



## AMCHA Initiative Report on Antisemitic Activity at UCLA 2014

### I. Incidents:

- **Feb 13** - UCLA Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) authored a resolution asking the University to divest from companies that do business with Israel.
- **Feb 25** - SJP's anti-Israel divestment resolution was debated and voted on at an 11-hour UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) meeting. The resolution was defeated 7-5.
- **Mar 13** - Muslim Students Association (MSA) released a statement accusing anti-divestment attendees of the USAC divestment meeting of racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, pink washing and tokenization of other communities' struggles, and accused UCLA Hillel, Bruins for Israel and Avi Oved (USAC Internal Vice President) of wrongly conflating anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. The statement, which demanded the passage of a Diversity Requirement at UCLA, was endorsed by 15 UCLA student organizations, 15 MSA groups from other UC and CSU campuses, 3 community organizations (Jewish Voice for Peace, American Muslims for Palestine, and Council on American-Islamic Relations), and 8 members of the USAC.
- **Apr 24** - SJP members brought to the student judicial board formal charges against 2 USAC representative who voted against the divestment resolution, falsely accusing them of conflict of interest for going on trips to Israel sponsored by Jewish organizations.
- **May 4** - SJP launched a campaign demanding that students running for USAC office sign an "Ethics Pledge" promising not to go on a trip to Israel sponsored by certain pro-Israel Jewish organizations.
- **May 7** - The Editorial Board of *Al-Talib*, the Muslim newsmagazine at UCLA, called on Avinoam Baral, Jewish pro-Israel student candidate for Internal Vice President, to publicly distance himself from the "Islamophobic" organization Hasbara Fellowships.
- **May 21** - At a UCLA "World In-Sight" fair, a student group, Empowered Arab Sisterhood, disseminated maps of the Middle East that included "Palestine" but did not include Israel.
- **May 22** - USAC President's Office issued a statement criticizing Chancellor Block for condemning the anti-Israel "Ethics Pledge" that SJP members demanded that USAC candidates sign.
- **June 2** - UCLA SJP issued a statement criticizing an LA City Council resolution which condemned the "Ethics Pledge" and called on the UCLA Chancellor to protect students from intimidation and harassment as a result of the pledge.
- **June 26** - UC Riverside former SJP president falsely accused Avi Oved, Jewish pro-Israel student nominated to be UC Student Regent, of improper campaign donations, and University of California Student Association began an investigation.
- **July 31** - The Joint Council of the UC Graduate Student Union, UAW 2865, proposed a resolution to join the BDS movement.
- **Aug 1** - Dozens of Jewish officers and members of UAW 2865 issued a statement in support of the union's anti-Israel divestment resolution.

- **Aug 13** - Anti-Semitic flyers featuring swastikas and threatening messages including “Watch out”, “Be careful”, “Wanted” and “You’ll See”, surfaced at Jewish-owned businesses near UCLA.
- **Sept 17** - AMCHA Initiative released report showing anti-Israel and antisemitic bias in three years of event programming at UCLA’s Center for Near Eastern Studies (CNES), in violation of the Center’s federal funding requirements.
- **Nov 2** - SJP announces plan for bringing new divestment resolution to USAC.
- **Nov 18** - SJP anti-Israel divestment resolution debated and voted on at USAC meeting. All public comments came from supporters of the resolution. The resolution passed 8-2-2.
- **Dec 4** - UCLA UAW 2865 voted to join the BDS movement 305-218, and 238 UCLA graduate student instructors signed a pledge to support the academic boycott of Israel.
- **Dec 11** - In an effort to impugn pro-Israel USAC candidates, an anonymous student leaked several emails to the *Daily Bruin* suggesting that Bruins United candidates, including current USAC President Avinoam Baral, improperly solicited donations from pro-Israel donors.

## **II. Student-Sponsored Events:**

- **Jan 8** - SJP: Winter Quarter Marshmallow Extravaganza Social — anti-Israel movie
- **Jan 15** - SJP: International Solidarity with Palestine: Towards a Global Intifada (Omar Barghouti and Robin DG Kelly)
- **Jan 21** - SJP: Divestment Teach-In Part 1
- **Jan 29** - SJP: Divestment Teach-In Part 2
- **Feb 5** - SJP: Divestment Teach-In Part 3
- **Feb 13** - SJP: Screening of film Roadmap to Apartheid
- **Feb 19** - SJP: Groundings: Black Solidarity with Palestine - A Conversation with dream hampton, Jasiri X, and Sohail Daulatzai
- **Feb 20** - SJP: Divestment Open House!
- **March 4** - SJP: African Refugees in Israel - A Report by David Sheen
- **April 9** - SJP’s Week 2 General Body Meeting (To discuss divestment and introduce new JVP at UCLA)
- **April 24** - SJP: No Rest Until We Divest: The Struggle for Human Rights at Home and Abroad (Ali Abunimah and students working on divestment)
- **May 14** - SJP Presents: Angela Davis in Conversation with Asli Bali and Robin DG Kelley
- **Nov 4** - SJP: Mock “Apartheid Wall”
- **Nov 4** - SJP: Roadmap to Divestment: A Screening and Discussion
- **Nov 5** - UCLA Chapter of UAW 2865 and SJP: A discussion of Palestinian rights with Michael Letwin
- **Nov 6** - SJP: From Despair to Hope: The Crisis in Palestine and Student Responsibility”
- **Nov 10** - SJP-UCLA Presents: Divestment Townhall
- **Nov 12** - JVP: Divestment: A Safe, Inclusive, and Open Discussion
- **Nov 17** - SJP: ‘Twas the Night Before Divestment: An Evening with Remi Kanazi
- **Nov 18** - SJP: Tea and Coffee w/Undergrads from Palestine: R2E Tour at UCLA

## **III. Departmentally-Sponsored Israel-Related Events with Speakers who Support BDS:**

- **Jan 15** - “Evolutionary Dance of the Oppressed” - A talk by Omar Barghouti. **Sponsored by: Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance**
- **Apr 10** - “The Settler Colonial Paradigm” - A panel discussion with at least 3 of 5 panelists

- supporting BDS (Beshara Doumani, Laleh Khalili, Gabriel Piterberg). **Sponsored by: CNES**
- **May 8** - "Ralph Bunche and the Politics of Binationalism in Palestine" - A talk by Alex Lubin.  
**Sponsored by: CNES**
  - **Sept 18** - "From Gaza to Ferguson" - A panel discussion with at least 4 or 5 panelists supporting BDS. **Sponsored by: Critical Race Studies**
  - **Nov 5** - "Indigeneity, Palestine, and the Demands of Civility" - A talk by Steven Salaita.  
**Sponsored by: African Studies Center, Center for Near Eastern Studies, World Arts & Cultures/Dance, Anthropology, Comparative Literature, English, French and Francophone Studies, Sponsored by Robin D. G. Kelley, Distinguished Professor of History & Gary B. Nash Chair in United States History, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities "Cultures in Transnational Perspective", Center for the Study of Women**
  - **Nov 11** - "On Human Shields in Gaza" - A talk by Neve Gordon. **Sponsored by: CNES**

#### **IV. BDS Instigators: Students**

##### **A. Student Group Spearheading Israel Divestment Resolution: SJP**

##### **B. Student Groups Sponsoring Divestment Resolution:**

1. Afrikan Student Union
2. American Indian Student Association
3. Bengali Students Association
4. Bruin Feminists for Equality
5. Fossil Free UCLA
6. Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success (IDEAS)
7. Incarcerated Youth Tutorial Project
8. Jewish Voice for Peace
9. MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán) de UCLA
10. Muslim Student Association
11. Queer Alliance
12. Samahang Pilipino
13. Student Coalition Against Labor Exploitation (SCALE)
14. UMMA Volunteer Project
15. United Arab Society

##### **C. Student Groups Endorsing Divestment Resolution:**

1. Afrikan Student Union
2. American Indian Student Association
3. Al-Talib News Magazine
4. Armenian Student Association
5. Asian Pacific Coalition
6. Bengali Students Association
7. Bhagat Puran Singh Health Initiative
8. Black Law Students Association
9. Bruin Feminists for Equality
10. FEM Magazine
11. Fossil Free UCLA
12. Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success (IDEAS)
13. Incarcerated Youth Tutorial Project

14. Indus
15. Jewish Voice for Peace
16. Law Students for Justice in Palestine
17. MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán) de UCLA
18. Mentors for Academic and Peer Support (MAPS)
19. Muslim Law Student Association
20. Muslim Student Association
21. Native Roots
22. Pakistani Student Association
23. Project One
24. Queer Alliance
25. Samahang Pilipino
26. Social Awareness Network for Activism through Art (SANAA)
27. Student Coalition Against Labor Exploitation (SCALE)
28. UMMA Volunteer Project
29. United Afghan Club
30. United Arab Society
31. Vietnamese Student Union

## **V. BDS Instigators: Faculty**

### **A. Faculty Endorsing the Academic Boycott of Israel:**

1. Mohammed Abed
2. Khaled Abou El Fadl
3. Jack Bishop
4. Maylei Blackwell
5. Karen Brodtkin
6. Lucy Burns
7. Michael Cahn
8. Keith Camacho
9. Jessica Cattelino
10. Courtney Cecale
11. Jane Collings
12. Anne Cong-Huyen
13. Susan Curtis
14. Robin D.G. Kelley
15. Michelle Erai
16. Aisha Finch
17. Nouri Gana
18. James Gelvin
19. Ayesha E.Gill
20. Yogita Goyal
21. Akhil Gupta
22. Nandini Gunewardena
23. Christian Haesemeyer
24. Gerry Hale
25. Sondra Hale
26. Sarah Haley
27. Grace Hong

28. Jane Naomi Iwamura
29. Robin D. Kelley
30. Marie Kennedy
31. Katherine King
32. Yael Korin
33. Vinay Lal
34. Guangyi Li
35. Saree Makdisi
36. Purnima Mankekar
37. Aamir Mufti
38. Judy Olson
39. Sherry Ortner
40. Gabriel Piterberg
41. Maureen Shay
42. David Shorter
43. Susan Slyomovics

**B. Faculty Endorsing SJP's Fall 2014 BDS Campaign:**

1. Christian Haesemeyer
2. David Shorter
3. Gabriel Piterberg
4. Grace Hong
5. James Gelvin
6. Katherine King
7. Marie Kennedy
8. Vinay Lal
9. Maureen Shay
10. Maylei Blackwell
11. Robin D.G. Kelley
12. Sarah Haley
13. Saree Makdisi
14. Sondra Hale
15. Susan Slyomovics

**C. Faculty Endorsing the UAW 2865 (UC Grad Student Union) Boycott Resolution:**

1. Sarah Haley
2. Aamir R. Mufti
3. Robin. D. G. Kelley
4. Sondra Hale
5. David Shorter
6. Khaled Abou El Fadl

## Selected Jewish Student Voices at UCLA 2014

- **March 2014, Undergraduate Student (Omer)** – “[W]hile I strongly believe in constructive criticism of Israel and its policies, the discourse about Israel on my campus degenerates into hate speech on a far-too-regular basis. The blatant and offensive lies uttered during public comment represent a vile and unwarranted attack on Israel, pro-Israel students, and the organized Jewish community at UCLA. What was even more disheartening for me was that no councilmembers, faculty advisors, or leaders in the pro-divestment community stood up and condemned the hate speech directed against us.”
- **March 2014, Undergraduate Student (Avi L.)** – “I’m a student who identifies as a Jewish Zionist. As a result of my identity, and involvement in on-campus activism, I’ve been labeled as a quote ‘ZiZi’, shorthand for “Zionist Nazi,’ a quote “radical right winger,” a quote “white supremacist crying about my white privilege” among other things. To say that this sort of name calling is grotesque would be an understatement.”
- **June 2014, Undergraduate Student and President of Bruins for Israel (Miriam)** – “As a result of divestment, not only my mental stability but also my academics have suffered. These attacks on my identity and rights to self-determination have not only affected me emotionally, but have had devastating effects on my academics and have hindered my purpose on this campus—to be a student. It is ridiculous to me that at such a world-renowned university, our education is being put on hold because my identity is being put on trial.”
- **June 2014, Undergraduate Student (Avinoam)** – “I felt personally attacked, singled-out and targeted because of my views on political issues such as divestment. Because of the divestment issue, I have lost numerous friends, done poorly in my classes, and overall have never felt so unwelcome at this university.”
- **June 2014, Undergraduate Student (Tessa)** – “For myself and other Jewish and pro-Israel students, the atmosphere is poisonous. We feel attacked, ostracized, and threatened. Our identities are being rejected and our right to express our beliefs endangered. Our academic performance is being harmed unjustly; and our supporters are now targets of hate campaigns, baseless accusations, and unfair political and social retaliation.”
- **July 2014, Undergraduate Student (Avi)** – “Unfortunately, this recent attack is representative of a new breed of bullying on our campuses in which baseless attacks are leveled against the integrity of individuals.”
- **Dec 2014, Graduate Student (Deb)** - “I have personally felt marginalized as a person; that’s a feeling, that’s absolutely my experience and I’ve also had emails targeted at me post-elections on my Facebook”.
- **Dec 2014, Graduate Student (Josh)** - “This [BDS] campaign in and of itself is succeeding at its goal because if you want to boycott academics, you are saying that certain ideas and idea makers that are simply outside of the pale, that those are the ideas and idea makers that we shun in our university. And just holding this vote has had an effect on the students of this community, of showing... students of this community that they are on the wrong side and it has had a silencing effect... in narrowing the discourse and that is precisely what I would describe is the purpose of this academic boycott.”