



The Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Minister of State (Education)

Sent by email to halfon4harlow@roberthalfon.com

February 9, 2023

Dear Mr Halfon,

The National Jewish Assembly is deeply disturbed by the actions of pro-Palestinian protesters who staged a rally at University College London (UCL) on February 7, 2023, in an attempt to disrupt Israeli-Arab Yoseph Haddad's presentation to the UCL Friends of Israel Society.

While the National Jewish Assembly recognises that individuals may freely express their opinions, we have specific concerns with the nature of the rhetoric and visuals used by protesters to convey their disdain towards Haddad, and by association, Israel.

Firstly, the protesters were [filmed](#) chanting "There is only one solution, Intifada revolution." The Intifada was a sustained series of violent riots and terrorist attacks carried-out by Palestinians that resulted in the murder of more than 1,400 Israelis. By invoking the Intifada, the protesters are unashamedly calling for violence towards Israelis and condoning their murder.

Secondly, at least one protester was filmed holding up a photo of Iranian Ali Hosseini Khamenei, Supreme Leader of Iran, and a proud antisemite and hater of liberal Western democracies such as ours. Khamenei's vile antisemitic comments include referring to Israel as "the Zionist cancerous tumour in the heart of the Islamic world" and promising to "wip[ing] out Israel." Waving a picture of Khamenei at the UCL protest was clearly intended to taunt Haddad, as well as Israelis and Jews in the UK.

According to promotional materials produced and disseminated by several pro-Palestinian groups, the protest was organised by the following groups:

1. UCL Students for justice for Palestine
2. City friends of Palestine
3. University of Westminster Friends of Palestine
4. KCL Students for Justice for Palestine
5. Brunel Students for Palestine
6. London School of Economics Student Union Palestine Society
7. SOAS Palestine society
8. Association of student activism for Palestine
9. Queen Mary University London Friends of Palestine

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It is noteworthy, too, that most of these groups employ logos which cover Israel with the Palestinian flag - implying the erasure of Israel and its Jewish character, in lieu of a Palestinian state.

It is apparently lost on these protesters that Haddad himself is an Israeli Arab, and therefore brings a unique perspective to fostering mutual understanding and bridging divides between Israel's diverse communities. Indeed, Haddad's speech was titled "Life as an Israeli Arab" and aimed to shed light on the realities of living as a minority in Israel.

This incident also relates to the timely findings published in a UK government [report](#) dated February 8, 2023, by William Shawcross CVO detailing the findings from an Independent Review of Prevent. The report exposes multiple highly concerning incidents of radicalisation and extremism on campuses in the UK - not unlike the aforementioned calls for Intifada and the implied murder of Israelis.

The National Jewish Assembly requests that the Rt Hon Minister condemns the reprehensible conduct and rhetoric of these protesters.

Your leadership in denouncing the actions of these protesters will send a clear signal that the UK does not tolerate calls on its streets for a return to the indiscriminate murder of Israelis, nor will it allow its students (including those in the UCL Friends of Israel Society) to be intimidated on a campus that, judging even just by recent events, seems by any measure to be an unsafe space for anyone who simply support Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people.

I look forward to receiving your reply,

Steven Winston
Managing Director - National Jewish Assembly

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