

LETTER IN SOLIDARITY WITH SFSU'S PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY

From Associated Students (Student Government) President and Board of Directors

Dear Campus Community,

We are outraged over yesterday's plastering of racist, anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian and Islamophobic posters at and around San Francisco State University's campus. This was a direct attack against our Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim community, faculty, members of GUPS (General Union of Palestine Students), professor Rabab Abdulhadi and the Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas (AMED) Studies.

We denounce this appalling act by the Horowitz Freedom Center and stand in support and solidarity with targeted Palestinian, Arab and Muslim communities. **Hate speech is NOT free speech.** These posters have sought to depict and label members of our own community as "terrorists". This is a direct threat to all of us. It threatens the safety and security of members of our campus community while feeding into Islamophobic, Orientalist frameworks and creating a hostile study and work space for our students, faculty and staff.

We see again that this campus administration has not taken a unified stance for justice and we, Associated Students choose to stand in defiance of such injustice. It only takes one member of our community to be affected by injustice, for all of us to take a stand against it. We must collectively advocate and fight for the rights of Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim students, faculty and staff as we do for students, faculty and staff from all other backgrounds. We are deeply disappointed by the University Administration's lack of response and action to protect Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim members of our campus community after such posters were plastered now on three different occasions in less than a year. **Associated Students calls on San Francisco State University to comply immediately with the demands from GUPS (General Union of Palestine Students), AMED (Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies) and members of the Palestinian community.** We must create a safe and supportive environment for members of our campus. We ask all students to remove any and all posters of this racist, Islamophobic, Anti-Arab and hateful rhetoric and any other racist posters. The University Administration should publicly condemn the racist and Islamophobic posters plastered on campus and stand with GUPS, AMED, and Palestinian communities by disallowing such hate groups to put such violent posters on our campus. We must stop being reactive and start being proactive in our approach to such acts of hate and violence.

As AS President and the AS Board of Directors, we pledge to support our Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim community and those affected by such bullying and racist acts. **We will defend and support their and our rights to academic freedom, the right to advocate for justice in Palestine, and the right to be free from harassment, bullying and incitement to violence.** We call on all students to come together as allies and advocate in support of our Palestinian students and faculty. Associated Students, in response to these posters have chosen to create our own in support of our Palestinian community. These will be posted all around San Francisco State University's campus, the morning of September 22nd, 2017.

Lastly, we leave with a message to our Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim community. Stand proud and empowered by your identities, both political and personal and unafraid of such destructive, violent and hateful speech. We are here for you and we are sorry that it has taken so long for us to address such critical issues facing your community. This is YOUR home and we stand in solidarity with you!

List of Demands:

1. End Islamophobic and anti-Arab racism and hostility to Palestinians at SF State manifested in the hostile and unsafe work and study environment, and political activism on campus.;
2. Build a real Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies program with tenure-track faculty, full-time staff and operating budget;
3. Immediately create a student run and student controlled commission;
4. To investigate incidents of racism and discrimination against Arabs, Muslims and Palestinians and all members of marginalized and underrepresented communities;□
5. Ensure the compliance with anti-Islamophobia, non-discriminatory and non-hostility against Arabs Muslims and Palestinians and all other marginalized and underrepresented communities on campus□.

OUR VOICE IS OUR POWER!

With Urgency,

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AS works for you! Associated Students is determined to promote a safe place for all students.