine Will Be Free", and `Gaza Will Win"; and Whereas, on November 15, 2023, anti-Israel protesters illegally blocked and violently attacked the Democratic National Committee headquarters, endangering the lives of individuals inside, including Members of Congress, and injuring 6 Capitol Police Officers; Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives-- (1) strongly condemns and denounces all instances of antisemitism occurring in the United **States** and globally: (2) reaffirms and reiterates its strong support for the Jewish community at home and abroad: (3) calls on elected officials and world leaders to condemn and fight all forms of domestic and global antisemitism; (4) clearly and firmly states that anti-Zionism is antisemitism; and (5) rejects all forms of terror, hate, discrimination, and harassment of members of the Jewish community. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. Kiley) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. Nadler) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California. General Leave Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 894. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California? There was no objection. Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, since the October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas against Israel, anti-Semitism has surged in the United States and around the world. Reports show that there was a nearly 400 percent increase in anti- Semitic incidents in the weeks after the attack. These incidents include harassment, vandalism, and assault. Americans have been punched, beaten, and forced to flee for their lives from swerving cars simply because they are Jewish. {time} 1715 A Jewish cemetery in Brooklyn, Ohio, was vandalized with swastikas. On college campuses, Jewish students have been subjected to harassment, threats, and forced to hide from *violent protests*. In a recent survey, 73 percent of Jewish college students said they had experienced or witnessed some form of anti-Semitism this academic year. In the same survey, just 39 percent of Jewish students said they felt comfortable with their peers knowing they were Jewish. Less than half of Jewish students surveyed said that they felt safe on campus. At a hearing before our committee last month, a college student testified that she now thinks twice before wearing any sign of her Jewish faith. This was a young woman who is maybe 20 years old. She had the courage to come and testify before Congress, but she can't safely wear something that would suggest to her fellow students and her teachers that she is Jewish. She testified that her family and friends who live in Israel--people who are under nearly constant rocket attack from Hamas--and others check in with her every day to see if she is safe. They are in a war zone. She is in the *United States*, and they are checking to make sure that she is safe. These incidents are absolutely horrifying, Mr. Speaker. They are unacceptable in the *United States* and in any civilized society. Members of the Jewish community should not have to hide their faith in order to safely go about their lives or receive an education. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time. House of Representatives, Committee on Foreign Affairs, *Washington*, *DC*, November 30, 2023. Hon. Jim Jordan, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC. Dear Chairman Jordan: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee, which agrees to be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 894 (Strongly condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the *United States* and around the world), so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. I ask that you place our letters on this resolution into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process. Sincerely, Michael T.

# STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD; Congressional Record Vol. 169, No. 199 (House - D....

McCaul, Chairman. \_\_\_\_ House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC, December 1, 2023. Hon. Michael McCaul, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, *Washington*, **DC**. Dear Chairman McCaul: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on the Judiciary and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 894, Strongly [[Page H6107]] condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I will include the exchange of these letters in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this measure. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together on matters of shared jurisdiction during this Congress. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely, Jim Jordan, Chairman. Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in strong support of any and all serious and meaningful efforts to combat anti-Semitism. The explosion of anti-Semitism around the world, on college campuses, and online is so shocking that it was the subject of nearly every Jewish household's Thanksgiving meal a week ago. The Jewish community is absolutely right to consider this terrifying situation a five-alarm fire, as Senator Schumer so appropriately put it in his moving speech to the Nation just a few days ago. Unfortunately, this resolution does absolutely nothing to genuinely counter the scourge of anti-Semitism, nor does it help bring us together with the unity of purpose that this topic merits. Rather, it is another attempt in a long series of veiled efforts by the GOP to weaponize Jewish lives for political gains. It is another partisan gotcha game that amounts to cheap value signaling, not serious action. If there ever was a time for real action, it is now. Today, in the face of the largest increase in anti-Semitism, both violent and virulent, in this Nation's history, we have a clear choice. We can abuse this moment to try to inflict interparty political damage or we can rise to the occasion and do something real and powerful to actually help the Jewish community. Just in the last few weeks, we have seen disgusting displays of outright anti-Semitism. Over the weekend, protesters in Philadelphia targeted a Jewish business. It is plainly and unequivocally anti- Semitic to hold Jews collectively responsible for Israel's actions. In my district, vile, anti-Semitic graffiti has been scrawled on apartment buildings in the Upper East Side. On the Upper West Side, two Jewish women were assaulted after calling out individuals who were despicably tearing down posters of Israeli hostages. Last week in Brooklyn, three attackers violently attacked a 15-year- old Jewish boy, yelling, "Free Palestine" as they punched and kicked the stranger. This anti-Semitic hate is happening across the country. The Oakland City Council rejected a bid to denounce Hamas, as speaker after speaker espoused dangerously misquided and factually erroneous views at a deeply troubling anti-Semitic public hearing. Since the Israel-Hamas war began, the GOP has seemed gleeful at their partisan wedging at the expense of the Jewish community, and they have utterly failed to do anything serious to address this crisis. If they object to my charges, let me ask them here today three key questions: First, what have my friends on the other side of the aisle--the only ones who actually control the agenda on the floor--done to implement the White House's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism? This historic whole-of-government plan, which has bipartisan support, has been completely ignored in this dysfunctional MAGA-extremist Congress. The answer is clear: They have done nothing. Second, when will the GOP majority stop its efforts to defund the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the office that must protect Jewish students from the horrendous discrimination they face on campus today? In order to enforce title VI, the law that prevents such discrimination in education, the Department needs the resources to put legal and investigatory boots on the ground. The answer: The majority still supports defunding this office, and that means Jewish students will remain at terrible risk. Third, what will the GOP do to ensure that the high-risk Nonprofit Security Grant Program run through the Department of Homeland Security has a meaningful increase in funding? This program keeps our synagogues and Hebrew schools safe across the country. The answer: House Republicans have done absolutely nothing to shore up this program. I demand that we take real action. Representatives Goldman, Raskin, and I today introduced a resolution which would commit ourselves to the full implementation of the National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. I implore my Republican colleagues to join it. Join us and take concrete action. I call on them to actually protect Jewish lives by a dramatic increase in funding for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights and the high-risk Nonprofit Security Grant Program. That is what taking meaningful action would look like. Mr. Speaker, by bringing this resolution to the floor without a single Democratic cosponsor, which is extremely unusual, and by rushing it to a vote without careful and considerate collaboration, my Republican friends have shown us who they are and precisely what are their intentions. In my three decades in Congress, I have voted on numerous bills and resolutions addressing anti-Semitism, including my

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own. I have never seen an anti-Semitism-focused vehicle come to the floor without the cosponsorship of a single member of the minority party. The House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism doesn't support such partisan gamesmanship, nor does the Anti-Defamation League, nor does the American Jewish Committee. With this resolution, the GOP has shown themselves fundamentally unserious about combating anti-Semitism. Of course, none of **us** should be surprised. If our friends on the other side of the aisle were serious about combating anti-Semitism, they would have spoken up when former President Trump called the Nazis in Charlottesville very fine people. They would have condemned the former President when he dined with known Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes. Chairman Jordan would have thought better before tweeting out "Kanye, Elon, Trump," sending out dog whistles to their white supremacist, anti-Semitic base. They also would have chosen their recent witnesses more carefully. Chairman Jordan chose to give a platform to Robert Kennedy, Jr., just days after he trafficked in anti-Semitic conspiracy theories suggesting Jews were responsible for COVID. I cannot help but note that although this resolution strongly condemns and denounces anti-Semitism, its authors carefully avoided mentioning any of the obvious instances of anti-Semitism coming from their own leaders. The resolution is flawed in other ways, as well. For example, the resolution implicitly compares some peaceful protesters with the January 6 rioters and insurrectionists. I suppose they have their reasons for that. More problematically, the resolution suggests that all anti-Zionism-- it states that all anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. That is either intellectually disingenuous or just factually wrong. It unfairly implicates many of my orthodox former constituents in Brooklyn, many of whose families rose from the ashes of the Holocaust. While most anti-Zionism is indeed anti-Semitic, the authors, if they were at all familiar with Jewish history and culture, should know about Jewish anti-Zionism that was and is expressly not anti-Semitic. This resolution ignores the fact that even today certain orthodox Hasidic Jewish communities--the Satmars in New York and others--as well as adherents of the prestate Jewish labor movement have held views that are at odds with the modern Zionist conception. According to the Jewish Encyclopedia, "the anti-Zionist world-view of the ultra-Orthodox groups . . . " like the ``Satmar Hasidism perceives Zionism and the establishment of the State of Israel as an anti-messianic act . . . " That is to say that these ultra-orthodox Hasidic Jews believe that only the Messiah can bring about the true Israel, and I assure you the Satmar Hasidic Jews are certainly not anti-Semitic. [[Page H6108]] I should also note that there are those who try to smear even progressive pro-Israel supporters with the inappropriate label of "Israel hater" or "anti-Zionist." Under this resolution, those who love Israel deeply but criticize some of its policy approaches could be considered anti-Zionist. That could make every Democratic Jewish Member of this body--because they all criticized the recent Israeli judicial reform package--de facto anti-Semites. Might that be the authors' intention? Again, let me be unequivocally clear, most anti-Zionism, particularly in this moment, has a real anti-Semitism problem, but we cannot fairly say that one equals the other. As the most senior Jewish Member in this House, with perhaps the largest Jewish constituency in this country. I have always and will always support real, meaningful legislation to combat anti-Semitism. This, of course, is deeply personal for me and for so many of my constituents. Indeed, I take a back seat to no one in this body when it comes to fighting against this scourge. In the aftermath of October 7, we have a moral obligation to act to protect our own Jewish citizens and our critical ally Israel. I pray that the GOP majority makes today the day that they stop playing these partisan games and commit themselves to doing the real work to protect Jewish lives. There is not a single minute to spare. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time. Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I say briefly that I very much do applaud the gentleman from New York, who I think has shown tremendous leadership in many ways in standing up for Israel and fighting against anti-Semitism in this country. I think one of the valuable things that we have seen over the last several weeks is that we have had bipartisan support on both counts. I actually sponsored a separate resolution dealing specifically with the problem of anti-Semitism on college campuses, and that got overwhelming bipartisan support on this floor. I think it had only about 21 ``no" votes. That has been very encouraging. With respect to the three charges that were mentioned, number one, there is legislation in the House right now to codify the President's executive order, on which I think it is important that we move forward. Number two, far from saying we shouldn't have an Office of Civil Rights within the Department of Education, Representative Burgess Owens and I wrote a letter to the head of the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education telling them they need to be doing more, they need to be more proactive in looking into anti-Semitic incidents at our universities, and we would certainly welcome their support on that letter. Number three, as far as the protection for synagogues and other facilities, I would be very interested in partnering with you on any such efforts. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Kustoff). Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution that strongly condemns the dramatic rise of anti-

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Semitism both here in our Nation and abroad. Last week, I had the privilege and the honor, frankly, of speaking with Amir Ohana, who is the Speaker of the Knesset. We discussed a lot of things. We talked about how life has changed not only in Israel but around the world since Hamas' horrific and brutal terrorist attack against Israelis on October 7. We also talked about how we have seen an absolute explosion of anti-Semitic incidents, attacks, and harassment in Israel, here in our own Nation, and across the world. Mr. Speaker, two interesting statistics, if I can: According to the Anti-Defamation League, since the Hamas massacre on October 7, anti- Semitic incidents around our Nation have increased over 400 percent compared to the same time period last year. {time} 1730 The second statistic, Mr. Speaker, more Jews were murdered on October 7 than on any other single day since the Holocaust. Let that sink in. We have seen Members of this very body repeat blatantly anti-Semitic rhetoric and spread lies about Israel and her right to exist. Let me be absolutely clear: Such hate has no place in the Halls of Congress nor in our national discourse. It is our fundamental responsibility as leaders and as Members of Congress to condemn and fight these horrific acts of hate and discrimination against the Jewish community. That is why I am proud to work with my colleague, Congressman Max Miller, to introduce this critical resolution to condemn and denounce all instances of domestic and global anti-Semitism. A few months ago, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity--really, the privilege--to take a group of people through the *United States* Holocaust Memorial Museum. A lot of *us* have been there. It is not too far away from here in the Capitol where we are standing. That museum serves not only as a reminder of the atrocities that took place during the Holocaust, but it also serves as a stark reminder that we can never forget the horrors of the Holocaust and that we, as leaders, have an obligation and a duty to make sure that it never happens again. For these reasons, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very simple, yet critical, resolution. It is absolutely important that we send a clear and firm message to the world that the United States House of Representatives stands shoulder to shoulder with the Jewish community here in the United States and abroad. Mr. Speaker, as Jews around the world celebrate Hanukkah very soon in the next few days, we should remember the words of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks. He said: ``Hanukkah tells us not to curse the darkness, but instead to bring light to the world. It tells us to fight back and not be afraid." We should truly heed those words. I thank my colleagues for supporting this resolution. Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time. Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. Mr. Speaker, we hear in this resolution about the opposition to anti- Semitism. As I said before, I would be more impressed with the sincerity of that opposition if the Republican Party were not trying to defund the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the office that enforces title VI to protect Jewish students on campus, and if the Republicans were not opposing an increase in funding for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights and for the high-risk, nonprofit security grant program that protects our synagogues and other Jewish institutions. Mr. Speaker, the rise of anti-Semitism in the **United States** and across the world is a real and growing problem. I wish the majority would use its power to actually do something about it instead of playing partisan political games. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from *California* (Mr. Kiley) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 894. The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it. Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

Load-Date: December 6, 2023

## Gaza war reveals a new Iron Curtain descending across the world

#### Ynetnews

December 8, 2023 Friday

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Byline: Dr. Michael Milstein

## **Body**

Winston Churchill described an iron curtain dividing the world into two opposing camps in the immediate aftermath of World War II. The <u>Gaza</u> War reveals a new iron curtain; but this time, it does not divide camps composed of states, but of cultures.

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The victory of the Hanukkah Candles

Watch: IDF soldiers light first candle of Hanukkah in Gaza

IDF soldier killed by attack helicopter in friendly fire incident in Gaza

This conflict revolves around questions of truth and ethics, distinguishing between societies that practice self-criticism and empathy for others, and those that view themselves as perpetual victims while sanctifying violence.

The struggle to evoke international compassion for the war crimes perpetrated against Israeli citizens on October 7 is not rooted in dysfunctional public diplomacy, but forms part of the ongoing need to contend with a global "counter-culture" founded on a cynical, one-dimensional interpretation of the term truth.

This camp consists of the majority of the Arab Muslim world, Russia, China, some countries in Africa and Asia, as well as Western Muslim communities that serve as the vanguard of the global anti-Israel campaign. Members of this camp are dictatorial or authoritarian, and their peoples are weak populations that succumb to and, at times, side with the ideological escapades of their local regimes.

The leaders of this camp have issued particularly preposterous statements since the war in <u>Gaza</u> began, such as Russia's condemnation of the war crimes in <u>Gaza</u>; the apprehension expressed by Iran's and Syria's presidents Raisi and Bashar al-Assad, known as the "Butchers", over <u>mass</u> civilian casualties; and UN Secretary General's Guterres one-dimensional stance of pursuing some twisted "context" for the violence, thereby manifesting the growing moral degeneration that has spread throughout the organization that he heads, and which recently appointed Iran to a senior position in its Human Rights Council.

#### Gaza war reveals a new Iron Curtain descending across the world

This cultural sphere has produced very few intellectuals and statesmen who have clearly and unequivocally condemned the October 7 massacre without manipulating facts to serve as reasons explaining it. Prominent among them were the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain - moral beacons that issued similar statements to those made by Western countries.

The <u>Gaza</u> war must prompt the West to recognize that Israel is a frontline fort in a battle between civilizations that has already crossed their doorstep, and could pose a threat to their identities. It is apparent in the Muslim minorities that spearhead the loud, and often <u>violent</u>, <u>protests</u> that reflect an antihuman approach to human life as a value, and are gradually taking hold of public and political discourse across the West.

These Muslim communities are bolstered by intellectuals, artists and numerous young people who have been inspired by the October 7 massacre yet are oblivious to the shadows cast by Hamas, such as its murderous approach to LGBTQs.

The protest against Israel is based on hollow identity politics. Climate and human rights activists, many of whom are simple-minded Generation Z, knowingly decide, despite being unknowledgeable, to support terror organizations because they believe this makes them represent the right side of history.

The clash of civilizations foreseen by Huntington is coming true; however, the parties to it are not state-political but cultural, crossing geographical delineations and being conducted within the West.

Asia and Africa, Western Muslim minorities and Western intellectuals identifying with Hamas' struggle have united to form a denomination that reflects an extreme manifestation of the trend that has been emerging across the globe since the mid-20th century: portraying third-world peoples as indigenous freedom fighters who, as such, are always justified, even when engaging in radical violence, and are not required to soul search or show remorse, nor express empathy toward others.

This egocentric antihuman denomination denies the possibility that the weaker party can also be a brutal war criminal, as the Palestinians have proven numerous times, especially on October 7.

Israel must direct its public diplomacy efforts at Western audiences who share similar morals, and feel threatened by the cultural demographic change their countries are undergoing in recent decades. Under the threat of PC, or political correctness, Westerners have been taught to avoid criticism that could mark them as racist, and particularly as "backward Islamophobes".

However, the <u>Gaza</u> war - at the center of which is the unspeakable October 7 massacre - demonstrates that these developments are, indeed, a growing threat to Western civilizations' core values, and that the atrocities perpetrated in <u>Gaza</u> border communities could recur in neighborhoods across Western Europe, North America and Australia.

Dr. Michael Milstein is the director of the Palestinian Studies Forum at Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies and a senior researcher at Reichman University's Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS)

Load-Date: December 8, 2023

# 'We're fed up with the climate of fear': UPenn students describe sickening atmosphere on campus as pro-Palestine protests break out and buildings are scrawled with 'Jews are Nazis' graffiti

#### MailOnline

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### **Body**

- Most recently, a video of a group of students at the nearby University of Pennsylvania were chanting in favor of 'Intifada revolution'
- The school has been frequently under fire over anti-Semitism since the October 7 attacks on campus after anti-Jewish slogans were projected
- UPenn student Noah Rubin is detailing just the harassment and antisemitsm Jewish and pro-Israeli students on campus have faced

A University of Pennsylvania student is continuing to hammer the Ivy League institution as a 'climate of fear' amid antisemitic protests and language litter the campus.

Most recently, a video of a group of students at the nearby University of Pennsylvania were chanting in favor of 'Intifada revolution.'

The school has been frequently under fire over anti-Semitism since the October 7 attacks on campus after anti-Jewish slogans were projected onto three of the school's buildings.

The school is now facing a civil rights complaint as it is accused of being a 'magnet for anti-Semites.'

Now, UPenn student Noah Rubin is detailing just the harassment and antisemitsm Jewish and pro-Israeli students on campus have faced.

He detailed the chants that have gone viral and noted a graffiti saying 'The Jews R Nazis' was near a Jewish fraternity house after the attack that killed 1,200 people.

'We're fed up with the climate of fear,' Rubin told the New York Post.

'We're fed up with the climate of fear': UPenn students describe sickening atmosphere on campus as pro-Palestine protests break out and buildings are scrawled ....

'We're fed up with the inaction from the administration. And frankly, we're fed up with all the enablers of this - which includes professors who are antisemitic and who have participated in, organized with, and even supported them financially,' he alleged.

He noted that a student group of Pro-Palestinian students called 'Penn Students Against the Occupation' remains sanctioned by the university.

'The student group ... has continuously organized antisemitic and <u>violent protests</u> on our campus and have had no actions taken against them by the university,' Rubin said.

It comes just a day after Penn President Liz Magill was called on to resign over 'extremely troubling' testimony on antisemitism which included them saying calling for the genocide of Jews was allowed on their campuses.

Rubin, who studies engineering at Penn, has claimed to be too afraid to go to classes and the university has 'emboldened' anti-Israel groups.

'Many students' grades have been suffering, many students' mental health obviously has been suffering because of what we've seen on campus,' he said of pro-Palestinian rallies, which he said are happening 'basically every other day.'

Penn Students Against the Occupation has made the campus an 'unsafe place for Jews,' he added.

Magill is attempting to backtrack after her embarrassing comments Wednesday where she failed to condemn rhetoric calling for the genocide of Jewish people unless it turns into conduct.

'In that moment, I was focused on our University's long standing policies aligned with the U.S. Constitution, which say that speech alone is not punishable,' Magill said.

'I was not focused on, but I should have been, the irrefutable fact that a call for genocide of Jewish people is a call for some of the most terrible violence human beings can perpetrate.'

It comes after a viral video of a group of students at the nearby University of Pennsylvania were chanting in favor of 'Intifada revolution.'

The original intifada is the name given to a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and *Gaza* Strip, beginning in 1987.

The clip has been seen by over 829,000 people after it was posted by LibsOfTikTok on X.

The Ivy League institution has been frequently under fire over anti-Semitism since the October 7 attacks on campus after anti-Jewish slogans were projected onto three of the school's buildings.

The school is now facing a civil rights complaint as it is accused of being a 'magnet for anti-Semites.'

'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,' read one message splashed across the John M Huntsman hall in mid-November. The slogan demands the land from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea, meaning the end of the State of Israel.

Slogans projected on Penn Commons read: 'Zionism is racism' and demanded UPenn president Liz Magill call for a ceasefire in *Gaza*.

Another message declared: 'Penn funds Palestinian genocide.'

It comes after the prestigious school increased security and contacted the FBI after a string of reports of threats against Jewish students.

'We're fed up with the climate of fear': UPenn students describe sickening atmosphere on campus as pro-Palestine protests break out and buildings are scrawled ....

The Brandeis Center said it will file a complaint against the school, stating it 'has allowed its campus to become a hostile environment for its Jewish students as well as a magnet for anti-Semites.'

The complaints 'seek immediate and specific action to address increasing discrimination against and harassment of Jews in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.'

UPenn said that several of its staff members received 'vile, disturbing anti-Semitic emails' threatening violence against Jews on campus, particularly in Penn Hillel, an on-campus Jewish organization, and Lauder College House.

University president Liz Magill wrote: 'These messages also included hateful language, targeting the personal identities of the recipients. Penn's Division of Public Safety was immediately notified and responded. Penn Police also notified the FBI of this potential hate crime and a joint investigation is underway.

Magill has also acknowledged 'swastikas and hateful graffiti' and 'chants at rallies, captured on video and widely circulated, that glorify the terrorist atrocities of Hamas, that celebrate and praise the slaughter and kidnapping of innocent people, and that question Israel's very right to exist.'

The school is working with the FBI to 'identify the individual or individuals who are responsible for these hateful, threatening emails and to ensure they are apprehended and punished to the fullest extent of the law,' per Magill.

Earlier in November, a clip emerged purportedly showing a UPenn student praising Hamas' 'glorious October 7' incursion into southern Israel.

The clip, shared by Bronx Rep. Ritchie Torres, apparently shows a student addressing a crowd and urging them to remember the scenes in Israel a month ago today.

She described the 'joyful and powerful images which came from the glorious October 7', adding she remembered 'feeling so empowered and so happy'.

The speaker concluded her speech saying, 'Hold that feeling in your hearts... channel it through every action you take... go down to the streets every day and don't ever let them feel like you quietly accept this genocide.'

Late last week, Israel said it would continue its military operation in <u>Gaza</u> following a ceasefire that lasted several days while a number of the roughly 240 Israeli hostages were exchanged for three times the number of Palestinian terrorists.

Hamas ultimately broke the ceasefire and decided not to pursue a pause in fighting in order to release more hostages at this time.

Over the weekend, Israeli forces continued to bomb swathes of Gazan territory, killing and wounding dozens of Palestinians.

For weeks, Israel has warned civilians in <u>Gaza</u> to move south in the enclave as their battles against Hamas raged in the north, and it continued to be labelled as a safer option despite continuous Israeli bombing of Khan Younis and other areas.

Now, the IDF has declared that they are fighting 'strongly and thoroughly' in the south, with warnings to displaced civilians to evacuate even further south away from the fighting.

Chief of General Staff Herzi Halevi said on Sunday: 'Yesterday, and today, we eliminated brigade commanders, company commanders, many operatives, and yesterday morning we started the same process in the southern <u>Gaza</u> Strip,' he said.

On Sunday night Israel also announced it had eliminated a key Hamas figure who had organized the October 7 attacks. In a statement it said an IDF jet has struck and killed Commander Haitham Khuwajari, head of Hamas' Shati Battalion.

'We're fed up with the climate of fear': UPenn students describe sickening atmosphere on campus as pro-Palestine protests break out and buildings are scrawled ....

Israel has vowed to annihilate Hamas after the October 7 attack during which 1,200 Israelis were murdered in barbaric fashion. The Iranian-backed group is sworn to Israel's destruction

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