

HEARING BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

NEVER TO BE SILENT: STEMMING THE TIDE OF ANTISEMITISM IN AMERICA

TESTIMONY OF ADELA COJAB, J.D.  
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MARCH 5, 2025

Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin, members of the committee, good morning.

My name is Adela Cojab, and I am a legal fellow with the National Jewish Advocacy Center. My family is originally from Syria and Lebanon, then they moved to Mexico City, where I was born, before we came to the United States. I grew up in a small Jewish community in New Jersey and, like the overwhelming majority of Jews, Zionism was always part and parcel of my Jewish identity.<sup>1</sup>

I always heard about antisemitism on college campuses, but I never thought I would experience it firsthand. If you ask absolutely anyone who knew me from middle school onward, NYU had always been my dream school. I applied with no backups, knowing that if I wasn't admitted I would take a gap year, work or volunteer, and apply again. The day I was admitted was one of the happiest days of my life.

My first two years were everything I had hoped for— I had a radio show, I joined a sorority, and I served in student government. But in my junior year, in the Spring of 2018, everything changed and everything shifted to a referendum on Israel-Palestine.

What started as a typical push for BDS that you might see across any college campus quickly escalated. It started when the Governance Council for Marginalized and Minority Students released a statement equating Zionism with racism and Nazism. When I reached out to council

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<sup>1</sup> “Most Jewish Americans have long-standing connections to Israel,” Pew Research Center, October 13, 2023.  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/10/13/most-jewish-americans-have-long-standing-connections-to-israel/>

members I had previously considered friends, they refused to speak to me, telling me they “don’t talk to fascists.” That was the first time my Zionism, an integral part of my Jewish identity, led to my exclusion.

Two weeks later, a resolution was introduced to boycott NYU’s Tel Aviv campus. Two weeks after that, over 70 professors signed a pledge to boycott Israeli academics, and two weeks after that, 53 student organizations—one in every six at NYU—pledged to boycott not only the State of Israel, but the student organization I was president of, and any group that dared to partner with us. I, along with the Jewish community, felt completely isolated. The message was clear: Zionist students were unwelcome.

I met with every relevant administrator that I was referred to – eight administrators across five departments. Center for Student Affairs sent me to Center for Multicultural Education, who sent me to Center for Student Life, who sent me to Student Conduct, who sent me to Public Safety. The university refused to acknowledge the growing hostility and for months I was consistently told I was imagining non-existing threats.

And then came Israel Independence Day, when we planned our annual Yom Ha’atzmaut celebration in Washington Square Park—a beautiful, peaceful event where Jewish students gathered to celebrate Israel. I anticipated protests and again met with the administration, warning them about potential safety concerns. Again, I was told I was overreacting.

The event kicked off when an anti-Zionist student stepped forward, held up an Israeli flag, set it on fire, and let it burn. As the protest continued, another anti-Israel student made his way into the circle where we were singing Hatikvah, Israel's anthem, and grabbed the microphone from a Jewish freshman girl, chanting "Free Palestine." At that point, the protestors started moving in and chanting louder, they had torn down our Israeli flags, shredding them and hanging the pieces from trees and lampposts. NYPD made arrests for reckless endangerment, property theft and damage, and assault. All of this occurred in the presence of NYU staff, security, and administrators.

When I met with the school again, they promised they would take action, behind the scenes, because they didn't want negative publicity. NYU didn't even make a statement about the assaults, arrests, or flag burning.

Around the same time, I was mobbed by anti-Israel students outside a town hall. They surrounded me, held their phones in my face, called me a Nazi and a baby killer, and shouted that their goal was to make me and the other "Zio-Nazis" uncomfortable. The president of student government—who was herself overtly anti-Zionist—felt the need to intervene before it became too violent. She broke through *her own friend group* and pushed me through the crowd, urging me to run.

I stepped down from student government and withdrew from my leadership positions. My professor told me to stop attending classes in the Middle Eastern Studies department and we arranged for my exams to be taken in a separate room.

Instead of taking action, NYU awarded Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) the President's Service Award for their "outstanding contributions to NYU life." When I tried to meet with administrators again, I was ignored. That was when I made the difficult decision to file a federal complaint against NYU for failing to protect its Jewish students. And remember, all of this happened *years* before October 7, 2023.

I often wondered where this hatred stemmed from: how could classmates I had considered friends for two years so abruptly descend into hostility and violence? During my time at NYU, I enrolled in a course on the modern Middle East. One unit of the syllabus was dedicated to jihad and religious extremism. The syllabus described it as follows:

"These next two essays take on what are usually called Jihadist organizations, terrorists, takfiri, extremists... They put them in regional context and argue for viewing them as a product of changing social and political contexts."

The assigned readings framed violent extremism not as an ideology, but as a reaction to social and political circumstances. One article even argued that Osama bin Laden was not a religious extremist, but rather a secular computer scientist who merely used religion as a vehicle for social change. I expected the professor to challenge or contextualize this perspective. Instead, he reinforced it, making little mention of 9/11 or the reality of jihadist terrorism. When I raised my concerns, I was met with ridicule, both by my classmates and my professor, rather than discourse.

A detailed timeline of events at NYU, used for my OCR complaint, including an outline of correspondence with university administrators documenting the discrimination we faced, is attached to my written testimony. I have also included a letter written to NYU administrators following the flag burning and assault outlining NYU policies violated by SJP, all of which were ignored.

Filing my complaint was not a decision I made lightly. I knew the implications of going public, but I also knew that if I didn't take action, no one else would. I went through every university channel and my voice was constantly ignored. My only request in the complaint was that NYU update its anti-discrimination policies to include antisemitism explicitly.

In December 2019, my case caught the attention of the White House. President Trump invited me to speak at a conference, and three days later, he signed Executive Order 13899 on Combating Antisemitism. That order, which adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism for Title VI protections, helped enshrine the rights of Jewish students under the law.

After that, I thought things would get better. Inspired by my experiences, I went to law school. I chose to go to Yeshiva University, away from the hostility I faced at NYU. I interned at both the Queens and Brooklyn DAs, and I was ready to start my career as a prosecutor.

And then came October 7th, Hamas' terrorist attack, and the aftermath in America. Campuses across the country exploded with antisemitism and I started getting calls from students facing

extreme harassment, asking me what they should do, if they should hide their kippot and Stars of David. I was dumbfounded and shocked.

I thought back to my time at NYU. I realized I couldn't sit on the sidelines. Instead of becoming an ADA, I joined the National Jewish Advocacy Center to fight for Jewish civil rights.

Senators, I am here to testify that there has been no shortage of work.

I know we want to focus on college campuses because that's where antisemitism is most apparent. But that is not necessarily where it is most dangerous. A recent study by the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP), included in my written testimony, shows that campus antisemitism is a predictor of antisemitic incidents—including hate crimes—in surrounding counties.<sup>2</sup>

What I saw at NYU almost six years ago didn't stay on campus—it has since spilled into workplaces, boardrooms, and city streets. At NJAC, every day we see Title VI cases on campuses, of course, and in K-12 and in school districts, but we also see Title VII cases in employment discrimination, Title II cases in public accommodations, we fight major corporations integrating BDS into their ESG policies, and we have dozens of lawsuits and complaints against airlines over the antisemitic treatment of Jewish passengers, flight attendants, and pilots. At NJAC we are pioneering new ways to fight antisemitism using innovative approaches that have never been used before to protect our community.

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<sup>2</sup> "The Corruption of the American Mind," Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, 2023. <https://isgap.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/The-corruption-of-the-american-mind.pdf>

Right after October 7 we filed five major federal anti-terror cases against those providing material support to Hamas, including on campus. We even used the FACE Act provision about obstructing houses of worship in order to protect synagogues from anti-Israel protests.

The last administration had very little appetite to enforce the federal civil rights law in place, and so we had to do these things ourselves. I am thrilled to see that the new administration is finally taking the issue seriously, but I am also incredibly disheartened to see that some people are still insistent on making this a partisan issue. With respect to their organizations and positions, I don't know why at a hearing on antisemitism the minority has again chosen to invite witnesses whose published opinions about antisemitism are **completely** at odds with the vast majority of Jewish Americans, including every single mainstream Jewish organization. And this is not the first time. When this committee held a hearing on hate crimes a few months ago, the Democratic majority at the time did the exact same thing.

Perhaps most troubling is this. Remember those lawsuits I mentioned we filed, against supporters of Hamas? One of them was against National Students for Justice in Palestine. Just this week, National Faculty and Students for Justice in Palestine sent an email out about *this very hearing*, and said that Senator Durbin's staff were actively looking for examples of the chilling effect that President Trump's actions to protect the Jewish community, including the executive order he signed after my case adopting the IHRA definition for Title VI, might have on the people who are tormenting the Jewish community. Again instead of focusing on helping Jewish people, they are looking for made-up reasons not to help. Here's the thing: If you have to ask the Hamas

supporters to help you drum up cases, you are probably already in the wrong. Regardless, if you read the executive order, you'll note that it has nothing to do with speech. As we always say at NJAC, anyone can say whatever they want however abhorrent, about Jews or the Jewish State. You just cannot then use that hate as motivation to unlawfully discriminate against Jewish people.

But most importantly, I want to ask the minority to try and stop seeing us as just pawns in a political game, and rather as people, your own constituents, who actually need protection. We are the targets of hate crimes, and discrimination, and this administration has done more in six weeks to help us than the last administration did in four long years. Give credit where credit is due, and help them to help us instead of constantly looking for counterfactual counternarratives.

Antisemitism is a unique issue that requires a particularized solution—but, the presence of antisemitism signals a much broader problem. A society willing to rationalize extremism, excuse terrorism, or erase history in the name of ideology will not stop at the Jews. And today, standing in front of the Senate Judiciary, I am imploring you, like I implored my university administrators, to take action before it's too late.

In terms of concrete proposals, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism has garnered significant support from Jewish organizations worldwide. Notably, well over 90% of member organizations of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations have adopted the IHRA definition.<sup>3</sup> In May 2023, over 160 Jewish communities and organizations globally urged the United Nations to incorporate the IHRA

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<sup>3</sup> “Conference of Presidents Adopt the IHRA Definition,” Jewish Insider, 2021. <https://jewishinsider.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Conference-of-Presidents-Member-Organizations-Adopt-IHRA-Definition-of-Antisemitism.pdf>

definition into its action plan to counter antisemitism.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, as of 2025, 1,266 entities, non-governmental organizations, and institutions, have adopted the IHRA definition.<sup>5</sup> And, of course, the IHRA definition was supported by the Bush, Obama, and Biden administrations, as well as both Trump administrations.

This definition, with its examples, makes it clear that holding Jews accountable for a real or perceived connection to the State of Israel *to discriminate against them* is antisemitism. That should be the standard definition across federal discrimination law.

Without a clear standard, justice is arbitrary, and antisemitism thrives in the loopholes. Congress has the power—and the obligation—to close them. That, at the very least, should be bipartisan.

Thank you, and I welcome any questions.

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<sup>4</sup> “More than 160 Jewish communities and organizations across the globe urge UN to use IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism in UN Action Plan”, ADL, May 18, 2023. <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/more-160-jewish-communities-and-organizations-across-globe-urge-un-use-ihra>

<sup>5</sup> “Adoptions and Endorsements of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism,” Combat Antisemitism Movement, February 2025. <https://ihra.combatantisemitism.org/>

**June 17, 2019**

**Supplementary Materials for OCR Complaint**

**Adela Cojab, NYU**

According to the July 2012 Title VI Enforcement Highlights published by the US Department of Education and Office of Civil Rights:

“If an institution knows or has reason to know about student-on-student harassment, Title VI requires that the school take immediate and effective action to eliminate the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and, where appropriate, address its effects on the harassed student and the school community.” (pg. 11).

After many meetings with multiple administrators in five NYU departments, the university very much knew of instances of student-on-student harassment. The university failed to properly address discrimination against the Jewish community and has yet to take concrete actions to prevent it. The effects it has had on the aggrieved community, myself included, are yet to be addressed, let alone remedied.

The most egregious instances of harassment occurred in the Spring Semester of 2018 (February 2018 - May 2018). A complaint was not filed because I truly believed the university would take meaningful steps to address rising hostility, as they told me they would. When NYU Awarded SJP the President’s Service Award on April 4, 2019-- not even a year after the events at the 2018 Rave in the park detailed in the timeline below-- it became evident no actions of the sort were taken, rather SJP’s appalling behavior was validated and celebrated. It is with this backdrop I respectfully request a waiver of OCR’s timeliness requirement.

Below, please find a brief introduction to the case, followed by an abridged outline of correspondence informing the University of escalating hostility. Because of the extensive amount of emails, I have not included the emails themselves, but will gladly send over those you find most relevant within the hour of their request.

## **Introduction:**

Over the last two years, NYU's Jewish Community at large experienced an extreme environment of harassment and discrimination at the hands of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).

On April 4, 2019 NYU awarded SJP a President's Service Award for "extraordinary and positive impact on the University community," arguably the highest honor for student organizations at NYU.

Beginning in February 2018, I had met multiple times with administrators in NYU's departments of Student Affairs, Student Conduct, Center for Student Life, Public Safety, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to express concern for the wellbeing of the Jewish community at-large-- both before and after SJP's protests at the 2018 Yom Haatzmaut Rave in the Park, our celebration of shared ancestry and peoplehood, where one of their members burned a Jewish flag and another wrestled a microphone from a Jewish student during Hatikva, which resulted in arrests for physical assault, reckless endangerment, and destruction of property.

Despite multiple requests made by myself and other members of the Jewish Community, no disciplinary actions were taken against the **only NYU student organization** that openly promotes harassment against NYU's Jewish Community at large.

The actions of NYU SJP (further detailed in the timeline below) should not only disqualify them from receiving a University-sanctioned award, but should inherently compromise their status as a student organization under NYU's Center for Student Life— and that should be true for any organization that harasses fellow students, especially if the students harassed share nationality, race, or faith. SJP does not attack our Judaism in its religious manifestation, rather attacks our cultural heritage of peoplehood, which falls within the purview OCR's Title VI.

My complaint to OCR is not about a single award, it is about the University's perpetual inaction against what is clearly behaving as a hate group on campus.

Though the University condemns the boycott of Israel and rejects calls to close their Tel Aviv site, that in no way justifies their negligence of student concerns, nor should it appease NYU's Jewish students that *continue to* face targeted harassment by SJP. Not once has the University *publicly addressed* SJP's actions, let alone *condemned* student-on-student harassment or violence. Designating SJP as a recipient of NYU's President's Service Award serves as a clear confirmation of NYU's gross oversight.

It is important to note that every meeting I had with NYU administrators from May 2017 to May 2018 was done in my **official capacity as the de jure representative of the Jewish Community on NYU's Student Government Assembly**, where my job was to liaise between my constituency and the administration. After I left student government because of bullying and ad-hominem attacks, no Jewish student was selected to represent NYU's Jewish Community at Large for the 2018-2019 academic year. Both the Administration and Student Government continued to see me as the de facto representative of the Jewish Community at large, and at the request of the Jewish Community, I continued to serve as their unofficial liaison.

### **Note on terminology:**

The Jewish Community at-Large refers to the “affiliated” Jewish community, meaning Jewish students affiliated in some way with NYU's Jewish Institutions and those nearby, primarily the Bronfman Center for Jewish Life (the official Jewish Center of New York University and Hillel House), Chabad House Bowery (the orthodox Chabad House that services NYU students), and Magen David (Sephardic synagogue). Members of the Jewish Community at-Large, regardless of the level of orthodoxy, identify strongly with Jewish tradition, Jewish identity, and Jewish peoplehood. We have been termed the “Jewish Community at-Large” by Student Government in order to differentiate between NYU's mainstream Jewish community and NYU's “unaffiliated” Jewish community, which rejects all forms of institutionalized Judaism, including beliefs in an ancestral Jewish homeland.

### **Effect on Participation in University Programs**

SJP's actions (and the University's lack of action) led to a limitation of NYU's Jewish Community at-Large participation in University affairs. Because of SJP's boycott, neutral student organizations that were once our partners were afraid to cosponsor events because then they, too, would be boycotted.

Because outgoing senators select incoming senators, no student was selected to represent NYU's Jewish Community at-Large on Student Government after I resigned. Listing involvement or affiliation with NYU's Bronfman Center for Jewish Life would, practically, bar you from being selected. Jewish candidates did not even make it past the first round of selection, meaning more than two thirds of NYU Student Senate cut their applications before they were even discussed by the body. **When Jewish students are afraid to affiliate with the University's official Center for Jewish Life due to fear of being boycotted by their own Student Government, anti-Semitism has been systematized.**

As the de jure and de facto representative of NYU's Jewish Community at-Large, the effects felt by the community were amplified in my personal life, entirely affecting my academic experience.

Because my primary field of study was Middle Eastern Studies, I was unable to walk into class after watching *my own classmate* assault a Jewish student that was singing the Jewish anthem, or after reading *my own classmates'* comments in NYU News, stating their goal was to make me uncomfortable, or watching them cheer as my flag burned at an event meant to celebrate Jewish peoplehood and perseverance.

After I was approached by my professor to inform me that, those same classmates, would not partner with me for mandatory class presentations, I stopped attending class and arranged to take my exams in a separate class.

I stepped down from my position on student government because of humiliation and isolation, which gave me terrible anxiety. I gained 20 pounds in three months from binge and stress eating, bringing me dangerously close to passing the threshold from genetically pre-diabetic to inducing Type 2 Diabetes. After my panic attack following the Town Hall (detailed in this report), I delayed my internship to attend a wellness retreat for two weeks where I saw a psychologist and worked with professionals to regulate my eating and my stress. Though I am now, over a year later, back to a healthy weight, I developed insulin resistance and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome, for which I will need medication indefinitely.

Following that summer, entering my senior year, I was rarely on downtown and avoided walking alone on campus. I was scared to attend University events like Senior Send-Off because the idea of being in a public space where I can possibly be surrounded by members of SJP was mortifying. I continued to meet with administrators about holding SJP accountable for their actions, proposing they implement clear-cut policies against club life harassment.

We asked, on multiple occasions, for the University to take SJP's actions seriously and remedy the hostile environment my community was facing.

When NYU honored SJP, my community was infuriated-- and I, the two-year representative of NYU's Jewish Community at-Large, took their decision personally, having spent hours as detailed below meeting with every relevant administrator involved in overseeing the selection committee. As I've stated before, SJP's charter should have been revoked for their appalling behavior. Being an NYU student organization is a tremendous privilege, and that privilege should have been suspended. Student organizations that continuously harass other student organizations should face repercussions for their actions, not receive the highest award in

Student Life. The award, as mentioned above, was proof that the concerns of the Jewish Community were not taken seriously by the administration.

## Requested Materials

Information below is organized in the following format:

### Incident of harassment

- 1) Date complaint reported
  - a) Name(s) and title(s) of University personnel to whom complaint was made
  - b) Means by which complaint was made
  - c) Issues Discussed
    - i) Relevant Details
  - d) Response
    - i) Results of the meeting, including where actions could have been taken

### **GCOMMS Statement and Student Government Resolution**

On February 25, 2018, members of SJP on the Governance Council of Minority and Marginalized Students (GCOMMS), a student-run group at NYU where no mainstream Jewish organization has been granted membership, issued a statement conflating Nazism and Racism with Zionism. Two weeks later, the same members of SJP proposed and eventually passed a factually incorrect, blatantly biased anti-Israel resolution on Student Government.

These two occurrences raised concern among NYU's Jewish Community at-Large. As their representative, I met with administrators to discuss the emergence of the pattern of using Israel as a tactic to isolate Jewish students from the greater NYU community.

### University Correspondence:

- 1) March 7, 2018
  - a) Marc Wais, Vice President of Student Affairs
  - b) In-Person meeting
  - c) Issues discussed:
    - i) GCOMMS Statement causing discomfort in the Jewish community.
    - ii) Anti-Israel resolution proposed on NYU Student Government causing discomfort in the Jewish community.
    - iii) We feel this will only get worse
    - iv) Asked for resolution to be disqualified before vote because it is not factual, goes against NYU's Global Network

- v) Asked if anything can be done about GCOMMS
- d) Response:
  - i) He will look into the issues
  - ii) The administration sympathetic but cannot get involved in student affairs

[Tel-Aviv Resolution, Passed on March 29, 2018]

2) March 29, 2018

- a) Thomas Ellett, Sr. Associate Vice President of Student Affairs
- b) Email
- c) Issues discussed:
  - i) Mr. Ellett kindly followed up to ask if I needed anything after the resolution passed on Student Government
  - ii) I replied thanking him and the administration for their support
  - iii) Quote from Email: “Walking into the colloquium room yesterday was one of the hardest things I've had to do, and very few times have I felt so humiliated yet supported. Your reaching out means a lot, it's comforting to know administrators of the University care about the wellbeing of its students.”
- d) Response:
  - i) This was very sweet of him, handled well.

### **SJP's BDS Pledge and Apartheid Week Flyer**

On April 9, 2019, SJP published a [statement](#) pledging support for the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement against Israel. In addition to boycotting Israeli products and academic institutions, SJP pledged to boycott Realize Israel and TorchPAC, which are NYU student organizations under the Bronfman Center of Jewish Life.

Two days later, SJP Revealed their schedule for 2018 Israeli Apartheid Week, a week of anti-Israel programming that occurs annually. The cover photo on the Facebook event displayed an assault rifle and quoted George Habash (known terrorist) calling for “revolt.”

Unlike other Israeli Apartheid Weeks, this year's followed a biased resolution on Student Government, had a mobilized coalition of over 50 organizations openly targetting two Bronfman Ceenter clubs, and a weeks worth of programming and protests with a flyer calling for revolt, displaying a weapon.

The Jewish community, needless to say, felt *extremely* uneasy. In conversations with friends at NYU's Kosher cafeteria, more and more students were afraid to wear their Kippah, the traditional Jewish male headpiece, or display open signs of their Jewish identity, like Jewish star necklaces. As a community leader, it hurt to see my constituents so downtrodden. I shared their concerns, and took immediately to the administration.

1) April 10, 2018

- a) Marc Wais, Vice President of Student Affairs
- b) Thomas Ellett, Sr. Associate Vice President of Student Affairs
- c) Email (see attachment)
- d) Issues discussed:
  - i) Statement on Medium made by Students for Justice in Palestine endorsing the BDS Movement, as well as explicitly boycotting Realize Israel, a student club at NYU under the Bronfman Center for Jewish Life
  - ii) Quote from email: "The scale of this incident is both unnerving and alarming; this is much bigger than a simple student-group-to-student-group grievance, this is an organized and mobilized effort to isolate students."
  - iii) Request for in-person meeting
- e) Response:
  - i) Marc Wais: no answer
  - ii) Thomas Ellett: meeting scheduled

[Apartheid Week Flyer Released]

2) April 11, 2018

- a) Thomas Ellett, Sr. Associate Vice President of Student Affairs
- b) In-Person Meeting
- c) Issues discussed:
  - i) See above
  - ii) Concerning content of Apartheid Week Flyer
- d) Response:
  - i) Receptive and concerned, will see what can be done
  - ii) Referred me to Craig Jolley from the office of Student Conduct

3) April 11, 2018

- a) Marc Wais, Vice President of Student Affairs
- b) In-Person Meeting (waited outside of his office until he had time)
- c) Issues discussed:

- i) See above
- ii) Concerning content of Apartheid Week Flyer
- d) Response:
  - i) Not receptive and not concerned.
  - ii) Students can boycott whoever they want
    - (1) Though this is true, there's a difference between students boycotting a political issue and *a coalition of over 50 NYU Student Organizations boycotting two fellow NYU Student Organizations*. This is a direct violation of NYU's Center for Student Life community standards.
    - (2) The Center for Student Life should have interjected immediately. The pledge was communal bullying and the flyer posed a threat.

4) April 12, 2018

- a) Craig Jolley, Director, Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards
- b) Email, in-person meeting same day
- c) Issues discussed:
  - i) Upcoming Apartheid Week to be kicked off that Sunday
  - ii) Large Scale of SJP BDS Pledge and Coalition
  - iii) Apartheid Week Flyer
- d) Results:
  - i) Says he understands concerns, but does not fall under the OSC
  - ii) Refers me to NYU Public Safety

5) April 13, 2018

- a) Marlon Lynch, Vice President, Global Campus Safety
  - i) Fountain Walker, Associate Vice President, Public Safety
- b) Email
- c) Issues discussed:
  - i) Apartheid Week
  - ii) BDS Pledge
  - iii) Flyer
  - iv) Quote from email: "I have attached the flyer to the NYU Apartheid Week Facebook event, which calls for revolt, quotes a known terrorist, and, above all, displays an assault rifle. Coupled with the open call to boycott and single out two individual student groups, my community feels highly unsafe. The scale of this incident is both unnerving and alarming; this is much bigger than a simple student-group-to-student-group grievance or

student protest, this is an organized and mobilized effort to isolate students, and in only a couple of days, its effects have already been felt.”

- d) Results:
  - i) Mr. Lynch thanked me for sharing the information but was out of the country and could not meet
  - ii) He copied Fountain Walker, Associate VP on the email thread, meeting scheduled for Monday
  
- 6) April 13, 2018
  - a) Stephen Polniaszek, Assistant Director for Club Advisement
  - b) In-Person, walk-in hours
  - c) Issues discussed
    - i) Apartheid Week Events and Flyer
  - d) Results:
    - i) He informed me the flyer had reached many administrators (not surprising, considering I met with three departments about it), and SJP was instructed to take it down
    - ii) SJP removed flyer from Facebook later that night.
  
- 7) April 16, 2018
  - a) Fountain Walker, Associate Vice President of Public Safety
  - b) In-Person
  - c) Issues discussed
    - i) See above
    - ii) Increasing security at Apartheid Week events to ensure quick response in case of hostility
  - d) Results:
    - i) Public Safety was notified of the Apartheid Week schedule and were advised to monitor the situation closely

### **Addressing Student Hostility**

On April 17, 2018, I received an email from Stephen Polniaszek from Center for Student Life informing me that administrators in “Student Affairs and the University are concerned about the level of discourse and the direction in which we are going.”

Attached was a letter from President Hamilton addressed to Student Leaders affirming the University's position against BDS, stating dismay at the “bitterness,” “intolerance,” and “vilification” he was seeing, and calling for mutual respect.

Stephen’s email ended with an invitation to a facilitated dialogue.

This was the first acknowledgement from the administration of *real* concern, and it was the first (and only) time action was taken to directly address the campus climate-- *and it fell extremely short.*

The letter should have been public, or at least should not have been limited to the leadership on either side. Every member of the Jewish community who was affected by SJP’s behavior deserved to be addressed by NYU Administration.

Looking back, reading this letter, it is absurd we received no response of the sort following the 2018 Rave in the Park, which occurred less than two weeks after this letter was sent. If at this point, where the grievance was limited to the boycotting of student organizations, a biased student government resolution, and a threatening flyer, and the University acknowledges tactics of isolation as falling “short of [NYU’s] principles and customs,” how was there *no response* when the *same* parties engaged in *physically aggressive behavior*?

**This letter *proves* the University *knew and had reason to know* of instances of harassment, and the actions they took were insufficient, considering three days after the dialogue the same students who were present in their “ground-breaking” facilitated dialogue supported the assault of a Jewish student and the public burning of our flag *only three days later.***

**With President Hamilton’s letter and the Administrators in “Student Affairs and the University” referenced in Stephen’s email, it is clear the administration was very much aware, and *concerned*, about SJP’s behavior, making NYU’s decision to award SJP a President’s Service Award all the more problematic.**

University Correspondence:

- 1) April 17, 2018
  - a) Stephen Polniaszek, Assistant Director for Club Advisement
  - b) Email

- c) Issues discussed:
    - i) Increased campus hostility
    - ii) Invitation to Facilitated Dialogue
    - iii) Attached: letter from President Andrew Hamilton calling for mutual respect
  - d) Response
    - i) I RSVP'd responding to the Facilitated Dialogue
- 2) April 18, 2018
- a) Marc Wais, Vice President of Student Affairs
  - b) Email
  - c) Issues Discussed:
    - i) I emailed Marc Wais to thank him on behalf of Jewish Students at-large for taking steps to ensure a safe campus environment, in response to Hamilton's Letter and the upcoming facilitated dialogue.
  - d) Results:
    - i) He replied with a hopeful tone, thanking me for my "leadership in these trying times."

### **Town Hall**

President Hamilton hosted his annual end-of-year Town Hall on the same day as Yom Haatzmaut in the Hebrew calendar. President Hamilton denounced BDS, and SJP members hissed at his response. After the Town Hall, I approached Marc Wais to thank him for NYU's stance. He asked "where are your people?" referring to the lack of Jewish representation at the Town Hall, to which I replied, "celebrating our Peoplehood," explaining that it was literally a Jewish Holiday. It felt like he was blaming me for the negative reactions from SJP members.

A group of SJP members and Student Government senators slowly amassed around us and started hissing. When their attention shifted entirely towards me, Marc slipped away, leaving me in the middle of a mob that grew hostile, began shouting and pulling out phones to photograph and videocontinued yelling aggressive and inappropriate things, calling me a Palestinian Baby Killer, a disgusting Zionist, and comparing me to Nazi officers.

Eventually, Husniye Cogur, a member of SJP who had been recently elected Chair of Student Government for the next academic year, realized the group was out of hand, stepped in the middle, and asked them to stop so I could walk out.

I left the Kimmel building and called my friend Ari Spitzer. I didn't realize I had fallen to the ground in tears on the sidewalk until he came to find me with a group of friends and physically lift off the pavement. They walked me to the Bronfman Center's Yom Haatzmaut party, where I was a complete wreck. I was shaking, and after a while I was finally able to stop sobbing enough to explain what happened at the Town Hall. I told everyone, myself included, to email President Hamilton, copying Marc Wais, to thank the Administration for standing against BDS. I wasn't even able to process that I had been, literally, mobbed and harassed to the point of tears.

I went home. I was still crying.

I locked my door and turned off my cell, I didn't answer calls or messages. My mom was so worried she started driving to Manhattan. I felt completely broken.

That night was among the hardest I've faced, and for the first time, I was afraid of every member of SJP. I finalized my decision to step down from Student Government.

University Correspondence:

1) April 20, 2018

a) Marc Wais, Vice President of Student Affairs

b) Email

c) Issues Discussed:

i) I thanked him for standing by me for the first half of the Town Hall mob, telling him he should not have been "locked into a confrontation that lacked the utmost basic respect."

ii) I asked if any actions should be taken by the Jewish Community at large to show appreciation to President Hamilton.

d) Results:

i) He "regretted" he had to leave to a commencement event, appreciated my "willingness to engage with others," and hoped that the "conversation," as "difficult as it was," would lead to a more productive conversation at the facilitated dialogue (see below).

ii) Though hostility at the Town Hall reached its peak after Marc left, it was still aggressive when he was there-- and even after Mr. Wais was gone, there were still adults in the room (I am unable to recount who, exactly). Someone should have intervened.

**[Facilitated Dialogue]**

3) April 24, 2018

a) Marc Wais, Vice President of Student Affairs

i) Stephen Polniaszek, Assistant Director for Club Advisement

- ii) Monroe France, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Diversity Initiatives
- iii) (Among others)
- b) In-Person
- c) Issues discussed:
  - i) NYU Administrators arrange an invite-only facilitated dialogue to address hostile campus environment with members of SJP, Student Government, and the Jewish Community at-Large. Members of NYU Administration were present.
  - ii) SJP and Student Government were disrespectful throughout
  - iii) The Facilitator ultimately ends meeting because the other side was unwilling to participate. She suggests hosting a follow-up dialogue.
- d) Response:
  - i) Nothing.
  - ii) I did not ask for a facilitated dialogue, we asked for disciplinary action against SJP. I participated in the facilitation because we care about finding constructive solutions.
  - iii) When the dialogue failed, there was no follow-up from any administrator, no debrief, and no action. It did not achieve anything.
  - iv) If anything, it was an opportunity for administrators to witness, first hand, harsh and harassing language used by members of SJP against members of the Jewish Community at Large, to the point where a professional facilitator says she has never seen a group so hostile and unwilling to cooperate-- again, making SJP's designation as President's Service awardees almost laughable.

### **Rave in the Park, Court Support, and its Aftermath**

At our third Annual Rave in the Park celebrating Yom Haazmaut, the return to our ancestral Jewish homeland, SJP organized a protest was organized opposite our event.

In the weeks leading up to the event, I met with administrators and NYU Public Safety officials to ensure security measures were in place to protect students.

One SJP member community set fire to a five-foot Israeli Flag, starting an open fire in a public New York Park, which is illegal. Another member grabbed a microphone from a student, yelling "Free Palestine" waving his arms in the air, wounding her in the process, and later stole a 15-foot flag, stomped on it, and hung it from a flagpole. Both students were arrested by the NYPD,

facing charges of reckless endangerment, theft, vandalism and destruction of property, and assault.

After the arrests at the Rave, SJP made a facebook event to “support their comrades” by camping out overnight at the courthouse. As president of a student organization, I would have been mortified if members of my organization *burned a Palestinian Flag* or *physically assaulted an SJP Member*. I would have immediately removed the students in question from my organization and would have publicly condemned their actions. Instead, SJP publicly supported their colleagues’ downright dangerous behavior.

We sent a letter to NYU, detailed below, outlining the many policies violated by NYU SJP and called for disciplinary action on an organizational level.

I tried to explain to the administration that discipline against the individual students who were arrested was not enough, and that SJP’s reaction to the arrests, if anything, should be the smoking gun to finally revoke their club charter.

Let it be noted that whole Greek organizations at NYU can be penalized for the actions of individuals, ranging from sanctions, to suspension, to permanent removal. If hazing is prohibited for endangering students and tainting the University’s reputation, even more so should this rule apply to SJP’s appalling behavior.

Details of NYU’s Suspended Greek organizations can be found through [this link](#):

Let it be further noted that social media posts are considered sufficiently egregious to take such actions against NYU’s Greek communities.

University Correspondence:

- 1) April 25, 2018
  - a) Karen Ortman, Director of Investigative Services
  - b) Email
  - c) Issues discussed:
    - i) I received an email from Mrs. Ortman stating she was advised to meet with me by Marlon Lynch to discuss recent events
    - ii) Requests meeting, scheduled for May 4th
  - d) Results:
    - i) Due to the events at the rave, meeting was pushed forward to April 30, 2018 (see below)

2) April 29, 2018

- a) Stephen Polniaszek, Assistant Director for Club Advisement
- b) Email
- c) Issues discussed:
  - i) Quote from email: “This semester has, unfortunately, been full of escalating tensions, but actual acts of violence were committed against members of our community by other NYU students. We would like to discuss with you what potential steps we can take through university channels to address what happened.
- d) Response:
  - i) Stephen told us this was an issue for student conduct and we should contact Craig Jolley

3) April 30, 2018

- a) Karen Ortman, Director of Investigative Service
- b) In-Person
- c) Issues discussed
  - i) General overview of the previous semester (GCOMMS, Student Gov, BDS Pledge, Apartheid Week and Flyer)
  - ii) Arrests at the Rave
  - iii) Actions that should be taken by the University
- d) Results:
  - i) Very concerned, very understanding.
  - ii) Opened an electronic file to document SJP’s inappropriate behavior

4) April 30, 2018

- a) Marc Wais, Vice President of Student Affairs
- b) Mr. Wais emailed me, requesting me to “call when I have the chance”
- c) Called shortly thereafter
- d) Issues discussed
  - i) Asked me and my organizations to keep low profiles on social media and not to draw attention to ourselves, I complied.
  - ii) Asked me to tell my mom to stop calling the office to tell them she’s concerned for my safety, which I replied was out of my hands.

5) May 8, 2018

- a) Craig Jolley, Director, Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards
- b) Email requesting meeting, meeting May 9, 2018

- c) Issues discussed:
    - i) The issues of the entire semester
    - ii) Specific instances at the Rave
    - iii) Disciplinary action should be taken against the aggressors
    - iv) SJP should be stripped of their club charter, the way a Greek organization would be, for violation of NYU Conduct Rules.
  - d) Result:
    - i) The University is aware and reviewing appropriate disciplinary action
- 6) May 10, 2018
- a) President Andrew Hamilton, President of the University
    - i) Marc Wais, Vice President of Student Affairs
    - ii) Thomas Ellett, Sr. Associate Vice President of Student Affairs
    - iii) Craig Jolley, Director, Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards
    - iv) Stephen Polniaszek, Assistant Director for Club Advisement
    - v) Karen Ortman, Director of Investigative Services
    - vi) Marlon Lynch, Vice President, Global Campus Safety
    - vii) Fountain Walker, Associate Vice President, Public Safety
  - b) Email sent to Admin from Realize Israel's Gmail
  - c) Issues discussed
    - i) Thank Admin for stance against BDS
    - ii) Brief overview of the arrests at the Rave
    - iii) Letter to the Administration
      - (1) Detailing SJP's violations of NYU Policy in regards to their actions at the Rave, including
        - (a) NYU Rules for Maintenance of the Public Order**
        - (b) NYU Policy on Student Conduct**
        - (c) NYU's Statement on Bullying, Threatening Behavior, and other forms of Disruptive Behavior**
        - (d) NYU's Code of Ethical Conduct**
        - (e) NYU's Center for Student Activities Conduct Process**
      - (2) Urging University to take disciplinary action against the two individuals who were arrested, *as well as* **Sanction SJP for violating NYU rules and policies by revoking their respective club charters, and requiring their leaders to undergo anti-harassment, anti-violence, and anti-bias training.**
  - d) Results:
    - i) Not a single administrator listed above replied to the email.

**ii) No actions were taken against SJP**

7) May 22, 2018

- a) President Andrew Hamilton, President of the University
  - i) Marc Wais, Vice President of Student Affairs
  - ii) Thomas Ellett, Sr. Associate Vice President of Student Affairs
  - iii) Craig Jolley, Director, Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards
  - iv) Stephen Polniaszek, Assistant Director for Club Advisement
  - v) Karen Ortman, Director of Investigative Services
  - vi) Marlon Lynch, Vice President, Global Campus Safety
  - vii) Fountain Walker, Associate Vice President, Public Safety
- b) Email sent to Admin from Realize Israel's Gmail
- c) Issues discussed:
  - i) Follow-up on the letter
- d) Results:
  - i) No reply

8) May 24, 2019

- a) Craig Jolley, Director, Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards
- b) Email
- c) Following up, personally on the Realize Israel letter

**Returning to Campus, BDS Resolution on Student Government**

1) September 30, 2018

- a) Marc Wais, Vice President of Student Affairs
- b) Email
- c) Issues Discussed:
  - i) Discuss the events of the previous semester
  - ii) Discuss possible policies that can be implemented to prevent similar hostility
- d) Results:
  - i) Meeting Scheduled, October 5, 2018

2) October 5, 2018

- a) Marc Wais, Vice President of Student Affairs
  - b) In-Person
  - c) Issues discussed:
    - i) See above
    - ii) Murmurs of a possible BDS resolution on Student Government, where Jewish Students were no longer represented.
  - d) Results:
    - i) Assured me policies would be put into place to ensure last year's events would not repeat.
    - ii) Asked me again to keep a low profile on social media, I, again, comply.
- 3) October 13, 2018
- a) Karen Ortman, Director of Investigative Services
    - i) Rebecca Stern, fellow NYU Senior, former President of TorchPAC
  - b) Email, requesting meeting. Meeting Scheduled for October 19, 2019
  - c) Issues discussed:
    - i) Debrief of the previous semester
    - ii) Possible policy implementations to make NYU safe for all students
  - d) Results:
    - i) Karen agrees, sent her the Timeline on Anti-Semitism on October 25, 2019 (same timeline I sent to OCR the day of our initial meeting).

### **Resolution Aftermath and Closing Bronfman Center**

Even before the resolution was voted on, NYU condemned it.

Three days before the resolution vote, an NYU student named Alejandro Vasquez tweeted he wants all Zionists to die, prompting the Bronfman Center to [close for security purposes](#) for about 48 hours.

The resolution eventually passed.

- 4) October 29, 2019
  - a) John Beckman
  - b) Statement made public online on behalf of the University
  - c) Issues covered:
    - i) NYU affirms position against BDS. Though the statement is titled, Statement on Student Groups, NYU Tel Aviv, it did not address student groups at all.

5) December 12, 2018

- a) NYU Bronfman Center for Jewish Life temporarily shuts down due to security threats as per Vasquez's tweets, less than two weeks after the Pittsburgh shooting in the Tree of Life Synagogue.
- b) Email sent to the general community:
- c) [https://mailchi.mp/nyu/bronfman-center-temporarily-closed?e=ea8fba2ec4&fbclid=IwAR0G73Z\\_Lf119ViLEa6RL9kB3wA5WGpioYDqL9YJnFIfuPNdjkbFvfutTYE](https://mailchi.mp/nyu/bronfman-center-temporarily-closed?e=ea8fba2ec4&fbclid=IwAR0G73Z_Lf119ViLEa6RL9kB3wA5WGpioYDqL9YJnFIfuPNdjkbFvfutTYE)

### **SJP Receives President's Service Award**

On April 4, 2019, NYU SJP received the President's Service Award, which is chosen by a committee of Administrators. As detailed in my introduction, this was extremely problematic because it proved the University did not take our concerns seriously and would rather tell our community not to draw attention to our concerns than take action against the source of harassment.

1) April 5 - April 9, 2018

- a) Marc Wais, Vice President of Student Affairs
- b) Calls
- c) Issues discussed
  - i) After calling Marc Wais's office multiple times, a meeting was finally scheduled for May 4, 2019-- nearly three weeks after.

2) April 5 - April 7, 2019

- a) Gabriella Sanes, Listed as contact on NYU's website regarding President's Service Award
- b) Calls
- c) Issues discussed
  - i) After multiple times trying to call the number and being sent to voicemail, Ms. Sanes called back and left me a voicemail referring me to John Beckman, NYU's Spokesperson, though I clarified in my many calls that I was a concerned student, not press.

3) April 7 - April 10, 2019

- a) John Beckman, Senior Vice President for Public Affairs and Strategic Communications
- b) Calls
- c) Issues discussed:
  - i) After being referred to Mr. Beckman by Ms. Sanes, I called multiple times to schedule a meeting. Secretaries picked up and asked me to call later. In one instance, Mr. Beckman picked up the phone himself, and when I mentioned I was calling about the Service Award *and not Press*, he promptly told me to call back and leave a message with his secretary.
  - ii) I gave up on a wild goose chase trying to speak to administrators about the award, and contacted my law team to file my complaint with OCR.



May 2, 2018

Andrew Hamilton  
President  
New York University  
Office of the President  
70 Washington Square South  
New York, New York 10012

**RE: Violence against NYU students Necessitating Investigation, Expulsion and Probation**

Dear President Hamilton,

We represent Realize Israel, an NYU student group with a mission to strengthen and promote support of Israel throughout the greater NYU community. On Friday, April 27, 2018, Realize Israel hosted our third annual concert in Washington Square Park to celebrate Israel Independence Day. During the singing of Israel’s national anthem, an NYU student later identified as **Mohammed Ali Hojaij** violently wrestled a microphone out of the hands of NYU student Talia Cohen, punctured her skin and caused arm wounds requiring medical attention. This was caught on [video](#). Mr. Hojaij later returned to the event, stole a 10’ x 15’ Israeli flag, vandalized it, and shredded it. Similarly, another NYU student, **Itay Barylka**, took an Israeli flag from the same event and lit it on fire in the park. Both acts appear to have been conducted out of hatred against Jews or Israelis, since the target of the attacks were students who were expressing pride in their Jewish and Israeli identities.

Hojaij was [arrested](#) for disorderly conduct, robbery in the second degree, assault in the third degree, and criminal mischief in the third degree. He is one of the leaders of the NYU student group Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). On his public twitter feed<sup>1</sup>, he expresses admiration for Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the US-designated terrorist organization Hezbollah; Nasrallah has publicly called for the killing of all Jews.



1

Barylka is a member of NYU student clubs Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP). He has been [charged](#) with second degree reckless endangerment and resisting arrest.

While we thank some members of your administration for their helpfulness and concern following these hate-based criminal acts against NYU students, we ask you to treat these incidents with the seriousness they deserve. Hojaij and Barylka's acts of violence are stains on our community and unbecoming of NYU students. We urge you to:

- 1) **Expel Mohammed Ali Hojaij for the hate crime of assaulting an NYU Jewish student while she was singing the Israeli national anthem, disorderly conduct, robbery, and criminal mischief, all in violation of numerous NYU rules and policies;**
- 2) **Discipline Itay Barylka for recklessly endangering his fellow students while at a student club sponsored event due to hate, in violation of numerous NYU policies;**
- 3) **Inquire into whether any financial assistance Hojaij or Barylka receive as NYU students is now jeopardized due to their criminal and hateful behavior;**
- 4) **Discipline SJP and JVP for violating NYU rules and policies by placing them on probation and requiring them to undergo anti-harassment, anti-violence, and anti-bias training, specifically focusing on antisemitism and discrimination based on national origin. At its national conference, SJP trains students in what the group euphemistically calls "direct action" – training in acts of violence similar to these incidents. We fear that far from being inconsistent with the behavior these groups promote, acts of violence are in fact consistent with the radical training student members receive.**

#### ***Violations of [NYU Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order](#)***

Under NYU Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order Section I.A.2, all NYU students must "comply with city, state, and federal laws and ordinances," even when occurring off University premises, if such conduct "seriously affects the interests of the University or the position of the member within the University community or occurs in close proximity to University premises and is connected to violative conduct on University premises."

In this instance, Hojaij's disorderly conduct at an NYU student group event, his robbery of NYU student property at the event, his violent assault resulting in injury of an NYU student, and his criminal mischief "seriously affect the interests of the University." Simply put, NYU students were not safe because of his uncontrollable hatred against Jews displaying pride in their identity. Additionally, students involved have sought temporary restraining orders against Hojaij because of his violence. They are in fear for their safety on campus as a result of his attack at a school event. It is time for the NYU administration to send a clear message to anti-Israel and anti-Semitic student radicals that violence will not be tolerated. Hojaij should be expelled.

Similarly, Barylka's reckless behavior should be investigated for seriously affecting the interests of the university for criminal endangerment due to hate based on religion and/or national origin.

### **Violations of [NYU Policy on Student Conduct](#)**

Under NYU's Policy on Student Conduct, "students are expected to conduct themselves as mature and law-abiding members of both the University community and the general community...Behavior which jeopardizes the health or safety of the University community, or disrupts the educational activities and supporting services of the University, is subject to review and possible penalty in accordance with the procedures and practices of the University and its colleges, schools, or divisions."

Hojaij and Barylka's criminal behavior violates NYU policy because they were arrested for not acting as "law-abiding members" of the NYU and general community. They violently inserted themselves into an NYU event and broke the law in the process, for which they were arrested. An NYU student's health and safety was jeopardized and she required medical attention as a result. As a result, we urge you to expel Hojaij and penalize Barylka for violating NYU policy.

### **Violations of [NYU's Statement and Responsive Guidelines on Bullying, Threatening, and Other Forms of Disruptive Behavior \("Statement"\)](#)**

According to NYU's Statement on threatening behavior, it is essential that "all members of the University Community are safe and free to engage in a civil process of teaching and learning through their experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Accordingly, no student should engage in any form of behavior that interferes with the academic or educational process, compromises the personal safety or well-being of another, or disrupts the administration of University programs or services." Furthermore, according to this Statement, examples of disruptive behavior include "acts of aggression (e.g., causing or threatening injury to one's person or property, physical or verbal intimidation, damaging personal/University property)."

Hojaij and Barylka both engaged in threatening behavior that threatened the safety and well-being of other students. Mohammed aggressively attacked a fellow NYU student while robbing her in an act of hate due to her religion. Barylka vandalized property and set it on fire due to his hate. Both students should be penalized for threatening the safety of the NYU community.

### **Violations of [NYU's Code of Ethical Conduct](#)**

NYU's Code of Ethical Conduct Section VI states that students are prohibited from "discriminating on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender and/or gender identity or expression, marital or parental status, national origin, citizenship status, veteran or military status, age, disability, and any other legally protected status; physically assaulting, emotionally abusing, or harassing anyone; and depriving anyone of rights in his or her physical or intellectual property, under University policy, or under federal, state, and local laws."

Several provisions of NYU's Code of Ethical Conduct have been violated here. Hojaij and Barylka have physically assaulted and harassed other NYU students, and have deprived other NYU students of their physical property under state and local laws. Furthermore, they have done so based on their hatred toward those NYU victims due to the victims' Jewish religion or ethnicity and/or Israeli national origin.

**Violations of [NYU Center for Student Activities, Leadership and Service Student Conduct Process](#)**

According to NYU policy, student group members act together to violate university standards of conduct when “one or more members of an organization or its officers has knowledge of the incident, behavior, etc. and fails to take corrective or prohibitive action before such incident, behavior, etc. occurs or fails to stop such incident, behavior, etc. while it is occurring” and the “violative acts occurred within the context of a student organization related activity.” Here, the incidents occurred during an NYU student group sponsored activity. Members of SJP and JVP acted on behalf of their organizations when they engaged in the criminal activity of assault, robbery, reckless endangerment and other charges. Other members of those organizations were in attendance during the criminal activity and failed to stop this activity from occurring. As a result, SJP and JVP should be investigated and penalized.

***Conclusion***

In light of the numerous violations explained above, we urge you to:

- 1) Expel Mohammed Ali Hojaij for the hate crime of assaulting an NYU Jewish student while she was singing the Israeli national anthem, disorderly conduct, robbery, and criminal mischief all in violation of numerous NYU rules and policies;
- 2) Discipline Itay Barylka for recklessly endangering his fellow students while at a student club sponsored event due to hate, in violation of numerous NYU policies;
- 3) Inquire into whether any financial assistance Hojaij or Barylka receive as NYU students is now jeopardized due to their criminal and hateful behavior;
- 4) Discipline SJP and JVP for violating NYU rules and policies by placing them on probation and requiring them to undergo anti-harassment, anti-violence, and anti-bias training, specifically focusing on antisemitism and discrimination based on national origin.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Members of Realize Israel