

Weaponizing Antisemitism Fears to Quash Campus Free Speech - Case Tracker

(Last updated: October 23, 2020)

Date	case/target	category of attack	source of attack	details
October 23, 2020	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)	Title VI (under the Higher Education Act)	Brandeis Center Arnold & Porter Kaye	Brandeis Center Press release Brandeis Center backgrounder
September 29, 2020	San Francisco State Univ (President Lynn Mahoney, Profs. Rabab Abdulhadi and Tomomi Kinukawa, and the university generally)	Alleged “potential violations of 18 U.S. Code § 2339A, which makes it unlawful to provide material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization”	Rep. Lamborn (R-CO), Middle East Forum	Lamborn letter to AG Barr & FBI Director Wray Middle East Forum/Washington Examiner 10/8: Why Doug Lamborn referred SFSU's president for prosecution Middle East Forum/Spectator 10/20/20: SFSU President Lynn Mahoney: Terrorist Leila Khaled's Enabler
July 2, 2020	Yale's Middle East Studies Center	Title VI (under the Higher Education Act)	Rep DesJarlais (R-TN), Middle East Forum	DesJarlais letter Middle East Forum “news” of letter Israel Hayom: Is Yale's Middle East Studies program tainted by BDS ties? American Spectator/MEF 7/19/20: Title VI Funding and Man at Yale
June 19, 2020	Florida State University	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act) (<i>threat</i>)	StandWithUs	Jewish Journal 6/19/20: StandWithUs Tells Florida State to Take Action Against Student Senate President
June 16, 2020	University of California at Berkeley's Center for Middle East Studies (CMES)	Title VI (under the Higher Education Act)	Rep. Lamborn (R-CO), Middle East Forum	Lamborn letter MEF: Rep. Doug Lamborn Asks Department of Education to Investigate Middle East Studies at UC Berkeley MEF: Congressman Calls for Investigation of Berkeley's Center for Middle East Studies
April 2020	CUNY Law	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act) (<i>threat</i>)	Former student Rafaella Gunz (see her op-ed)	“I am speaking to lawyers at the Brandeis Center and Lawfare Project about possible Title VI complaints or other forms of litigation we could pursue,.”

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March 19, 2020	Duke/UNC	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act (seeking to re-open 2019 case)	ZOA	ZOA letter to Kenneth Marcus 3/19/20 asking it to re-open case against Duke.
Feb 24, 2020	University of Arizona	Title VI (under the Higher Education Act)	Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) & Middle East Forum	6/11 JNS/MEF: The black box: How Arizona's response to a congressional letter is proof of the problem 2/28 JNS: Congressman sends letter to DeVos about Mideast studies at University of Arizona 2/24: Gosar letter to DeVos (posted on website of MEF) FIRE 2/28: Congressman's call for investigation into University of Arizona faculty would, if granted, violate the First Amendment MEF: A Third Shot Across the Bow for Title VI-Funded Middle East Studies Programs
Feb 24, 2020 - Dept of Ed letter laying out settlement w NYU, Sept 25, 2020	NYU	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	Former NYU student Adela Cojab	Jerusalem Post: 'NYU admin know about antisemitism on campus, don't do enough' Washington Sq news: NYU Sued for Alleged Anti-Semitism, Students React
Feb 13, 2020	UC Berkeley	Title Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act) (threat)	Lawfare Project	Press release: The Lawfare Project calls on UC Berkeley to address anti-Semitism on campus [calling for univ to take 6 steps, #6: "Remind your administrators that, in light of President Trump's Executive Order 13899, Combatting Anti-Semitism, the U.S. Department of Education and its Office for Civil Rights will be utilizing the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism when assessing Title VI complaints filed by Jewish students alleging a hostile environment."]
Feb 2020	Claremont Colleges	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	David Horowitz Freedom Center, acting with the Dhillon Law Group	2/3: Letter to Pomona & Pitzer from lawyers 2/10 - FrontPage magazine: "Freedom Center Plans Title VI Suit Against Claremont Colleges for Funding Jew Hatred" MESA response 2/20/20: Allegations of anti-Semitism at Pitzer and Pomona colleges

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Feb 3, 2020	Bard College	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	Unkown	Investigation linked to protests in October 2019 at an event at Bard - see: What Really Happened at Bard College See OCR database for listing
[Jan 29, 2020 - " Complaints Arising from Executive Order on Antisemitism Expand as More Countries Adopt IHRA Definition. BDS and Antisemitism in K-12 Comes into Focus " by Alex Joffe, SPME, published by MEF				
Jan 22, 2020	Univ of Michigan	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	Zachor Legal Institute/ StandWit hUs	Trying to force cancellation of SJP conference - sent letter to UofM threatening Title VI complaint - article Article
January 2, 2020	UCLA	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	Zachor Legal Institute/ StandWit hUs	Press release 2/13 article
December 27, 2020	Georgia Tech	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	ACLJ	Article Complaint ACLJ Update 3/16: Groundbreaking: U.S. Dept. of Education Agrees with ACLJ Request to Investigate Anti-Semitic "Palestine 101" Event at Georgia Tech
December 23, 2019	Columbia Univ	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	Jamie Kreitman	Article
December 19, 2019	Middle East Studies National Resource Centers (NRCs) [nationwide]	Title VI (under the Higher Education Act)	GOP House members Links to work of Amcha Initiative	Letter to DeVos from Reps. Grothman (R-WI), Stefanik (R-NY), Wright (R-TX), Fleischmann (R-TN), Meadows (R-NC), Stewart (R-UT), Lamborn (R-CO) and Weber (R-TX). Letter here
December 19, 2019	Columbia Univ	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	Lawfare Project/ Winston & Strawn LLP	Lawfare Project press release JNS: Anti-Semitism complaint filed with US Education Department surrounding Columbia University The Hill: Columbia University student first to file anti-Semitism complaint under Trump order

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December 11, 2019	Georgetown U	Title VI (under the Higher Education Act)	GOP House member + Middle East Forum	Riggleman (R-VA) letter here Reporting here MEF in the Spectator: Georgetown Gets a Title VI Wakeup Call
August 22, 2019	UCLA	Harassment case (targeting Univ & students)	TZAC/ David Abrams	Abrams' FB: Aug 22, 2019 [filing demanding names of speakers/ presenters at student conference] Abrams' FB update on case: December 9, 2019 Abrams' FB update on case: January 7, 2020
April 2019	Duke/UNC	Title VI (under the Higher Education Act) Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	Israel Project GOP Members of Congress ZOA Complaint FOIA by ACLJ	Dept of Ed response undermining Title VI of the Higher Education Act, 9/17/19 8/19/19: ACLJ Files Records Request for Information Regarding Anti-Semitic Event Hosted by Taxpayer Supported University Budd (R-NC) letter to DeVos 4/15/19 Holding (R-NC) letter to DeVos 4/16/19 Also see: Lara Friedman article 2/3/20: Duke University Settles Anti-Semitism Complaint
December 18, 2018	3 US universities	3 counter-terrorism lawsuits, filed (under seal) in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York	TZAC/ David Abrams	Awaiting details - FB post announcing the lawsuits is here
November 2018	UCLA	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	Zachor Legal Institute	Tweet - "Zachor Legal Institute had filed a Title VI Civil Rights Act complaint with the #DOE regarding #UCLA's intentional act of anti-Semitism in hosting the #terror front #SJP hate conference this weekend. We will ensure UCLA is held accountable for this attack on #Jewish students."

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September 2018	San Jose State	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act) (threat)		Palestine Legal 11/14/18: San José State Professor Threatens Event With Federal Investigation If No Anti-Palestinian Voices
November 2018	Berkeley	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act) (unverified complaint)	Brandeis Center	Jewish Journal 11/13/18: Pro-Israel Students File Complaint to Department of Education About SJP Vigil at Berkeley
October 16, 2018	University of Michigan	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	Lawfare Project, SPME	<p>10/16/18 - LawfareProject press release: Lawfare Project warns University of Michigan about potential legal liability in wake of anti-Semitic incidents</p> <p>Memo sent by Lawfare to UofM</p> <p>Also see articles alleging anti-Israel bias at UofM here, here & here</p> <p>SPME statement here</p>

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June 2017	San Francisco State University	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	Lawfare Project/ Winston & Strawn LLP	<p>Jan 22, 2019: JPost: The woman and organization behind legal victories against antisemitism</p> <p>March 20, 2019: LP press release - “California State University (CSU) agrees to landmark settlement with The Lawfare Project and Winston & Strawn LLP to safeguard Jewish students’ rights”; text of settlement agreement</p> <p>May 30, 2018: LP press release: March 2019 [sic] Trial Date Set for Lawsuit Alleging Anti-Semitism Against San Francisco State University in California State Court</p> <p>April 2018: LP & Winston File Amended Complaint Against SFSU, Bring New Claims of Systemic Discrimination Against Jewish and Israeli Students</p> <p>Jan 2018: LP & Winston File Second Civil Rights Lawsuit Against SFSU in California State Court</p> <p>June 2017: LP Files Groundbreaking Civil Rights Lawsuit Against San Francisco State University</p>
May 2016	CUNY	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	ACLJ	<p>ACLJ Letter 5/4/16 to CUNY Chancellor</p> <p>ACLJ: Major University System Embraces Invidious and Illegal Anti-Israel Discrimination - Anti-Israel Discrimination Embraced</p>

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March 2016	CUNY	SLAPP suit	The Lawfare Project/ Corey Stark PLLC	“A lawsuit filed by CUNY Kingsborough professor and department chair Jeffrey Lax, represented by the law firm of Corey Stark PLLC and The Lawfare Project, exposes a climate of discrimination and rampant harassment on campus, endemic to the administration and targeting recognizable persons of the Jewish faith, or ‘outward Jews.’”
February 22, 2016	CUNY (Hunter College, Brooklyn College, College of State Island, John Jay College)	Title Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act) (threat)	ZOA	<p>ZOA Letter to CUNY Leaders about Anti-Semitic, Violence-Inducing Rallies There - related to SJP campus presence/activities</p> <p>Also see: 10 Oct 2020 - CUNY Anti-Semitism Report (results of investigation of ZOA allegations)</p>
December 2015	UCLA	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act) (threat)	ACLJ	<p>ACLJ letter to UCLA Chancellor 12/2/15</p> <p>ACLJ: Factual Distortion and the First Amendment: the New Anti-Israel Weapons of Choice on Campus</p> <p>ACLJ: Fighting BDS Radicals' Anti-Israel Harassment of Responsible Student Leaders - Anti-Israel Harassment of Student Leaders</p>

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July 11, 2011	Rutgers University	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	ZOA	<p>NorthJersey.com - 6/10/20: Was civil rights education secretary biased in Rutgers anti-Semitism probe? Advocates say yes [letter to OIG of Dept of Ed here]</p> <p>9/24/18: NJ Star-Ledger: Trumped-up anti-Semitism charges at Rutgers designed to chill free speech</p> <p>New York Times 9/11/18: Education Dept. Reopens Rutgers Case Charging Discrimination Against Jewish Students</p> <p>9/5/18 - ZOA Press release: ZOA's Title VI Case Against Rutgers Reopened by US Civil Rights Office</p> <p>7/11/11: ZOA Press release: ZOA Files Complaint Against Rutgers With Office For Civil Rights Because Of Hostile Environment For Jewish Students</p>
March 14, 2011	UC Santa Cruz	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)		<p>8/27/13: Office of Civil Rights completes its investigation, closes complaint against UCSC</p> <p>3/15/11: Education Dept. Investigates Complaint of Anti-Semitism at UC-Santa Cruz</p> <p>ZOA Press release: ZOA Praises Office For Civil Rights – Opening Title VI Investigation Of Anti-Semitic Environment At UC Santa Cruz Arising From Israel-Bashing</p>
March 2011	Berkeley	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)	2 alum	<p>8/27/13: Department of Education dismisses complaint alleging anti-Semitism at Berkeley</p>
April 2008	UC Irvine	Title VI (under the Civil Rights Act)		<p>8/19/13: Letter from Dept of Ed to Chancellor dismissing the case</p>

Also watching:

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Also see:

- 9/15/2020: [JNS \(EMET/Sarah Stern\) Systemic anti-Semitism on our nation's college campuses](#)
- 9/15/2020: [The Hill \(Kenneth Marcus\) State Department campaign could be groundbreaking](#)
- 9/9/2020: [The Algemeiner - US State Department Planning Expanded Campaign Using 'All Legal and Policy Tools' to Combat 'Antisemitic' BDS Movement Against Israel](#)
- 8/7/20: [Cotton, McConnell Introduce College Campus Free Speech Act](#)
- 8/6/20: [Cotton, Colleagues Introduce Legislation Protecting Free Speech on College Campuses \(text\)](#)
- 7/22/20 (MEF) - [Brown University Goes All In for Palestine](#)
- 5/19/20 - [How Israel lobby pressured a Pittsburgh university](#)
- 5/1/20 - [Point Park moves to dismiss Jewish professor's lawsuit](#)
- 4/8/20 - [Anti-Semitism in all forms, including BDS, has no place at Point Park](#)
- 3/11/20 - [Point Park prof claiming anti-Semitism at university garners community support](#)
- 10/17/19: [Fordham Takes SJP Back to Court](#); 10/22/10 - [ZOA Files Amicus Brief Supporting Fordham Univ.'s Rejection of Anti-Israel, Antisemitic SJP Chapter](#) (amicus [here](#), citing Title VI)
- 9/20/18 - Lawfare Project press release, "[Announcing the Campus Civil Rights Project!](#)"