



March 26, 2024

President Santa J. Ono  
3190 Ruthven Building  
1109 Geddes Ave  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079

Dear President Ono:

We are writing to express deep concern in response to two troubling incidents reported to ADL within the last 72 hours. These episodes are just the latest in a string of unanswered incidents of antisemitism on the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus, with Jewish students and faculty feeling harassed, threatened and fearful for their safety and wellbeing.

Reports from the Honors Convocation at Hill Auditorium Sunday are appalling. It is astonishing that hundreds of students and their parents were prevented from being honored and celebrated because of disturbances caused by anti-Israel hatred. Since you were there – and had to curtail your *own* remarks – you obviously understand the significance of the disturbance. We are trying to understand why the University appears to have allowed the demonstrators to shut down the event rather than having security remove those disrupting the event from the premises.

Even more troubling is the Instagram posted late last week by Michigan student Salma Hamamy stating, *“Until my last breath I will utter death to every single individual who supports the Zionist state. Death and more. Death and worse.”* Clearly, your Administration understands the severity of these threats as according to the email the Vice Provost for University Life sent on the evening of March 24, the University “increased security patrols on and around campus” in response to this threat. Yet it appears that no further action has been taken, and Ms. Hamamy is still part of the campus community. We assure you that calling for the death of Jews does not “depend on the context.”

Unfortunately, these two incidents are not outliers. Over the past few months, students on campus – in some instances led by SAFE UMich – have stormed the administration building, run for student government on platforms of intense anti-Zionism, and disrupted classes by marching through the Ross Business School multiple times. And those are just a few examples of very public behavior. We have not even discussed the personal attacks aimed at Jewish students themselves.

We appreciate the statements that you and others in the Administration have made over the past few months in solidarity with the Jewish community and in defense of civility. However, leadership requires action, not just words. Students who harass, intimidate, and threaten Jewish students – or any students – must be held accountable for their violation of university policies and/or the law.

We call on you to:

- 1) Take immediate action to hold accountable students on campus who have violated University of Michigan's code of conduct or other applicable laws, including in connection with the disruption of the Honors Convocation.
- 2) Issue a clear plan for how the University will make sure that Commencement will not be disturbed, and if it is, the protesters will not take over the proceedings.

We understand that students are afforded a degree of confidentiality around discipline matters. We ask that you balance that with the need for the Jewish community and others to know that intimidation, harassment, and threats will not be tolerated at the University and the resulting deterrent effect.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, and are at your service, if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Greenblatt  
CEO and National Director  
ADL



Carolyn Normandin  
Regional Director  
ADL Michigan

cc: Jordan B. Acker, Michael J. Behm, Mark J. Bernstein, Paul W. Brown, Sarah Hubbard, Denise Illitch, Ron Weiser, Katherine E. White