

From: OCR New York
Sent: Mon, 5 Feb 2024 19:26:53 +0000
To: Bronka, Susan A
Cc: Carroll, John; OCR New York
Subject: FW: [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
Attachments: [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); - Cornell - Antisemitism - 1.31.24.pdf

From: OCR <OCR@ed.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:07 PM
To: OCR New York <OCR.NewYork@ed.gov>
Cc: [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) Antisemitism Cornell University

February 5, 2024

Dear OCR New York Office,

The attachment above and email below are 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: [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 11:05 AM
To: OCR <OCR@ed.gov>; [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) Antisemitism Cornell University

You don't often get email from [redacted] (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.

Dear Sirs or Madames:

I would like to report an incident that has resulted directly from the toxic, antisemitic climate that emerged at Cornell.

[redacted] (b)(6); arrived at Cornell as a [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) in [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C). He was excited to begin his pursuit of a degree in [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(A);.

The graduate experience is quite different from the undergraduate experience.

Grad students in the program spend most of their time in a cubicle setting doing their research and interacting with each other. It's like an office work environment (instead of a typical undergrad lecture hall setting). It's become a terrible situation there. He's isolated as the (b)(6); in the department, and surrounded by antisemitic rhetoric on a daily basis. Signs, posters, rallies and conversations supporting Hamas, calling for the end of Israel, BDS, accusations of genocide, and the like. He is isolated in his department of ~50 students. And he is surrounded by this. Daily. The leadership is indifferent or incompetent to fix this. They are incapable of building a positive culture.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) though, it escalated to (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) with (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) It literally (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) He reported this to his department chair and the Cornell police who acknowledged that the targeted nature of this raised the level of concern and potential violation. Just one day later, the Cornell Police got back to (b)(6); saying there is insufficient evidence to do anything, and they are not making any investigation.

He went to (b)(6); this (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and had a chance to relay his experience to the provost. During the discussion, Provost Michael Kotlikoff made it clear that even though Cornell is a private institution and could restrict speech, the university's commitment was to ensure free speech even if it created an environment that was toxic and not conducive to the pursuit of educational goals for the students. He did note that (b)(6); in the shared office space may be in violation of the University policies on appropriateness of space. He furthermore suggested that to remedy the situation the Jewish students should protest and be further distracted from their pursuit of an education. It was clear that neither (b)(6); nor the other students at the (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) did not have an ally in the provost.

I have attached a few slides on what (b)(6); has been experiencing at Cornell (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) to help convey his experience.

We look forward to hearing from you and your insight in how to navigate this challenging situation

Warm regards,

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

I have also included my husband, (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) as a recipient.



Cornell University Graduate Student Office

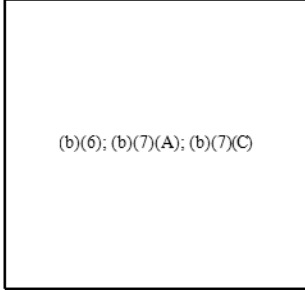
Early November 2023

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



Cornell University Graduate Student Office

Surrounding cubicle #1



Rationalization and Justification for Oct 7 Butchery

- Groups like Hamas are “militants”, not terrorists
- “Any group subjected to this kind of oppression will eventually use force to defend themselves”

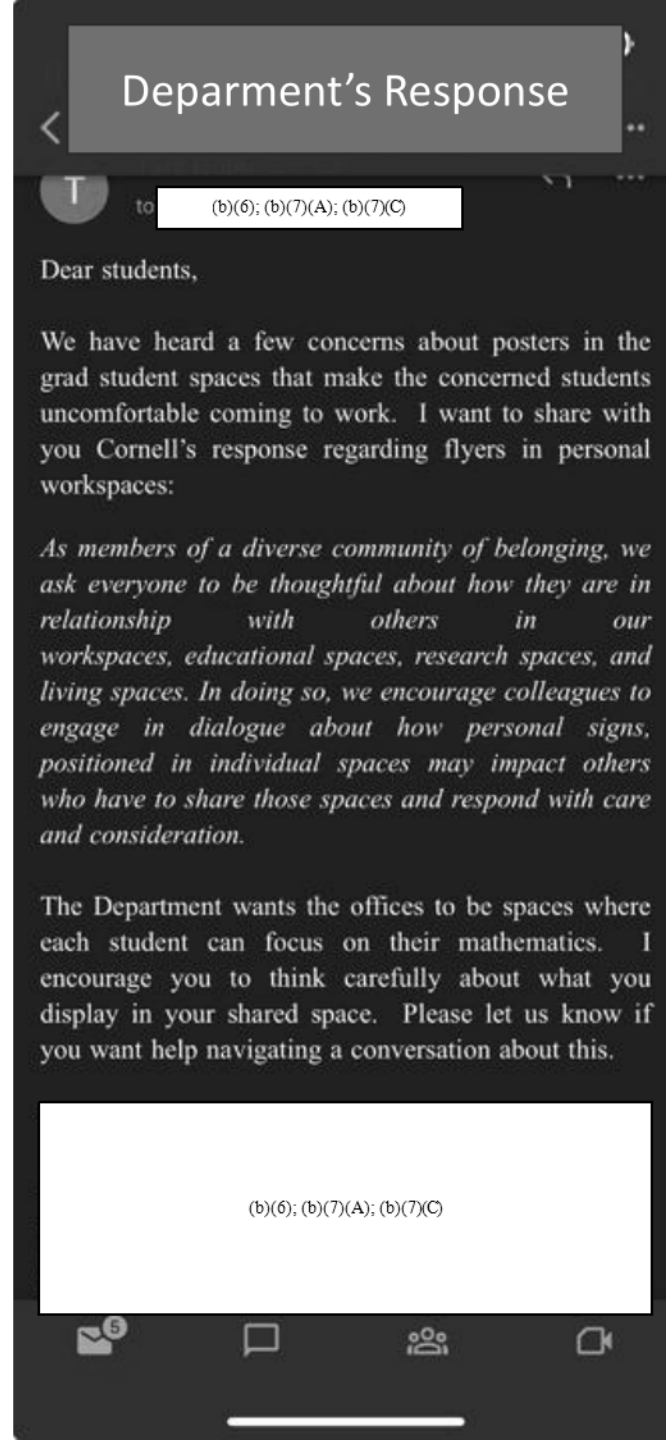
Repleat with antisemitic lies:

- “Stop Israel’s genocide”
- “All food, electricity and fuel has been cut off”
- “Israel’s crimes are paid for with US tax dollars”
- “For 75 years, the people of Palestine have had their land stolen from them”

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

11/1/23
BEFORE

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



11/9/23

11/9/23
AFTER

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



