

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

May 2, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 202510

Dear Chairman Durbin,

We implore you to promptly hold a Judiciary Committee hearing to confront the flagrant civil rights violations targeting Jewish students on college campuses across America, and to expose the radical Islamist ideology infiltrating our universities.

The right to protest peacefully and the right to freely express ones views—no matter how controversial—are enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. These rights are proud American traditions. Violent mobs and the intimidation of individuals because of their faith, however, are not.

Since Hamas barbarically attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, anti-Israel activists have threatened the safety and rights of Jewish university students. This hostile antisemitism has reached an inflection point over the past two weeks at several prominent, and federally funded, universities.

As one telling example of this hostile climate, in the days leading up to Passover, a rabbi affiliated with Columbia University messaged roughly three-hundred Jewish students “strongly” urging them to return home, since recent events “have made it clear that Columbia University’s Public Safety and the New York Police Department cannot guarantee Jewish students’ safety.” Columbia seemingly confirmed the rabbi’s fears by moving classes online shortly thereafter. In other incidents, Jewish students were denied a right to pass through their own campuses, forced to cancel religious celebrations, and violently attacked. Jewish students are being actively targeted, harassed, intimidated, threatened, and in some cases assaulted for one reason: their heritage and religion. This is fundamentally un-American. It is also a federal crime.

Equally disturbing are the prominent displays of symbols, flags, and slogans of terrorist groups at these campuses. According to several reports, a Hezbollah flag was seen last week at an encampment at Princeton University. At Stanford University, an individual was photographed wearing a Hamas headband. Lest their motives be mistaken, anti-Israel activists have also been chanting “death to America” and “globalize the intifada” at several campuses. Who is funding these activists and what agenda do they have?

We are witnessing in real-time the radicalization and indoctrination of people across the country by terrorist organizations who wish to end America as we know it. This has been simmering

below the surface for some time. There are several university-sanctioned centers, curricula, and other events that are anti-Semitic and espouse radical terrorist-aligned beliefs. Recent events have emboldened these radicals to now show their true colors. Our national security is at risk.

All the while, the Biden Administration is woefully inadequate in its response, and university leadership on many campuses is doing little or nothing to protect students. With this current state of inaction, it is incumbent upon this Committee to shed light on these civil rights violations. This Committee owes it to Jewish students, and all students who attend universities with the modest hope of having a safe learning environment, to examine these civil rights violations.


Since October 7, 2023, the Committee has held hearings on “Accountability for Corporate Criminals,” on “Five Years of the First Step Act,” and on “the Effects of Forced Arbitration.” We have yet to hold a single hearing on the civil rights violations of Jewish students, or the proliferation of terrorist ideology—two issues that fall squarely within this Committee’s purview.

Accordingly, our Committee should examine why more is not being done to protect the civil rights of innocent students across America. We must also examine the threat to national security posed by the proliferation of radical Islamist ideology in the academy. These pressing issues demand our immediate attention.

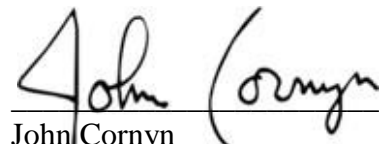
Sincerely,




Lindsey O. Graham



Charles E. Grassley



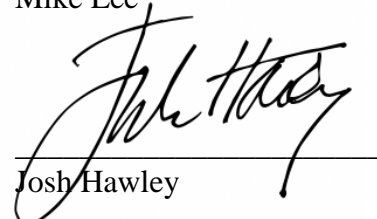
John Cornyn



Mike Lee



Ted Cruz



Josh Hawley



Tom Cotton



John Kennedy

Thom Tillis

Thom Tillis

Marsha Blackburn

Marsha Blackburn