

We, as Jewish communal leaders in San Diego, stand with our Jewish college students. Like you, we have been watching, with great concern, as pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel protests and encampments have rolled out across college campuses across the country, including a walkout earlier this week at SDSU and an encampment at UCSD. We have watched in horror at the misinformation and disinformation on display amongst the protestors, at the students and outside agitators masking their identities with keffiyehs and glasses, in effect, dressing like Hamas terrorists, as if this is something to be emulated. To say these encampments are peaceful does not begin to capture the intended effect, and the intimidation they are meant to cause. Many of the protesters on campus are not actually students.

On the ground on Library Walk at UCSD are chalked slogans like “From the River to the Sea” and “One solution; intifada revolution.” These words are not about liberation; they are about annihilation. From the River to the Sea is a slogan that calls for the obliteration of the state of Israel, from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. Calling for “Intifada,” the term commonly used to refer to two periods in Israel known for horrific terror attacks designed to kill Jews, is a call for violence.

We agree that a university campus should provide a marketplace of ideas, but violence and intimidation are not provided for under free speech. These encampments violate campus protocols to which all students and faculty agree to abide. They are fueled by a campaign of misinformation and by underlying antisemitism, and we appreciate the steps that the university has taken and strongly encourage further action to ensure their code of conduct is honored, the encampment gets shut down, and to hold those responsible accountable for their actions, while protecting the safety of everyone involved.

Collectively, we are in close contact around this situation, led by Hillel of San Diego and our campus partners. We are extraordinarily proud of the Jewish students who have been strong, resilient, articulate, supportive of one another and who have represented the Jewish people with remarkable care and courage. They have asked that community members not engage or antagonize the protestors. Rather, they have asked that the community attend any of the public events during the student-led Peace in Israel week, May 13-17, which includes important speakers, demonstrations against the atrocities committed by Hamas along with a rally and nighttime shuk.

We all want to see peace in the Middle East. We want to see the more than 130 hostages still held in Gaza home safely, and an end to the fighting. And every single one of us wants to see our college students free to enjoy all that a university education entails without fear, intimidation or harassment simply because they are Jewish, or support the right of Israel to exist.

ADL San Diego	Rabbi Alexis Berk, Temple Solel
AJC San Diego	Rabbi Cantor Arlene Bernstein, Congregation
Camp Mountain Chai	Beth Israel
Chabad Hebrew Academy	Rabbi David Castiglione, Temple Adat Shalom
Chabad of San Diego County	Rabbi Matt Earne, Congregation Beth Am
Congregation Beth Israel	Rabbi Benj Fried, Temple Emanu-El
Hadassah Southern California	Rabbi Jeremy Gimbel, Congregation Beth Israel
Hebrew Free Loan of San Diego	Rabbi David Kornberg, Congregation Beth Am
Impact Cubed	Rabbi Avi Libman, Congregation Beth El
Jewish Community Foundation	Rabbi Devorah Marcus, Temple Emanu-El
Jewish Family Service/ Center for Jewish Care	Rabbi Matt Marko, Tifereth Israel Synagogue
Jewish Federation of San Diego	Rabbi Jason Nevarez, Congregation Beth Israel
Jewish National Fund - USA San Diego	Rabbi Scott Meltzer, Ohr Shalom Synagogue
Kindness Initiative	Rabbi Ron Shulman, Congregation Beth El
KindnessG'MACH	Rabbi Yael Ridberg, President, SDRA
Lawrence Family JCC   Jacobs Family Campus	Cantor Billy Tiep, Temple Solel
Leichtag Foundation	
Ner Tamid Synagogue	
San Diego Jewish Academy	
Seacrest Village Retirement Communities	
StandWithUs	

\*List formed as of May 6, 12:00 p.m.