

**From:** OCR  
**To:** OCR Philadelphia  
**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)  
**Subject:** FW: Title VI Complaint Against Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218 (National Origin – Jewish)  
**Date:** Friday, February 9, 2024 11:16:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning OCR Philadelphia,  
We are forwarding the complaint below to you for review and appropriate handling.

Thank you,  
OPEN Center Customer Service Team  
Office for Civil Rights

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**From:** Zachary Marschall (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2024 11:10 AM  
**To:** OCR <OCR@ed.gov>  
**Subject:** Title VI Complaint Against Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218 (National Origin – Jewish)

You don't often get email from (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

*Submitted via email*  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights  
400 Maryland Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20202  
Email: [OCR@ed.gov](mailto:OCR@ed.gov)

February 9, 2023

**Re: Title VI Complaint Against Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218 (National Origin – Jewish)**

Dear Assistant Secretary Catherine Lhamon,

I am writing as a journalist deeply concerned that Jewish students are unwelcome and unsafe at this university.

The October 7 surprise attack on Israel by Hamas terrorists killed more than 1,200 innocent people including at least 30 Americans.<sup>[1]</sup> This was the deadliest

Palestinian militant attack on Israel in history and the single deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. <sup>[2]</sup>

I am the editor-in-chief of the daily news website Campus Reform, which ran a Nov. 8 report on a terrorism-connected organization that praised numerous JHU professors for their stance on Israel.

[Campus Reform | Hamas-connected org praises these Johns Hopkins profs](#)

This praise is indicative of an environment that is hostile and unsafe for Jewish students.

Below are other news reports on antisemitism at JHU:

Just 10 days later, the graduate student workers union at Hopkins called TRU (short for Teachers and Researchers United) drafted an open letter to Johns Hopkins University President Ron Daniels and the Hopkins administration demanding the school's leadership call for a ceasefire in Gaza.

There was no condemnation of the brutality and depravity of the Hamas attacks, and the terms “uncompromising solidarity” and “righteous struggle” have traditionally been used to endorse any and all methods used by terrorists who have murdered Jews in Israel. The terms apartheid, colonialism, genocide, and ethnic cleansing were used to refer to Israel's treatment of Palestinians. <sup>[3]</sup>

These violent words completely disregard the Hamas atrocities, including raping, murdering, and kidnapping civilians. The letter did not once mention the Israeli and American hostages, living and dead, still held in Gaza. <sup>[4][5]</sup>

Jews at JHU are in a campus environment where people all around them take up Hamas propaganda and celebrate the rape and murder of innocent Jewish civilians as justified resistance. These violent stances fuel acts of antisemitism across the country.

Almost 75% of Jewish college students have experienced or witnessed antisemitism since this school year began just months ago. <sup>[6]</sup>

Members of Congress are currently discussing additional protections from the Department of Education for Jewish college students amid the current wave of

antisemitic incidents.<sup>[7]</sup> But no such discussions appear to be occurring at Johns Hopkins despite very clear threats.

Therefore, I ask the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights to conduct an immediate investigation against Johns Hopkins.

For the record, I do give OCR my consent to disclose my name nor other personal information contained in this Title VI complaint to others for OCR's investigation of, and enforcement activities related to, the complaint. I understand that OCR may have to close my complaint. I am not interested in participating in early mediation. I do not have an attorney representing me in this matter. I have not complained about these allegations to the University.

Sincerely,

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

Zachary Marschall

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

[1] <https://www.foxnews.com/live-news/october-24-israel-hamas-war>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/12/israel-hamas-war-biden-jews-holocaust-palestine-iran-warning>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/education/higher-education/johns-hopkins-israel-gaza-hamas-college-campuses-4PL5OFPDHND4RORN25ZMY2CHRI/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/20/world/middleeast/israel-hamas-hostages-update.html>

<sup>5</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vWGcQWFuFB\\_t3wVCWf5TI4ORU3e36fdhFAlO9d579E/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vWGcQWFuFB_t3wVCWf5TI4ORU3e36fdhFAlO9d579E/edit)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/nearly-three-quarters-jewish-students-experienced-or-witnessed-antisemitism>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/house/israel-war-day-resistance-college-protection-jewish-students>

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**Zachary Marschall**

Editor in Chief

**Campus Reform**

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

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[1] <https://www.foxnews.com/live-news/october-24-israel-hamas-war>

[2] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/12/israel-hamas-war-biden-jews-holocaust-palestine-iran-warning>

[3] <https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/education/higher-education/johns-hopkins-israel-gaza-hamas-college-campuses-4PL5OFPDHND4RORN25ZMY2CHRI/>

[4] <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/20/world/middleeast/israel-hamas-hostages-update.html>

[5] [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vWGcQWFuFB\\_t3wVCWf5TI4ORU3e36fdhFAloO9d579E/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vWGcQWFuFB_t3wVCWf5TI4ORU3e36fdhFAloO9d579E/edit)

[6] <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/nearly-three-quarters-jewish-students-experienced-or-witnessed-antisemitism>

[7] <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/house/israel-war-day-resistance-college-protection-jewish-students>



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THE WANAMAKER BUILDING, SUITE 515  
100 PENN SQUARE EAST  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107-3323

REGION III  
DELAWARE  
KENTUCKY  
MARYLAND  
PENNSYLVANIA  
WEST VIRGINIA

February 12, 2024

**IN RESPONSE, PLEASE REFER TO: 03-24-2140**

**Sent via email only to:** [president@jhu.edu](mailto:president@jhu.edu)

Ronald J. Daniels  
President, Johns Hopkins University

Dear President Daniels:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is opening for investigation the above-referenced complaint filed against Johns Hopkins University (the University). The Complainant alleges that the University discriminated against students on the basis of national origin (shared Jewish ancestry) by failing to respond to incidents of harassment during the 2023-2024 school year.

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. Section 2000d *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, including shared ancestry, in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the Department. Because the University receives federal financial assistance from the Department, OCR has jurisdiction over it pursuant to Title VI.

OCR is opening the following issue for investigation:

Whether the University failed to respond to alleged harassment of students based on national origin (shared Jewish ancestry) in a manner consistent with the requirements of Title VI.

Please note that opening the complaint for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination on the merits of the complaint. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the Complainant, the University, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure its investigation is legally sufficient and fully responds to the allegation in accordance with the provisions of the Case Processing Manual (<http://www.ed.gov/ocr/docs/ocrspm.pdf>) (CPM).

Our goal is the prompt, appropriate resolution of the complaint. While we are proceeding with an investigation, there are other approaches that can achieve this goal. In particular, please note the section on resolution of a complaint prior to the conclusion of an investigation. If the University expresses an interest in resolving the complaint and OCR determines that resolution of the complaint prior to the completion of the investigation is appropriate, OCR may attempt to negotiate an agreement with the University pursuant to CPM Section 302.

Attached is a request for data necessary to investigate this complaint. The Department's regulation implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, at 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(c) gives OCR the authority to request this information. Please note that OCR has the right of access to records that are necessary for OCR's investigation, even if those records contain names or other personally identifiable information. *See* 20 U.S.C. §§ 1232g(b)(1) and 1232g(b)(3) regarding the applicable provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; *see also* 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(c) and 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(3)(iii).

OCR requests that the University submit this information within 21 calendar days of the date of this letter (i.e., by **March 4, 2024**). We prefer that you submit information electronically, if feasible. If any item in our request is unclear, or if you experience any difficulty complying with this request, please contact us at the telephone number(s) provided below prior to the expiration of the 21-day period. Please be aware that OCR may need to make additional requests for information in the future. If OCR needs to conduct an on-site investigation, we will notify you in advance.

Please be advised that the University must not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against an individual because that individual asserts a right or privilege under a law enforced by OCR or files a complaint, testifies, or participates in an OCR proceeding. If this happens, the individual may file a retaliation complaint with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, we will seek to protect personally identifiable information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if released, to the extent provided by law.

We look forward to your cooperation during the resolution of this complaint. If you have any questions, please contact Spencer Plante at [spencer.plante@ed.gov](mailto:spencer.plante@ed.gov); 202-987-1068.

Sincerely,

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

Christina Haviland  
Supervisory Attorney  
Philadelphia Office  
Office for Civil Rights

Attachment

**Johns Hopkins University**  
**OCR Complaint No. 03-24-2140**  
**Data Request**

Please submit the following information to March 4, 2024, within 21 calendar days of the date of this letter. We prefer that you submit information electronically, if feasible. If you are sending a large electronic file, please contact OCR for directions on how to upload the file to OCR's secure file-sharing platform. Additionally, if any of the information is available online, you may provide the URL in lieu of hard copy documents. Please note that OCR is not requesting, and the University should not provide, any social security numbers in response to this data request. If any item in our request is unclear, or if you experience any difficulty complying with this request, please contact us prior to the expiration of the 21-day period. Please be aware that OCR may need to make additional requests for information in the future. If OCR needs to conduct an on-site investigation, we will notify you in advance.

**Preservation of requested and relevant data and documents:** OCR may request supplemental data and documents that are relevant to the allegation(s) under investigation. To ensure that OCR can assess the recipient's compliance with the statutory and regulatory obligations at issue in this investigation, please ensure that recipient employees preserve the data and documents requested below for any timeframe specified in these requests and going forward until OCR closes this case. Please also ensure that recipient employees preserve other data and documents that are relevant to the allegation(s) under investigation until OCR closes this case.

The regulation implementing Title VI, at 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.6(b) and (c), requires that a recipient of federal financial assistance make available to OCR information that may be pertinent to reach a compliance determination.

Please provide the following data by March 4, 2024:

1. The name, title, and contact information of the University's:
  - a. Contact person for this complaint;
  - b. Person authorized to resolve this complaint;
  - c. Person responsible for responding to Title VI complaints; and
  - d. Person responsible for handling complaints of harassment/discrimination on the basis of national origin/shared Jewish ancestry, at each level of the process.
2. A copy of the University's policies and procedures, and/or a description of the University's practices, governing the investigation of complaints of harassment and/or discrimination on the basis of national origin, including shared ancestry. Include a detailed description of the complaint process, including each of the process, the length of the process, and the types of records maintained.
3. Copies of all formal and informal reports/complaints, including records of oral reports/complaints, concerning alleged harassment and/or discrimination based on national origin, including shared ancestry, during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years.

4. For each report/complaint in Item 3, provide the following:
  - a. the name(s) and title(s) of the individual(s) to whom the complaint/report was made, and the date of the complaint/report;
  - b. a detailed description of the complaint processing procedures employed to resolve the complaint/report;
  - c. the length of the process;
  - d. the name(s) and title(s) of the individual(s) involved in the handling of the complaint/report;
  - e. all actions the University took in response to the complaint/report;
  - f. the University's final determination regarding the complaint/report;
  - g. any corrective action taken including discipline and/or supportive measures; and
  - h. any notice of the findings provided to the complainant.
5. Copies of all documentation related to any complaint(s) identified in response to Item 3 and 4, including but not limited to correspondence, internal and external memoranda, investigative reports, witness statements, logs, forms, meeting minutes, personnel file documents, disciplinary documents, supportive measures provided and notes generated for each complaint.
6. State whether the University conducts trainings and/or holds informational sessions with the student community and/or University staff regarding students' rights under Title VI, how to report possible violations of Title VI, and/or the University's obligation to respond to Title VI complaints. If so, provide the dates of such events, a description of the attendees, and any materials presented and/or distributed.
7. The names and titles of all persons who assisted in the preparation of these data responses.
8. A narrative response to the issue opened for investigation.
9. Any other information that the University believes will be helpful to OCR or relevant in this investigation.

If you are sending a large electronic file, please contact OCR for directions on how to upload the file to OCR's secure file-sharing platform.