Yeshiva University
Office of the President

My Dear Friends,

As the flagship Jewish university, Yeshiva University proudly supports Israel and its right to exist as central to our core values. In that spirit, we made a recent decision to cancel a student-scheduled guest speaker at Cardozo Law School, Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi. Dr. Abdulhadi is a professor who has supported violence by inviting students to meet with terrorists and even praised those who hijacked planes and held innocent civilians as hostages.

Dr. Abdulhadi has tweeted photos of terrorists with guns in support of the PLO and invited Leila Khaled, a longtime leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), to her university. In a Facebook post dated August 2020, Prof. Abdulhadi wrote: "I can't express how honored I am/we are to be hosting revolutionary Palestinian militant and feminist icon, Leila Khaled. I wanted to grow up to become another Leila Khaled." One month later, Dr. Abdulhadi was reported by the Bay Area local newspaper XPRESS to have said: "We really idolize somebody like Leila Khaled, somebody who actually stands up for herself, speaks for herself, actually goes to a plane and hijacks it."

While I know that our students were well intentioned, all people of good conscience must stand against hate. Spirited debate about government policy and actions cannot descend into advocacy of violence. The current anti-Semitic vitriol on college campuses today that so often uses anti-Israel rhetoric will find no home or harbor at *this* university.

Let's build a better world together.

Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman
President, Yeshiva University

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