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JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE RELEASES FIRST-EVER REPORT ON THE USE OF FALSE CHARGES OF ANTI-SEMITISM TO LIMIT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM ON CAMPUS

Report details a pattern of activities intended to silence criticism of Israel on campus

September 30, 2015 - A new report, *Stifling Dissent: How Israel's Defenders Use False Charges of Anti-Semitism to Limit the Debate over Israel on Campus*, released today by [Jewish Voice for Peace](#), documents efforts by Israel advocacy organizations to intervene in the debate over Israeli policies on campuses.

The report profiles a pattern of activities including blacklists, intimidation, legal threats, and false accusations of anti-Semitism as part of a larger strategy to silence legitimate political critique and maintain support for Israel.

Jewish Voice for Peace is a national grassroots organization inspired by Jewish tradition to work for a just and lasting peace according to principles of human rights, equality, and international law for all the people of Israel and Palestine. Years of experience working with students and faculty, have revealed a pattern of activities by Israel advocacy groups to silence speech on campuses and marginalize Jewish students and faculty who advocate for Palestinian rights on campuses.

Israel advocacy organizations often claim to be acting in the best interests of Jewish students. However, this report includes several case studies that outline how they Israel advocacy organizations bully and intimidate Jewish students who do not pass their political litmus test on Israel.

Drawing on case studies over the last several years, the report documents the following tactics:

- misusing charges of anti-Semitism to apply it to criticism of Israel,
- intimidating faculty and students through blacklists and letters to administrators,
- enforcing the boundaries of political debate both in and outside Jewish campus spaces,
- intervening in campus politics, including directing external funds to pro-Israel student government candidates,
- pursuing legal action against student activists.

The report also details other efforts designed to intimidate, including Hillel International's enforcement of its 'Standards of Partnership,' Title IV complaints, and efforts to codify criticism of the state of Israel as anti-Semitic.

"Activism for Palestinian rights does not inherently threaten Jewish identity, and political use of the charge of anti-Semitism threatens to void the term of any meaning at all," said Tallie Ben Daniel, JVP Academic Advisory Council Coordinator. ***"By filing complaints with the federal government that campuses are 'hostile environments' for Jewish students, Israel-aligned groups conflate some Jewish students' emotional discomfort with physical safety and targeted harassment."***

Melanie Malinas describes the ostracism she experienced as a Jewish student in support of divestment from companies that profit from Israel's occupation of the West Bank as an undergraduate at Oberlin College and as a graduate student at Stanford University:

"I do not feel comfortable expressing my political opinions at Hillel or, for that matter, at most Jewish community events. Hillels and other young adult Jewish communities do not align with my values, so I largely do not participate in them. Rather than be a welcoming home for Jewish life on campuses, Hillel has become a political advocacy group opposing a movement for freedom and equality for Palestinians."

The report recommends that campus administrators strive to create an open campus climate that is inclusive of all student perspectives, including Palestinian, Muslim, Arab American, and progressive Jewish students, by avoiding policies that conflate the state of Israel with Judaism or the Jewish people.

Jewish Voice for Peace's report was released in conjunction with a groundbreaking report by [Palestine Legal](#) and the [Center for Constitutional Rights](#), *"The Palestine Exception to Free Speech: A Movement Under Attack in the US,"* that documents tactics being used across the country to silence Palestinian human rights advocacy, undermining both First Amendment rights and democratic principles.

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Jewish Voice for Peace (www.jvp.org) is a national, grassroots organization inspired by Jewish tradition to work for a just and lasting peace according to principles of human rights, equality, and international law for all the people of Israel and Palestine. Jewish Voice for Peace has over 200,000 online supporters, over 60 chapters, a youth wing, a Rabbinic Council, an Artist Council, an Academic Advisory Council, and an Advisory Board made up of leading U.S. intellectuals and artists.