

**Oral Testimony of
Talia Dror**

**Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives**

June 13, 2024

**Hearing on the Crisis on Campus: Antisemitism, Radical Faculty, and the
Failure of University Leadership**

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Neal, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you for inviting me back to testify today.

My name is Talia Dror. I'm a recent graduate of Cornell University.

Seven months ago, I described how, directly after the October 7th attacks, my campus erupted in celebration. I explained how the antisemitic environment fostered by pro-Hamas students, professors, and administrators led to a Cornell student threatening to bomb our kosher dining hall and slaughter every Jew on campus.

I am here today to tell you that since then, blatant violations of Cornell's code of conduct continue, appeased and rewarded by my university. Now, these violations have been exposed for what they truly are: expressions not just of Jew hatred, but of a burning hatred for the United States itself.

In December, students occupied our main campus building, vandalizing it with genocidal slogans and hoisting a Palestinian flag on an American flagpole.

In January, student protesters chanted, "Houthis Houthis make us proud, turn another ship around." The Houthis are a U.S.-designated terrorist organization whose slogan is "God Is Great, Death to America, Death to Israel, Curse on the Jews, Victory to Islam."

Throughout the month of February, protestors held weekly die-ins. I was in the library during the first die-in. I watched as hundreds of masked students lay down on the floor and began screaming antisemitic chants. As I watched alongside visibly-disturbed students, I saw an administrator just watching, doing nothing to enforce Cornell's policies.

A Jewish freshman who was studying there recognized me and began sobbing in my arms. As I held this girl, whose name I did not even know, I realized the gravity of the moment. Cornell's administration had made a decision - to protect hateful radicals at the expense of everyone else.

In the following weeks, Cornell's policy of appeasement resulted in classes constantly being interrupted and exams being moved as the pro-Hamas group wreaked havoc.

Anti-American students stifle intellectual disagreement by threatening anyone who does not conform to their orthodoxy. On March 3rd, a Jewish student was accosted by a fellow student who approached her and yelled: "F*CKING ZIONIST SCUM... YEAH I'VE SEEN YOU AROUND... GENOCIDAIRE... GOD FORBID A ZIONIST FEEL UNSAFE." The university's investigation has been open for over three months, with no resolution in sight.

On March 29th, a member of Cornell's student government refused to allow pro-Hamas students to break election rules. That night, a student told him to "watch his back" and that he would "regret ever joining the Student Assembly."

This should come as no surprise, as the administration not only allows these incidents to occur, it promotes the antisemitic ideology that fuels them. As part of their education series on Antisemitism and Islamophobia, the university sponsored a lecture by Sahar Aziz, who is currently being investigated by the US Senate and House for espousing antisemitic propaganda.

Cornell has also platformed a vocal pro-Hamas student, who referred to Jewish students as "Bloodthirsty Zionists only satiated by the blood of Palestinians," and claims he does not take his cue from the Cornell Student Assembly but from the armed resistance in Palestine, referring to Hamas. Next year, he will be teaching an introductory course for incoming freshmen.

On April 25th, Cornell students formed an encampment, blatantly violating the code of conduct. Encampers chanted phrases like "there is only one solution, intifada revolution," a call to kill Jews worldwide.

Three weeks later, when the encampment was dismantled, the university issued a statement *expressing gratitude* that the students terrorizing campus restrained themselves from physically carrying out their violent sentiments.

All the administration had to do was enforce its existing rules. Instead, it chose to negotiate with the protestors, grant them immunity, and *thank* them for their self-restraint. The message was very clear: rules are meaningless, and lawlessness is rewarded

Let me be very clear: the hostile environment I have just described to you pervades campuses all across the country- from Harvard to UC Santa Barbara, from UCLA to Yale.

American universities have allowed themselves to be controlled by vicious chants, rule-breaking, and anarchy.

If they wish to continue benefiting from government funding, they must start upholding American values rather than bowing to those who wish to see this country burn.

My tuition has subsidized the indoctrination of a generation who hates our country. It would be a disgrace for even one more taxpayer dollar to do the same.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.