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ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3221**

April 23, 2024

The Honorable Miguel Cardona  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
Washington, DC 20202

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Secretary Cardona, Attorney General Garland, and Secretary Mayorkas,

I write to draw your attention to the ongoing crisis at Columbia University that is in clear violation of federal law and necessitates immediate action from the Departments which you control. Over the past few days, anarchy has engulfed the campus of Columbia University and created an environment that is unsafe for Jewish students and faculty. You have the ability and authority to put a stop to this and take concrete steps to hold accountable those responsible.

Last week, while President Minouche Shafik testified in front of Congress claiming she was successfully working to address antisemitism and committed to enforcing protest policies, a large unauthorized antisemitic riot unfolded on campus as the 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment.' Despite implementing new rules to stop such unauthorized events this antisemitic encampment clearly violated these rules, it was nearly two days before President Shafik authorized the New York Police Department (NYPD) to clear the encampment<sup>1</sup>. Since then, President Shafik allowed the encampment to reconvene and has not allowed NYPD to return to arrest the perpetrators<sup>2</sup>.

This unsanctioned mob of students and agitators being permitted to continue to target Jewish students has led to several documented incidents of despicable antisemitic harassment and calls for violence and terrorism, including support for the October 7th attack<sup>3</sup>. The situation has posed such a danger to Jewish students that they are not only avoiding this area of campus and sheltering, but Rabbi Elie Buechler with the Orthodox Union Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus, messaged Orthodox Jewish students recommending they return home<sup>4</sup>. Now, instead of

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/18/shafik-authorizes-nypd-to-sweep-gaza-solidarity-encampment-officers-in-riot-gear-arrest-over-100/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/296-24/mayor-adams-on-ongoing-protests-columbia-university>

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/EYakoby/status/1782062777302925433>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/21/us/columbia-university-jewish-students-protests/index.html>

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retaking campus and punishing those who are violating campus conduct policies, President Shafik has allowed these individuals to further disrupt learning by canceling in person classes<sup>5</sup>.

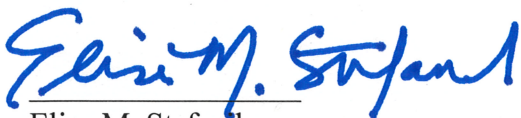
The ongoing situation that has unfolded is systemic of Columbia University leadership's failures to address ongoing antisemitism, failure to enforce campus policies, and failure to fulfill her responsibilities under federal law. Due to her lack of action, President Shafik has ceded control of campus and is failing to provide the equal protections guaranteed for students under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. By knowingly allowing this to continue, Columbia University is complicit in this violation.

Columbia University was one of the first schools into which the Biden Administration opened a Title VI investigation following the October 7th attack. There is clear and convincing evidence that students at Columbia have been targeted because they are Jewish, and the university has allowed this to persist without consequence. It is past time for the Department of Education to publish the findings of this investigation and hold the university accountable. Furthermore, the Department must take action to revoke any federal funding flowing to Columbia and similar institutions so taxpayers are not funding the ongoing discrimination.

Consequences are needed for those who are calling for terrorism and violent attacks. The Immigration and Nationality Act is clear – anyone who “endorses or espouses terrorist activity or persuades others to endorse or espouse terrorist activity or support a terrorist organization” is ineligible for entry into the United States. Individuals at these riots<sup>6</sup> and campus events<sup>7</sup> are brazenly endorsing Hamas<sup>8</sup> and other terrorist organizations. By allowing this support for terror to continue, this wicked ideology is able to spread. I demand that you enforce existing law to revoke the visas and deport students here on visas who are suspended for their antisemitic actions.

Strong leadership and action are needed to restore sanity on campus and protect those whose safety is being threatened. These actions above are not only vital, they are within your responsibility and mandate under law. As cabinet officials in our federal government with the ability to enforce law, you have a responsibility to ensure the safety of students and all Americans. If you do not take action to stop the ongoing madness, you are equally complicit in allowing it to persist.

Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress

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<sup>5</sup> <https://president.columbia.edu/news/statement-columbia-university-president-minouche-shafik-4-22>

<sup>6</sup> [https://twitter.com/gil\\_zussman/status/1781874441179353470](https://twitter.com/gil_zussman/status/1781874441179353470)

<sup>7</sup> <https://nypost.com/2024/04/07/us-news/columbia-suspends-students-for-resistance-101-where-guest-speaker-had-alleged-ties-to-terror-group-reports/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://nypost.com/2024/04/18/us-news/columbia-university-protester-yells-were-all-hamas-video/>