

BILL CASSIDY, OF LOUISIANA, CHAIRMAN

RAND PAUL, OF KENTUCKY  
SUSAN M. COLLINS, OF MAINE  
LISA MURKOWSKI, OF ALASKA  
MARKWAYNE MULLIN, OF OKLAHOMA  
ROGER MARSHALL, OF KANSAS  
TIM SCOTT, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
JOSH HAWLEY, OF MISSOURI  
TOMMY TUBERVILLE, OF ALABAMA  
JIM BANKS, OF INDIANA  
JON HUSTED, OF OHIO  
ASHLEY MOODY, OF FLORIDA

BERNARD SANDERS, OF VERMONT  
PATTY MURRAY, OF WASHINGTON  
TAMMY BALDWIN, OF WISCONSIN  
CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, OF CONNECTICUT  
TIM KAINE, OF VIRGINIA  
MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, OF COLORADO  
EDWARD J. MARKEY, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
ANDY KIM, OF NEW JERSEY  
LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, OF DELAWARE  
ANGELA D. ALSOBROOKS, OF MARYLAND

AMANDA LINCOLN, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
WARREN GUNNELS, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

[www.help.senate.gov](http://www.help.senate.gov)

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

March 26, 2025

Hon. Pam Bondi  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Hon. Kash Patel  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Director Patel:

Since October 7, 2023, the nation has watched as anti-Israel demonstrations on college campuses from New York to California have grown, leading to serious threats to campus safety and resulting in over 3,000 arrests and detentions.<sup>1</sup> I am concerned about the role that non-campus groups, including American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) and its partner organization, AJP Educational Foundation (AJP), have played in helping to facilitate these demonstrations.<sup>2</sup>

According to reports, at least nine individuals associated with AMP have ties to the Foreign Terrorist Organization Hamas or other organizations linked to Hamas. In addition, AMP reportedly helped to incubate and fund the development of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapters, which have been involved with the demonstrations, have been banned or suspended on a growing number of campuses due to security concerns, and were involved in demonstrations at UCLA last May that resulted in violent clashes with police.<sup>3</sup> AMP leaders have also addressed students at several campus demonstrations.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> See *Where Protesters on U.S. Campuses Have Been Arrested or Detained*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (July 22, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/us/pro-palestinian-college-protests-encampments.html>; Erin Ailworth, et al, *Hundreds of Protesters Arrested as Universities Blame Outsiders for Escalating Violence*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (May 2, 2024), <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/columbia-ucla-college-protests-police-25418aa5>.

<sup>2</sup> While AMP describes AJP as its “fiscal sponsor,” the Attorney General of Virginia describes AMP and AJP, a “public nonprofit with its headquarters located in Falls Church, Virginia,” as the same organization. *About AMP*, AMERICAN MUSLIMS FOR PALESTINE, <https://www.ampalastine.org/about-amp> (last visited June 4, 2024). See Press Release, Attorney General of Virginia, Attorney General’s Office Opens Investigation Into American Muslims for Palestine Nonprofit (Oct. 31, 2023), <https://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/2630-october-31-2023-attorney-general-office-opens-investigation-into-american-muslims-for-palestine-nonprofit>.

<sup>3</sup> X Post, SJP at UCLA (May 2, 2024), <https://x.com/SJPatUCLA/status/1785910423252021349>. See Michael Starr, *UCLA anti-Israel activists brace for confrontation with police*, THE JERUSALEM POST (May 2, 2024), <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-799547>.

<sup>4</sup> *The sources of the pro-Palestinian demonstrations*, FOX NEWS (May 11, 2024), <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6352755454112>; *Who’s really behind Students for Justice in Palestine*, FOX NEWS (Apr. 23, 2024), <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6351492889112>; Hannan Adely, *Rutgers lifts suspension of*

As you know, the Biden Administration failed to hold these groups accountable for their role in campus displays of antisemitism. Through its Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism, the Trump Administration has put the country on the right path by taking critical steps to address “anti-Semitic harassment in schools and on college campuses.”<sup>5</sup> The U.S. Department of Education (DeptEd) has also announced that sixty colleges and universities “are presently under investigation for Title VI violations relating to antisemitic harassment and discrimination.”<sup>6</sup> I write to urge you to continue this important work and to ensure that university administrators remain apprised of threats posed by outside groups to student safety on their campuses. Activity that threatens the safety of others is not constitutionally protected free speech, and conduct that violates campus rules should not be tolerated.

AMP’s alleged ties to Hamas, which the U.S. Department of State has designated as a “Foreign Terrorist Organization,” are extensive.<sup>7</sup> According to past congressional testimony by Jonathan Schanzer, the Executive Director at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, AMP is allegedly associated with the following individuals who are tied to Hamas or Hamas-linked groups:

- **Jamal Said:** “[A] regular keynote speaker at AMP fundraisers” and head of the Mosque Foundation, which sponsors AMP conferences. He also raised money for the Holy Land Foundation (HLF), a now-shuttered charity founded by Hamas’s Deputy Director, Mousa Abu Marzook. The HLF was shut down by the U.S. government after it “sent approximately \$12.4 million outside of the United States with the intent to willfully contribute funds, goods, and services to Hamas.”<sup>8</sup>
- **Kifah Mustafa:** “[A] speaker at AMP’s conferences and events.” He also raised funds for the HLF.<sup>9</sup>

---

*chapter of the Students for Justice in Palestine. Here’s why*, NORTHJERSEY.COM (Jan. 17, 2024), <https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/education/2024/01/17/rutgers-students-for-justice-in-palestine-reinstated-heres-why/72247736007/>; Martin Weil and Susan Svrluga, *GWU suspends group over projection of pro-Palestinian slogans*, THE WASHINGTON POST (Nov. 15, 2023), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/11/14/gwu-images-palestinian-students-for-justice/>; Nick Robertson, *Columbia suspends Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace*, THE HILL (Nov. 10, 2023), <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/4304627-columbia-suspends-student-group-palestine-jewish-israel-hamas/>; Jericho Tran, *Brandeis University Bans pro-Palestinian student group*, NBC10 BOSTON (Nov. 7, 2023), <https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/brandeis-university-bans-pro-palestinian-student-group/3183990/>.

<sup>5</sup> Press Release, Justice Department Announces Formation of Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism (Feb. 3, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-formation-task-force-combat-anti-semitism>

<sup>6</sup> Press Release, “U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Sends Letters to 60 Universities Under Investigation for Antisemitic Discrimination and Harassment” (March 10, 2025), <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-educations-office-civil-rights-sends-letters-60-universities-under-investigation-antisemitic-discrimination-and-harassment>.

<sup>7</sup> *Foreign Terrorist Organizations*, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/> (last visited June 5, 2024).

<sup>8</sup> *From Ivory Towers to Dark Corners: Investigating the Nexus Between Antisemitism, Tax-Exempt Universities, and Terror Financing*, Hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee, 118<sup>th</sup> Congress (2023) (statement of Dr. Jonathan Schanzer), <https://gop-waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Schanzer-Testimony.pdf> at 5-6.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 6.

- **Salah Sarsour:** An AMP board member and Director of AJP who advertises and fundraises for AMP conferences. He also raised funds for the HLF and reportedly sent funds to Adel Awadallah, a Hamas military leader.<sup>10</sup>
- **Mohammed El-Mezain:** One of the speakers at a 2023 event sponsored by AMP. He was also a leader of the HLF.<sup>11</sup>
- **Rafeeq Jaber:** Prepared tax forms for AJP. He previously served as President of the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), an organization that was “founded with startup money from Hamas leader Mousa Abu Marzook” and that provided “media, communications, and fundraising services” to the HLF.<sup>12</sup>
- **Abdelbaset Hamayel:** Listed on a public Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990 as the individual “who possesses the [AJP’s] books and records,” and described on social media in 2014 as AMP’s executive director. He previously served as “secretary general” of the IAP, as well as a representative for KindHearts, a now-shuttered charity connected to HLF and IAP whose assets were temporarily frozen by the U.S. Treasury before it closed under the conditions of a settlement agreement with the U.S. government. Kindhearts’ founder, Khaled Smaili, reportedly worked for Global Relief Foundation, which the U.S. Treasury sanctioned in 2002 for funding al-Qaeda.<sup>13</sup>
- **Sufian Nabhan:** A former member of AMP’s National Board. He previously served as “Michigan representative” for the IAP.<sup>14</sup>
- **Osama Abuirshaid:** The current executive director of AMP. He previously “worked as the editor of IAP’s newspaper, Al-Zaytounah,” “has . . . published interviews that highlight his communications with Hamas leader Abu Marzook and other Hamas leaders in Gaza . . . [and] in 2014 . . . was featured on the website of Hamas’s self-declared military wing, the al-Qassam Brigades.”<sup>15</sup>
- **Hatem Bazian:** The Chairman of AMP. He was “a frequent speaker at IAP events” and “helped raise money for Kindhearts in 2004.”<sup>16</sup>

AMP has also been actively involved in organizing college students. It has worked for more than a decade to support SJP campus groups which, according to reports, have been actively involved in campus demonstrations. Although Hatem Bazian has denied preparing the founding documents for SJP,<sup>17</sup> reports show that AMP has been heavily involved in SJP’s development. As far back as 2010, AMP provided trainings to more than a hundred students from “a few dozen universities” and called its reported SJP initiative a “Signature Project.”<sup>18</sup> An undated post archived in 2016

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at 7-8.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 8, 11.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* at 8.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at 9.

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* at 11.

<sup>17</sup> Will Carless and Romina Ruiz-Goiriena, *Amid campus protests, organizers with past ties to Hamas support also emerge*, USA TODAY (May 22, 2024), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2024/05/22/gaza-student-protests-american-muslims-for-palestine/73775372007/>.

<sup>18</sup> *AMP Seeks to Coordinate Student Anti-Israel Activity*, ADL.ORG (Dec. 21, 2010), <https://www.adl.org/resources/news/amp-seeks-coordinate-student-anti-israel-activity>. See also *Profile: American Muslims for Palestine*, ADL.ORG (Mar. 29, 2013), <https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/american-muslims-for-palestine-2013-03-29-v1.pdf>; *AMP Campus Coordinator meets with new SJP chapters*, AMP (Mar. 24, 2012), <https://www.ampalestine.org/media/media-room/news/amp-campus-coordinator-meets-new-sjp-chapters>.

noted that AMP dedicated “a large portion of its budget to support student activism on college campuses” and offered “free materials, information, speakers, infrastructure like the apartheid wall, and grants to help ensure [campus groups had] the best chance possible of achieving [their] goals.”<sup>19</sup>

These efforts are ongoing. In January 2023, AMP helped to organize an SJP conference at Rutgers, and, in February 2023, AMP was involved in a National Students for Justice in Palestine (National SJP) Conference at UCLA.<sup>20</sup> According to an AMP blog post, the conference “hosted hundreds of students from across the United States. Workshops and speeches were organized and led by AMP from UC Berkeley to Harvard to the University of Minnesota to Butler, with the intent to contribute to the future generation leading the path towards liberation.”<sup>21</sup> In addition, the blog post states that “AMP has been actively engaged in supporting student-led on-campus organizing for Palestine” and “sponsored student-led delegations to Palestine from four major universities including Harvard, Georgetown, University of Michigan, and Tufts” that involved “[h]undreds of students.”<sup>22</sup>

AMP leaders also engaged with college students during anti-Israel campus demonstrations last year. According to press reports, AMP Executive Director Osama Abuirshaid addressed students at Columbia University and George Washington University. Hatem Bazian addressed students at UC Berkeley, where he teaches, and at the University of Pennsylvania.<sup>23</sup> Taher Herzallah, AMP’s Director of Outreach and Grassroots Organizing, addressed students at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, where he also teaches.<sup>24</sup> These campuses have become sites for a combined total of approximately 300 arrests and detentions.<sup>25</sup> In addition, UCLA, where AMP helped to organize the National SJP conference, has been the site of more than 200 arrests or detentions.<sup>26</sup> Importantly, since October 7, 2023, a growing number of universities have banned or temporarily suspended SJP chapters from operating on their campuses.

AMP’s close ties with campus SJP groups raise serious questions about AMP’s involvement in planning, organizing, and funding campus demonstrations that have posed significant threats to campus safety. While college campuses should welcome free speech and the free exchange of

---

<sup>19</sup> *Campus Activism Resources*, AMP (Sept. 8, 2023), <https://web.archive.org/web/20160524225435/http://www.ampalestine.org/index.php/component/content/article/9-projects-a-events/595-campus-activism-resources>.

<sup>20</sup> *Student Activism for Palestine is The Pride of Our Movement*, AMP (Mar. 31, 2023), <https://www.ampalestine.org/media/blog/student-activism-palestine-pride-our-movement>.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> Will Carless and Romina Ruiz-Goirena, *Amid campus protests, organizers with past ties to Hamas support also emerge*, USA TODAY (May 22, 2024), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2024/05/22/gaza-student-protests-american-muslims-for-palestine/73775372007/>; Susan Snyder and Beatrice Forman, *Penn weighs risk of removing encampment, saying it ‘is causing fear for many’*, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (May 6, 2024), <https://www.inquirer.com/education/upenn-statement-campus-protests-encampments-20240506.html>.

<sup>24</sup> Will Carless and Romina Ruiz-Goirena, *Amid campus protests, organizers with past ties to Hamas support also emerge*, USA TODAY (May 22, 2024), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2024/05/22/gaza-student-protests-american-muslims-for-palestine/73775372007/>.

<sup>25</sup> *Where Protesters on U.S. Campuses Have Been Arrested or Detained*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (July 22, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/us/pro-palestinian-college-protests-encampments.html>.

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

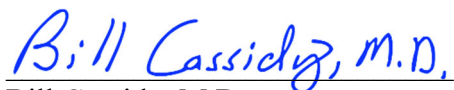
ideas, they should not be havens for terrorist organizations to exert influence or instigate conflict for their own political purposes.

Again, I appreciate the Trump Administration's attention to this important matter, and urge the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to ensure that the information you share with school officials includes information on threats to campus safety posed by outside groups with ties to Hamas, including AMP and AJP. I also ask that you respond to the following, on a question-by-question basis, no later than April 9, 2025.

1. Please explain what the DOJ and FBI are currently doing to investigate and address threats posed by outside groups to safety on college campuses.
2. Please explain what the DOJ and FBI are doing to coordinate with DeptEd to ensure it has the information it needs to complete its investigations of antisemitic harassment and discrimination.
3. Please explain the steps the DOJ and FBI are currently taking to ensure that colleges and universities are fully apprised of threats to campus safety.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Chairman

U.S. Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor, and Pensions