

# LAW STUDENTS AGAINST HAMAS

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October 23, 2023

We are a group of current students or recent graduates from law schools across the country, including Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Fordham, Georgetown, New York University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Pennsylvania.

We are appalled by the gruesome atrocities committed by Hamas in the State of Israel, the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people. The October 7 invasion constitutes the largest terrorist attack on the West since 9/11 and the largest slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust. Entire families were gunned down in their beds. Babies were beheaded and burnt. Young women were raped amid their friends' corpses, then paraded throughout the streets of Gaza. Israeli civilians, from infants to the elderly, were taken hostage and are being held in unimaginable conditions.

At the time of this writing, nearly 1,500 people—including at least 30 U.S. citizens—have been murdered by Hamas since its October 7 attack. Many of their bodies bear the marks of torture. Americans are also among the over 200 hostages now being held in Gaza. Hamas has repeatedly rebuffed international humanitarian calls for the release of the elderly and young children. Hamas members have been clear, in countless recorded statements, that they stand not only for the wholesale destruction of the Jewish state and its people, but also of the West.

Student groups at many of our home institutions openly support this evil. They have chosen to justify, identify with, or even celebrate Hamas. Leaders at too many law schools—among them students, faculty, and administrators—have failed to meet the needs of this moment. In issuing morally ambivalent statements or remaining silent, they have revealed a fundamental lack of understanding of justice and of the moral endeavor that ought to be foundational to any meaningful legal education. Their response to this modern-day pogrom reveals a corrosive moral rot. It is abundantly clear that many campuses have been infected by a pernicious form of antisemitism.

We contend it is time for a change. We urge law students throughout the United States to see this moment for what it is, and to demand accountability from school authorities who have not denounced Hamas terrorism or the student groups supporting it. Students of good conscience, those who have been rightfully shocked and horrified by the reactions of their school authorities or peers, should also create new organizations dedicated to countering the barbarism that has preyed on Jews in Israel—and countering the Hamas supporters who wish to export such violence here. The time for coddling and compromise with terrorism and its proponents on campus is over.

American law schools play a critical role in the perpetuation of our republic. By preparing the next generation of lawyers, they are charged with upholding the integrity and the moral foundations of our system of law and government. In recognition of this

vital mission, we ask that leadership at our law schools stand with their Jewish students and the State of Israel in this existential struggle against evil.

Sincerely,

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University of Chicago

Aaron Bondar  
Fordham University

Nolan Drazin  
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