

From: OCR New York
Sent: Wed, 10 Jan 2024 15:34:30 +0000
To: Bronka, Susan A
Cc: OCR New York; Carroll, John
Subject: FW: Title VI Complaint Against Princeton University, 1 Nassau St, Princeton, New Jersey 08542

From: OCR <OCR@ed.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 9:49 AM
To: OCR New York <OCR.NewYork@ed.gov>
Cc: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: Title VI Complaint Against Princeton University, 1 Nassau St, Princeton, New Jersey 08542

January 10, 2024

Dear OCR New York Office,

The email below is being forwarded to your office for review and appropriate handling.

Thank you,

OPEN Center Customer Service Team
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education

From: Zachary Marschall (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 9:33 AM
To: OCR <OCR@ed.gov>
Subject: Title VI Complaint Against Princeton University, 1 Nassau St, Princeton, New Jersey 08542

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Submitted via email

January 10, 2024

U.S. Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202
Email: OCR@ed.gov

Re: Title VI Complaint Against Princeton University, 1 Nassau St, Princeton, New Jersey 08542

Dear Assistant Secretary Catherine Lhamon,

Since the terrorist attacks on Israel of October 7, 2023, Jewish students have felt increasingly unwelcome and unsafe at Princeton.

The October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas terrorists killed over 1,200 innocent people including at least 30 Americans. ^[1] This was the deadliest Palestinian militant attack on Israel in history and the single deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. ^[2]

I am writing as a Jewish journalist and editor-in-chief of Campus Reform. We recently reported that the president of Princeton University has defend students' calls for Jewish genocide as protected free speech.

[Campus Reform | Princeton president suggests Congress was mean to Gay, Magill, Kornbluth; echoes their defense of calls for genocide](#)

In the wake of the Hamas attack on Israel, Princeton's chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) issued a statement holding the "Israeli apartheid state ultimately responsible" for terrorism. The attack, the organization's members say, was "an unprecedented uprising," in service of the ultimate goal: the end of Israel's existence. "We call for the full dismantling of the Zionist apartheid state," the letter reads. ^[3] Israel is the world's only Jewish state, conceived in the wake of the Holocaust, an attempted extermination of Jews in which six million of them were killed. The end of Israel's existence would necessitate another attempted genocide of the Jews.

On October 12-13, the campus chapter of SJP held a teach-in as well as a community vigil event to support "occupied Palestine, Gaza and the West Bank." Not only was the state of Israel described as "occupied Palestine," but they also said, "from the river to the sea..." Attendees were also required to wear masks to conceal their identities. ^[4] This was just days after the brutal Hamas attack on innocent Israeli civilians.

One Princeton student who told a newspaper that she is the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, shared her reaction in an interview after attending the vigil. "To look behind me and see fellow classmates nod, clap and yell 'from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,' where essentially, the implication of that is the destruction of the Jewish State of Israel, was probably one of the most horrifying moments of my life." ^[5]

The phrase "from the river to the sea" calls for the eradication of Israel in its entirety. It supports the expulsion, and even genocide, of Israel's Jewish inhabitants. ^[6]

On October 25, 400 protesters, primarily students, participated in a walkout to show solidarity with Palestine. This rally was also promoted by Princeton SJP. Some protesters chanted calling for "intifada" and "Brick by brick, wall by wall, apartheid has got to fall." A student who identified herself as Gemma led the "intifada" chant and read a statement on behalf of "a concerned and agitated group of graduate students," which denounced U.S. support for Israel and condemned "ethnic cleansing, collective punishment, and ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank." ^[7]

As a Princeton alumnus eloquently wrote; “Intifada means civil uprising. Intifada in the context of Israel means mass slaughter of Jews in the name of resistance — men, women, and children. Calls for Intifada after a terrorist attack like this are, intentionally or not, thinly veiled pleas for more indiscriminate murder. Chants of ‘from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free’ still echo across many campuses. That convenient mistranslation of the Arabic version on signs today, which more accurately means ‘from the river to the sea, Palestine is Arab,’ is a sanitized call to violence. The ‘liberation’ of Palestine, in the words of Hamas, is contingent on the mass slaughter of Jews, and would be bloodier than anything any student currently at Princeton has witnessed in their lifetime: 7.1 million Jews dead.” [8]

The violent words of these protesters completely disregard the atrocities Hamas has already committed and promises to commit in the future against the people of Israel, including raping, murdering, and kidnapping civilians. There are still approximately 200 people held captive by Hamas, along with 50 others being held by other terror factions.[9]

I am writing to you as a journalist who has spoken to numerous Jewish students across this country to afraid to speak up. I’m choosing to speak up for them because the University takes no action to protect them.

Members of Congress are currently discussing additional protections from the Department of Education for Jewish college students amid the current wave of antisemitic incidents.[10] But no such discussions appear to be occurring at Princeton University despite very clear threats. I am not alone in my concern for Jewish students.

Therefore, I ask the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights to conduct an immediate investigation against Princeton University. We are seeking sanctions against the University to the fullest extent OCR is able to impose them as well as forcing the University to ensure its funds are not sent to organizations spreading antisemitism.

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-amas-war>

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

³ <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/princeton-university-palestinian-group-scheduled-pro-amas-teach-in-for-same-time-as-vigil-for-slain-israelis/>

⁴ https://twitter.com/greg_price11/status/1712597764415143944?s=20

⁵ <https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2023/10/princeton-news-broadfocus-israel-palestine-student-group-response-vigil-conversation-comparison>

⁶ <https://aish.com/why-the-from-the-river-to-sea-chant-is-antisemitic/>

⁷ <https://paw.princeton.edu/article/pro-palestine-students-stage-walkout-israel-supporters-stand-0>

⁸ <https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2023/10/princeton-opinion-opguest-jewish-students-isreal-palestine-amas>

⁹ <https://nypost.com/2023/10/17/israel-amas-war-live-updates-and-latest-news/>

[1]₀ <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/house/israel-war-day-resistance-college-protection-jewish-students>

Zachary Marschall

Editor in Chief

Campus Reform

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

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

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

[3] <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/princeton-university-palestinian-group-scheduled-pro-amas-teach-in-for-same-time-as-vigil-for-slain-israelis/>

[4] https://twitter.com/greg_price11/status/1712597764415143944?s=20

[5] <https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2023/10/princeton-news-broadfocus-israel-palestine-student-group-response-vigil-conversation-comparison>

[6] <https://aish.com/why-the-from-the-river-to-sea-chant-is-antisemitic/>

[7] <https://paw.princeton.edu/article/pro-palestine-students-stage-walkout-israel-supporters-stand-0>

[8] <https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2023/10/princeton-opinion-opguest-jewish-students-isreal-palestine-amas>

[9] <https://nypost.com/2023/10/17/israel-hamas-war-live-updates-and-latest-news/>

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

26 FEDERAL PLAZA, SUITE 31 – 100
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

REGION 2

NEW JERSEY
NEW YORK
PUERTO RICO
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

April 3, 2024

Sent via email only to eisgrube@princeton.edu

Christopher L. Eisgruber
President
Princeton University
Office of the President
1 Nassau Hall
Princeton, New Jersey 08544

Re: Case Number 02-24-2153 – Princeton University

Dear President Eisgruber:

On January 10, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education (the Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) received a complaint filed against Princeton University (the University). The complaint alleged that the University discriminated against students on the basis of their national origin (shared Jewish ancestry) by failing to respond to incidents of harassment by students at the University in October 2023.

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7, and its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the bases of race, color, and national origin (including shared ancestry) in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance from the Department. As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department, the University is subject to Title VI and its implementing regulations.

OCR will investigate the following issue: whether the University responded in a manner consistent with the requirements of Title VI to alleged harassment of students based on national origin (including shared Jewish ancestry).

Please understand that opening this issue for investigation under Title VI does not mean that OCR has made a decision about the merits. During the investigation, OCR is neutral; OCR will collect and analyze the relevant evidence from the complainant, the recipient, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient as required by OCR's Case Processing Manual (CPM) (July 18, 2022). You may find additional information in OCR's Complaint Processing Procedures. Individuals who file complaints with OCR may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

OCR may close this case prior to making formal findings of compliance or non-compliance, provided that the circumstances or information gathered establishes an administrative or other basis for resolution in accordance with the CPM. For example, under Section 201(b) of OCR's

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

