May 1, 2024

IU Faculty and Staff for Israel Profoundly Concerned about Antisemitism Expressed at Anti-Israel Campus Student Protests

An Open Letter to IU Trustees, Bloomington Administrators, and Bloomington Faculty

We are a group of IU faculty and staff profoundly concerned about the escalating rise of antisemitism and harassment of Jews besetting IU and other American campuses, including this past week’s activities in Bloomington and at many other universities.

We are committed to free speech as a fundamental right. But there is an important difference between protected speech and harassment. We have received reliable reports that the behavior of some protesters has crossed over to targeted harassment of Jewish students. Freedom of speech is threatened by these kinds of violent actions, and we oppose them.

We urge our colleagues and friends at Indiana University to remember that Hamas’ atrocious assault on Israel on October 7, 2023 was the largest and most violent attack on Jews since the end of the Holocaust. It exemplifies the very definition of genocide: “the deliberate killing of a large number of a people or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation.” As clearly stated in its Charter, Hamas’s explicit aim is to kill Jews and destroy Israel. Thus, those at IU and other campuses who vocally align themselves with Hamas are enablers of annihilationist Jew-hatred. We are resolved to stand against them.

We also urge our colleagues and friends to remember that IU has a longstanding policy in place against proposals to boycott and “divest” from Israel. So does the state of Indiana. We wholeheartedly support our university’s academic ties to Israeli universities and welcome Israeli students, faculty members, and artists to Bloomington. Some of our leading faculty members and most outstanding students are Israelis. We are grateful to have them with us.
We also oppose the pervasive, ill-informed, and mean-spirited indictments of Israel as a “racist, apartheid, fascist, and genocidal” state. Israel is none of those things, but it’s now routinely denounced as such by those – including many on Dunn Meadow -- who chant “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” and call for an “Intifada Revolution.”

The first of these calls, now chanted almost liturgically, would result in the end of the world’s only Jewish majority state, a democracy in which members of minority groups, including Arabs, enjoy the same rights as Jewish citizens. Israel’s universities champion academic freedom, and all Israeli citizens have the right to vote and can freely choose their government. Thus, we regard the call to nullify Israel and all it has achieved over the past 75 years as reprehensible.

Do those who cry out “Intifada, Intifada” know that they are calling for actions that have led to some 140 terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians, which killed over 1,000 of them? Some clearly do. For according to eyewitness reports, there were people in Dunn Meadow who loudly proclaimed, “We are Hamas” and “Death to all Jewish people.” Did they know – or care – they were expressing sentiments of the most vicious sort?

These outrageous actions are deeply troubling to a great many people in Bloomington, across the United States, and around the world. Under the cover of a militant anti-Zionism, antisemitism has been heightened to a level of virulence not seen in decades. Left unchecked, it can do no end of damage, not only to Jewish lives but to the foundations of liberal democracy itself.

Over the years, IU has proven to be a welcoming campus for people of many different backgrounds, including large numbers of Jewish faculty members, students, and staff. We want to keep it that way, and we urge the IU leadership, as well as our colleagues and friends, to join us in opposing any and all moves to undermine the campus climate through virulent expressions of anti-Jewish and anti-Israel hostility. Such behavior is antagonistic to common decency and should have no place among us.
Signed by:

Professor Alvin H. Rosenfeld  
Irving M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies  
Director, Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism  
Borns Jewish Studies Program

Dr. Lawrence Einhorn  
Distinguished Professor of Medicine  
Indiana University School of Medicine

Dr. Harvey Feigenbaum  
Distinguished Professor of Medicine  
Indiana University School of Medicine

Associate Professor Jason M. Organ  
Department of Anatomy, Cell Biology & Physiology  
Indiana University School of Medicine

Professor Paul M. Wallach, MD  
Indiana University School of Medicine

Dr. Allon Friedman, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Indiana University School of Medicine

Dr. John Abrams, M.D.  
Indianapolis

Lainna R. Cohen  
Division of Gastroenterology and Hematology.  
Indiana University School of Medicine

David Pfenninger, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor Emeritus,  
Department of Psychiatry  
Indiana University School of Medicine

Deborah Herold, Ph.D.  
Teaching Professor  
Psychology  
Indiana University Indianapolis

Robert Katz  
Professor of Law  
IU McKinney School of Law, Indianapolis

Roger Temam  
Distinguished Professor  
Department of Mathematics

Professor Arthur Fagen  
Jacobs School of Music

Professor Eli Eban  
Jacobs School of Music

Susan Moses Bloom  
Co-Director IU String Academy emerita  
Jacobs School of Music

Professor Dov-Ber Kerler  
Alice and Ted Cohn Chair in Jewish Studies  
Borns Jewish Studies Program

Professor Stephen Katz  
Borns Jewish Studies Program

Michal Maaz-Levy  
Borns Jewish Studies Program

Dimitry Romashov  
Borns Jewish Studies Program

Professor Dina Spechler  
Political Science and Borns Jewish Studies Program

Associate Professor Günther Jikeli  
Borns Jewish Studies Program

Professor Idalene Kesner  
Kelley School of Business

Professor Joseph Fitter  
Kelley School on Business

Professor Charles Trzcinka  
Kelley School of Business

Professor Rom Y. Schrift  
Kelley School of Business

Professor Eitan M. Goldman  
Kelley School of Business
Gale Gold Nichols  
Executive Director, MBA Program  
Kelley School of Business

Keith G. Dayton  
Senior Lecturer  
Kelley School of Business

Eric Rodkin  
Safety and Security Manager  
Kelley School of Business

David Hirsch  
Professor of Practice  
Kelley School of Business

Professor Martin Spechler  
Department of Economics  
Indiana University Indianapolis

Associate Professor Daniel Simon  
O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs

Professor Emeritus Marc L. Lame  
O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs

Professor Emeritus Leslie Lenkowsky  
O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs

John Karaagac  
Senior Lecturer  
O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs

Daniel Nicols  
Senior Budget Analyst, University Budget Office

Associate Professor Chad Carmichael  
Philosophy  
Indiana University Indianapolis

Associate Professor Susan Hurwitz  
Indiana University School of Education

Professor David Shriberg  
Indiana University School of Education

Professor Cindy Hmelo-Silver  
Distinguished Professor of Learning Sciences  
Indiana University School of Education

Gary Silver  
Director of Business Analysis and Processes  
Indiana University School of Education

Professor Laszlo Borhi  
Peter A. Kadas Chair  
Indiana University Central Eurasian Studies

Professor Michael Kaganovich  
Department of Economics

Professor Kemal Silay  
Professor of Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies in the  
Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies

Professor Steven Gottlieb  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus  
Provost Professor Emeritus of Physics

Professor Herbert Fertig  
Department of Physics

Professor Babak Seradjeh  
Department of Physics

Professor Darrell Haile, Emeritus  
Department of Mathematics

Delia Igo  
Financial Operations Manager  
Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture, and Design

Ralph Gaebler  
Associate Librarian Emeritus  
Jerome Hall Law Library  
Indiana University Maurer School of Law

Rabbi Sue Silberberg  
Hillel

Judith Rose  
Hillel

Rabbi Levi Cunin  
Chabad

Bronislava Volkova  
Professor Emerita of Slavic Languages & Literatures  
Jewish Studies and Comparative Literature

Carl Weinberg  
Teaching Professor, College of Arts and Sciences  
Adjunct Associate Professor of History

Messod Daniel Beneish  
Alva L. Prickett Chair  
Indiana University, Kelley School of Business

Page 4 of 4