

**Open Letter to Mr. David Horowitz et. al regarding their assaults on SFSU campus members and colleagues nationally.**

September 28, 2017

On Friday, September 22, 2017, the coalition anchored by David Horowitz's center launched another in their long history of despicably personalized attacks on students, faculty and community members associated with San Francisco State University, the University of California at Berkley and University of California at Irvine. On our campus, they again posted the faux "wanted criminal style" posters with caricature faces and names of our respected faculty, students and community members, with a particularly vicious attack on our esteemed colleague Professor Rabab Abdulhadi.<sup>1</sup> They do this intentionally knowing that such propaganda tactics across history have been employed successfully to incite psychological, social and physical violence. Speech acts intended or known probably to create harm are not what is intended as free speech or to be examples of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The current attacks on our campuses demonstrate that they have weaponized their speech acts to attempt to terrorize, either by intent or simply as a predictable outcome of their targeted behavior. The First Amendment is not intended<sup>2</sup> to protect speech that harms, weaponized speech.

I state clearly and unequivocally again, that our community continues to reject these hateful acts, which place our community members in danger. We stand firmly in support and protection of our community members and those across the country coming under these attacks.

Contrary to the claims of these groups, they are not fighting Anti-Semitism by spewing hate towards Palestinians, Muslims or Arabs. Also, they are not protecting our campus's Jewish community by acting as if their hate is representative our Jewish community. They are simply Islamophobic and hateful in their actions, and they are scapegoating their acts of hatred onto our local Jewish community, which in my 30 year experience at San Francisco is fundamentally opposed to their views and their hateful methodologies.

The College of Ethnic Studies at SFState tells all those attacking our campus generally or our community members individually that we see you, we resist you and we will expose you for what you are truly doing on campuses around the country. Further, we stand in solidarity and protection with all portions of our community, in this case most particularly our Palestinian community and supporters of Palestinian human rights. We will continue to research what we can do to better protect those attacked, and to reassure them, even where we cannot stop the assault, that we will stand beside them and continue to resist as a unified community. We choose who we will be and how we will live in our SFState community; we choose to stand up to bullies, stand beside and in support of those attacked; and we choose to hold firmly to the safety and quality of our home against assault from anyone.

Kenneth P. Monteiro, Dean, College of Ethnic Studies

Footnote 1: I only name Professor Abdulhadi as she is the only one from whom I have permission at this time.

Footnote 2: As acknowledged in a previous statement (Monteiro, October 16, 2016), the use of "intent" is not a legal claim that this may not be protected expression. Intent here refers to the society's ethical intent for rights to be used for public good, understanding that some may misuse them for harm. Some of the most horrendous atrocities in history, when they were committed, were legal and often even socially and culturally accepted by many, however still ethically wrong.