

Cincinnati Hillel

Muhammed F. Cetinkaya

Testimony on Anti-Semitism

Since October 7, 2023, hate speech has spread like wildfire across American campuses, fueled by groups whose agendas echo humanity's darkest era in the 1940s. This poisonous rhetoric has shattered the peace and security of Jewish students and the broader campus community, leaving fear in its wake.

Yet, despite enduring the pain of the greatest atrocity against the Jewish people since the Holocaust, we refuse to be broken. For over a year, we have stood strong—upright, proud, and determined—waging a peaceful fight against anti-Semitism. Our resolve is a beacon of hope, a testament to humanity's capacity to stand against hatred without compromising our principles.

Over and over, we have seen Jewish students and their non-Jewish allies—those who dare to speak against Jew-hatred—attacked by these factions. This cannot continue. Anti-Semitism must be understood for what it truly is—not just hatred of Jews, but any act of violence or intimidation against those who defend the freedom and peaceful existence of Jewish communities. Let us demand this change, for the sake of justice, dignity, and the shared humanity that binds us all.

As a non-Jew working for a Jewish organization, this is the first time I am making a public statement because I feel this hatred in every fiber of my being. It terrifies me—terrifies me for my friends, for my community, and yes, for myself. I fear for what may happen on campus, for what may happen to any of us. But I also know this: it is up to people like me, to rise up and speak out. The time for silence is over. We cannot allow this hatred to define our world, and we cannot stand by while it spreads. This is why you are reading these words: to join me in the fight against it, and to make clear that we will not be silent, we will not be passive, and we will not let fear win.

As a Jewish community, we demand an immediate end to the violence on our campuses, the implementation of concrete measures to ensure it never happens again, and the adoption of a definition of anti-Semitism that reflects the full scope of this hatred. It is our collective duty to protect our citizens and shield our students from the ripple effects of the ongoing war in Israel. This is not just about policy—it's about humanity. It's about the American citizens still held captive by Hamas, whose voices cry out for freedom. Bring them home. Now.

December 3, 2024