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THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

October 26, 2016

Dr. Ángel Cabrera
Office of the President
5100 Alan and Sally Merten Hall, Ffx, MSN: 3A1
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Dr. Cabrera,

On behalf of concerned citizens and the Jewish community, we the signatories and elected representatives of the Commonwealth of Virginia request that George Mason University's leadership immediately cancel the November 2016 event hosted by the anti-Semitic hate group, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).

According to published reports and letters sent from state legislators, including our distinguished colleagues in New York, about SJP's actions and statements, the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel group's agenda is to promote the total destruction and elimination of the State of Israel and fuels intimidation and fear among Jewish and pro-Israel students and faculty members. The SJP group was cited by the New York legislators as a "toxic" organization.

Published reports also indicate that SJP has incited hatred to the point of Jewish and pro-Israel students being "pushed, spat upon and having objects thrown at them." According to reports from US college campuses, SJP continues to stoke the flames of hatred and incites violence and harassment against Jewish students and pro-Israel students.

Criminal behavior on any university campus is unacceptable; it is an assault on individual liberty, the rule of law, and, the safety and well-being of citizens.

In March 2016, the Virginia House of Delegates overwhelmingly (85-5) passed HJ 177, condemning the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel with the Senate passing the same resolution in a voice vote.

SJP's attempt to promote BDS on the campus of George Mason University goes against Virginia's resolution that states, "the members of the General Assembly reaffirm their support for the State of Israel and oppose all attempts to economically and politically isolate Israel within the international arena, including promotion of economic, cultural, and academic boycotts, and all efforts to assault the legitimacy of the State of Israel as the sovereign homeland of the Jewish people."

Our fellow colleagues in the legislative body overwhelmingly condemned the BDS movement and its activities in Virginia. The resolution clearly called the BDS movement's agenda "inherently antithetical and deeply damaging to the causes of peace, justice, equality, democracy, and human rights for all peoples in the Middle East."

The rule of law and freedom of speech must be upheld. Hate-filled speeches and the incitement of violence toward the Jewish community and students and faculty showing support for Israel is unacceptable. Anti-Semitism is a throwback to the dark days of Nazi Germany and a reminder of the Holocaust which eliminated over 6 million Jews.

George Mason University's "Statement on Freedom of Expression" relays the following: "Being open to the ideas and opinions of other members of the community leads to discussion that is characterized by courtesy, mutual respect, and charity."

Additionally, George Mason University's code of conduct states: "The right to free speech and expression does not include unlawful activity or activity that endangers or threatens to endanger the safety or well-being of any member of the community."

A group that incites hate, fuels violent behavior and places citizens' lives at great risk should not be allowed to use any facility in this Commonwealth of Virginia, let alone a taxpayer-funded educational institution.

We ask George Mason University to assure us they will not allow organizations whose record includes activity that endangers or threatens to endanger the safety of others to have access to facilities.

Sincerely,



Delegate Dave LaRock, 33rd District



Senator Charles W. Carrico, Sr, 40th District



Delegate C. Matthew Fariss, 59th District



Delegate H. F. "Buddy" Fowler, Jr. 55th District



Delegate Mark L. Cole, 88th District



Delegate L. Mark Dudenhefer, 2nd District



Delegate Christopher E. Collins, 29th District

Deborah Weiss, Esq.
President, Vigilance, Inc.



Delegate Jason S. Miyares, 82nd District

Becky Norton Dunlop,
Former Director, White House Office of Cabinet Affairs
Former Senior Official, U.S. Department of Justice

Allen Roth
President, Secure America Now

Rev. Chris Edmonds,
Founder, Roddie Edmonds Foundation

Joel Anand Samy,
Co-Founder, International Leaders Summit

Gil St.John,
ActNoVA Chapter Leader

Natasha Srdoc,
Co-Founder, International Leaders Summit

Sarah N. Stern
Founder and President
Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)