

**Written Testimony of
Talía Dror**

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

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**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 Talía Dror. I'm a recent graduate of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

Eight months ago, I sat in these very chambers and 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 our campus.

I am here today to tell you that since then, *nothing has changed*. 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 antisemitism, but of a burning hatred for the United States itself.

On December 3rd, students occupied our main campus building, refusing to leave until the university conceded to their demands. They desecrated the building with genocidal slogans, including a call for an intifada in Ithaca, directly inciting terror against Jewish students. They put up a Palestinian flag on an American flagpole.

In January, student protesters chanted, "Houthis Houthis make us proud, turn another ship around." The slogan of the Houthis, a U.S.-designated terrorist organization, is: "God Is the Greatest, Death to America, Death to Israel, A Curse Upon the Jews, Victory to Islam." Students are cheering on terrorists who want to destroy America — it starts with the Jews, but it never ends with them.

Throughout the month of February, students held weekly die-ins during which a crowd of 200 protestors walked into libraries, lay on the floor, yelled genocidal slogans, and inhibited students' ability to study.

I witnessed the first of these die-ins. As hundreds of masked students lay down on the floor of the library screaming antisemitic chants, I saw an administrator merely standing there, watching, doing nothing to enforce Cornell's policies. A Jewish freshman who was studying at the time recognized me as a student leader 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. My administration made a decision- to prioritize the ability of hateful students to terrorize and disrupt campus in clear violation of university rules.

In the following weeks, Cornell's policy of appeasement infused the protests with renewed vigor. Classes were constantly interrupted and several exams were even moved as the pro-Hamas student group continued to wreak havoc on campus life. They let the inmates run the asylum.

On March 3rd, a Jewish student leader 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 into the incident has been open for over three months, with no resolution in sight. My university, with its exorbitant wealth and power, is too scared to take action against pro-Hamas protestors. How does it expect students to feel?

On March 28th, Cornell's administration sponsored a lecture by Sahar Aziz, who is being investigated by the US Senate and House for espousing vile antisemitic propaganda, denying aspects of the October 7th attacks while praising terror attacks on Israeli civilians. Instead of fostering open and respectful dialogue, Cornell's administration platforms those who reinforce our antisemitic and anti-American campus climate.

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 joining the Student Assembly." Even non-Jewish students are being targeted if they do not conform to the pro-Hamas orthodoxy.

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

On May 14th, the same day the encampment was dismantled, the university issued a statement *thanking* the students responsible for the encampment for not inciting physical violence. Rather

than punishing protesters for violating university rules, they *expressed gratitude* that the students terrorizing campus and stifling intellectual disagreement managed to stop 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 concede to their demands. The message was very clear: rules are meaningless, and lawlessness is rewarded when it promotes an anti-American agenda.

The leaders of this campus movement proudly document their hatred online. One student leader referred to Jewish students as “Bloodthirsty Zionists only satiated by the blood of Palestinians.” He claims he “takes his cue not from the Cornell Student Assembly but from the armed resistance in Palestine,” referring to Hamas. Despite this, the administration not only lifted his suspension, but granted him a position to teach an introductory course for incoming freshmen next semester.

In an attempt to cover up its egregious mishandling of campus life, Cornell recently released a 9-step recommendation plan to address antisemitism, which includes hiring an Israeli professor and publishing a statement against antisemitism on its website. Nowhere does it mention firing antisemitic professors or cutting ties with Qatar, a country which has invested 1.8 billion dollars in Cornell, and is one of Hamas’s most prominent financial backers. Their proposed solutions are performative band-aids on the administration’s inability to understand and address Cornell’s deeply ingrained, systematic moral rot.

I have provided just a few examples of rampant antisemitic and anti-American hate on Cornell’s campus, all of which is enabled by my administration’s cowardice. Let me be very clear: what I have just described to you pervades campuses all across the country.

American universities claim to uphold the principles of free speech, but their actions reveal double standards in policy enforcement. They have allowed themselves to be controlled by vicious chants, rule-breaking, and anarchy. If they wish to continue benefiting from government funding, they must uphold American values rather than bowing to those who wish to see them burn.

I just graduated from Cornell. My tuition subsidized the breeding of a generation who hates our country. It would be a disgrace for even one more taxpayer dollar to do the same.