

**LETTER FROM 22 ORGANIZATIONS TO UC IRVINE
REGARDING “ANTI-ZIONISM WEEK”**

Via Email, Initiated & Sent from StandWithUs

May 1, 2015

UCI Chancellor Howard Gillman
UCI Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Thomas Parham

Dear Chancellor Gillman and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Parham:

The 22 organizations below are extremely concerned that two UCI registered student organizations—the Muslim Student Union and Students for Justice in Palestine—have announced that on May 4-7, 2015, they will be hosting “*Anti-Zionism Week 2015*.” This means a week of events, speakers, discussions, displays and possibly street theater that are meant to create animosity towards Israel and anyone who supports it.

Please be aware that many UCI students, faculty, and community members self-identify as Zionists. An “Anti-Zionism Week” will be offensive, divisive, and hurtful to them, and could create a hostile campus environment.

If past years of anti-Zionism weeks offer any guidance, these events, individually and/or collectively, will in great likelihood include statements and create an atmosphere that is not only anti-Zionist but also anti-Semitic under the U.S. State Department’s definition of anti-Semitism. In particular, the State Department’s definition notes the ways that anti-Semitism manifests itself in regard to speech about the State of Israel:

- Demonizing Israel: using symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism to characterize Israel or Israelis; comparing Israeli policies to that of the Nazis; blaming Israel for all political tensions.
- Double Standards toward Israel: requiring of Israel behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation; focusing only on Israel for peace or human rights investigations.
- Delegitimizing Israel: denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland; denying Israel the right to exist.

Recently, the student senates of UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC Santa Barbara responded to the escalation of anti-Semitic activity on UC campuses by unanimously passing resolutions condemning anti-Semitism, citing this above definition. These resolutions resolved to use the State Department’s definition to help identify anti-Semitic activity. In 2014, the student government at UC Irvine passed a resolution affirming its “strong opposition” to anti-Semitism and all forms of racism and discrimination. Link to that resolution: [HERE](#).

The very title of the upcoming “Anti-Zionist Week 2015” makes it crystal clear that the goal of the organizers is not simply to criticize Israeli policy or behavior, but rather to oppose the very existence of the Jewish state. Denying Jews their right to self-determination is at the heart of the State Department’s definition of anti-Semitism.

We urge you in the week ahead to monitor “Anti-Zionism Week” and identify any instances that fall under the State Department’s definition of anti-Semitism. Should they occur, we urge you to publicly condemn such instances with the same vigor that the UCI Administration has shown when condemning other forms of racism and bigotry.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this sensitive and important issue.

Accuracy in Academia
AMCHA Initiative
American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists
Americans for Peace and Tolerance (APT)
Bias Education, Advocacy & Resources (BEAR)
Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)
David Horowitz Freedom Center
Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)
Hasbarah Fellowships
Israeli-American Council (IAC)
National Conference on Jewish Affairs
Middle East Political and Information Network (MEPIN)
Proclaiming Justice to the Nations
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME)
Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) Campus Division
StandWithUs (SWU)
Students and Parents Against Campus Anti-Semitism
The Israel Group
The Lawfare Project
Training and Education About the Middle East (T.E.A.M.)
Zionist Organization of America (ZOA)