

May 2, 2024

Press Conference: CAIR-Chicago Reacts to University Encampments and Recent Antisemitism Bill

Transcript:

Ahmed: Good morning, everyone
and Peace Be Upon You all.

Ahmed: My name is Ahmed Rehab.

Ahmed: A-h-m-e-d; R-e-h-a-b. I'm the
Executive Director of the Council on

Ahmed: American-Islamic Relations in Chicago,

Ahmed: known as CAIR-Chicago, the largest civil
rights organization for the Muslim community

Ahmed: here in the United States. This is
one of the largest and most active chapters.

Ahmed: I am here today, with my friends
here, a Jewish student from Northwestern

Ahmed: University and a Palestinian
student, to discuss two things.

Ahmed: One is our reactions as CAIR-Chicago.

Ahmed: And they will speak for themselves and their groups as well.

Ahmed: Regarding the encampments, the student encampment movement and the student

Ahmed: protests, on campuses in Chicago and around the country.

Ahmed: And two, is the new antisemitism bill, H.R.

Ahmed: 6090, that was passed by Congress yesterday and is expected to pass

Ahmed: the Senate. In terms of the encampments CAIR-Chicago stands

Ahmed: in solidarity with these brave and courageous students in Chicago and around the

Ahmed: country, in their peaceful, nonviolent movement for peace

Ahmed: and justice for Palestinians and everyone.

Ahmed: And we consider them
to be filling a moral void

Ahmed: that has been left by
cowardly and stuttering leadership

Ahmed: by our elected officials.

Ahmed: These young people are the true
leaders in this country in this moment.

Ahmed: While those who have been tasked with
leadership by virtue of being elected into

Ahmed: office... that responsibility
and have turned their back on

Ahmed: the American people on morality and
humanity for special interests lobby groups.

Ahmed: Case in point is this ridiculous

Ahmed: bill that has been proposed
and has passed in Congress, 300+

Ahmed: to 91, that is the Antisemitism Awareness

Ahmed: Act. This bill stipulates that
The Department of Education Civil

Ahmed: Rights Office must use the
Illinois Holocaust Remembrance

Ahmed: Ally's definition of antisemitism,
which is highly problematic.

Ahmed: It basically conflates Judaism
and the Jewish people with Zionism

Ahmed: and Zionists, people of
faith in a culture with a foreign

Ahmed: government, of a
foreign state, and its actions.

Ahmed: In terms of the encampments and
the student protests, it's important to

Ahmed: understand this is a
peaceful, nonviolent protest

Ahmed: that is not unlike the
American pastime of similar

Ahmed: protests that we saw
against the apartheid situation

Ahmed: in South Africa, that we saw
against the Vietnam War in 1968.

Ahmed: This is exactly the spirit
in which this is happening,

Ahmed: and it is not antisemitic in any way.

Ahmed: And all claims otherwise
are meant solely to chill and to

Ahmed: question the legitimacy
of these free voices.

Ahmed: As a matter of fact, as
apparent as the sun is outside,

Ahmed: Jewish students are not only
involved in these movements, but are leaders

Ahmed: in these movements. And next to me here, Paz from the university, from

Ahmed: Northwestern University JVP (Jewish Voice for Peace) is not only someone who was

Ahmed: involved in the encampment, but was a leader in organizing these encampments,

Ahmed: along with Lucas, a Palestinian student there, and others.

Ahmed: They've held seders, Passover celebrations in the encampments.

Ahmed: They've even had Israelis who have come to support the encampments. Israelis

Ahmed: who are against what is happening, against the government, against Netanyahu,

Ahmed: and against the policy of apartheid, murder, mass murder and dispossession and

Ahmed: displacement of the Palestinians-that is what they're standing up against.

Ahmed: It's not standing up against Jewish people, or the existence of Jewish people, or

Ahmed: the fact that someone is Jewish. They're Jewish themselves, many of them.

Ahmed: That is preposterous to claim, and it is only meant to chill and to delegitimize

Ahmed: a very legitimate, valid and wonderful movement.

Ahmed: Quite frankly, the only violence we have seen has been violence against encampments,

Ahmed: whether by pro-Israeli mobs at UCLA, as was widely reported, or

Ahmed: by the police who come in a militarized fashion to attack these encampments.

Ahmed: As we saw in Columbia, at Columbia University in New York and Arizona,

Ahmed: University of Arizona,

and in other places as well.

Ahmed: But they have stood to their principles of nonviolence and peace, using

Ahmed: their voice as Americans should, their free voice in a free assembly to speak

Ahmed: out against what is happening and fill that moral void.

Ahmed: We call on the presidents of these universities and their administrations

Ahmed: to lay off these students, to not allow the doxing of these students.

Ahmed: To not militarize the policing of these students, or to in any

Ahmed: way seek vengeance against them, through the grades

Ahmed: or through their presence as students and their journey towards graduation.

Ahmed: To not retaliate against their
free expression of their moral conscience.

Ahmed: This is a movement of
conscience. And as far as the bill,

I'll close with this then I'll turn you to

Ahmed: my colleagues, again,
it's important to mention that

Ahmed: this bill is unconstitutional, prima facie

Ahmed: unconstitutional. There
is a clause in the Constitution,

Ahmed: 18 U.S.C. 241.

Ahmed: Conspiracy against rights.
Section 241 makes it unlawful for two

Ahmed: or more persons to agree to injure,
threaten, or intimidate a person in the United

Ahmed: States in the free exercise
or enjoyment of any right or

Ahmed: privilege secured by the Constitution-

Ahmed: this includes freedom of speech
and freedom of assembly-or laws of the

United States or because of his or
her having exercised such a right.

Ahmed: So it is insane for me to see
that the Congress of the United States is

Ahmed: the body that is legislating a
law, a bill that flies against the spirit

Ahmed: of the founding of this country and
the letter of its law for its constitution

Ahmed: that we stand with as
a civil rights organization.

Ahmed: We've often been accused post 9/11,
as Muslims, of being a threat to this

Ahmed: country by the Islamophobic
cottage industry, because

Ahmed: we cannot mesh with its freedoms. "They hate us for our freedoms".

Ahmed: George W. Bush once said. We love this country for its freedoms.

Ahmed: A lot of us and our parents and grandparents moved out of other countries because

Ahmed: of the lack of similar freedoms.

Ahmed: Here in the United States, we're not only for these freedoms, we're leading right now

Ahmed: the fight for these freedoms.

Ahmed: And in fact, I'll say quite unapologetically and clearly, the threat

Ahmed: to these rights are coming from the Zionist lobby in the United States.

Ahmed: That is the lobby that fears freedom, that wants to censor,

Ahmed: silence, dox, intimidate,
bully in order to not allow the truth

Ahmed: to come out. They're not interested
in debates because they have no moral,

Ahmed: righteous or logical
arguments to counter the arguments

Ahmed: of those who are for
human rights and civil rights.

Ahmed: This is for peace. This is
not a nationalist movement, okay?

Ahmed: Jews who live in historical
Palestine are not the problem.

Ahmed: It is the systems of
oppression that is the problem.

Ahmed: Freedom from the river to
the sea is not freedom of Jews.

Ahmed: It's not dump them into the sea. It's

freedom from the two tiered systems.

Three tier, fourth tier, fifth tier-

Ahmed: Palestinians are fifth rate citizens

Ahmed: in Israel proper.

Ahmed: There is no proper one state
solution and even the two state solution

Ahmed: you look at the territories, these
territories are subjected to humiliation

Ahmed: daily at checkpoints. Their
lands are taken through land grabs.

Ahmed: The violent settlers are trained and
encouraged by the IDF, which is a formal,

Ahmed: element of the Israeli occupation.

Ahmed: And now there's death and destruction
at massive levels by this Zionist regime.

Ahmed: That is what freedom is from,
from oppression, not from the Jewish.

Ahmed: And here in the United States, we stand shoulder to shoulder with our Jewish

Ahmed: brothers and sisters who stand against this Zionist, violent Zionist oppression.

Ahmed: And I'll close also by saying this: this office is squarely

Ahmed: opposed to real and actual antisemitism.

Ahmed: And our track record is quite clear.

Ahmed: And that to us means hating Jews for being Jewish

Ahmed: and dehumanizing Jews as a result of their being Jewish, born

Ahmed: Jewish, or choosing Jewish. Just as Islamophobia is the same.

Ahmed: Hating Muslims for being Muslim, choosing to be Muslim- it isn't critiquing

Ahmed: a Jew's actions that's not antisemitic or a Muslim's actions

Ahmed: that's not Islamophobic. It's not Islamophobic to critique Hamas.

Ahmed: It's not Islamophobic to critique Iran or the policies of that country or

Ahmed: Hezbollah. It's also not antisemitic and never will be to critique a foreign

Ahmed: government that is genocidal in the moment.

Ahmed: Mass graves have just been unearthed at hospitals in Gaza that this government

Ahmed: created. That's not antisemitic to point out, it never will be.

Ahmed: So we stand squarely against this law.

Ahmed: And [stand] with the student protests

in Chicago and around the country. I now invite to the

Ahmed: podium, Paz, who is a Jewish student at Northwestern University and

Ahmed: the Jewish Voices for Peace, and one of the organizers of the encampment

Ahmed: that has led a seder at the encampment at Northwestern.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): Thank you for that introduction. As he said, my name is

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): Paz. I'm a Northwestern student and I'm member of

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): Northwestern's chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, as well

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): as an organizer at the encampment that we've had over the

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): past week.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): It is extremely important for me and my faith to separate

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer):

my Judaism from Zionism.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): This encampment,

my actions at this encampment were informed and

Paz (NU JVP Student

Organizer): driven by my faith.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer):

I was raised with the-

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): I was raised

to learn that a core tenet of Judaism is

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): enabling

oppressed people to rise up against oppression.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): My

own grandparents were...my own great-

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): grandparents

were displaced from their land in Eastern

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer):

Europe in the pogroms

simply because of their Judaism.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): And that is what drives me to this work, because I have

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): now had to bear witness to the Palestinian people being

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): murdered and displaced simply because they are

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): Palestinian. That is why it's so, so important to me to

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): be a part of this encampment and to call on Northwestern

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): and universities around the country to disclose and divest from the

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): Israeli war machine.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): I would

also like this opportunity to push back upon

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): claims
of antisemitism within our encampment.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): I and
other Jewish students at Northwestern were

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): organizers
of this encampment...lead several

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): religious
ceremonies including a seder during this time of

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): Passover,
a holiday that celebrates enslaved people

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): rising up
against their oppressor. And we were given the

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer):
opportunity to celebrate our faith in this

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): space. This
encampment is the time at Northwestern during

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): which I have
felt the most connected to and supported in my

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): faith
at Northwestern because it has given me

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): the
space to be both Jewish and anti-Zionist.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): And that is
vital for me in order to be in my religion

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer):
as a person and as a student.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): In addition,
the bill that the House of Representatives

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): passed
is extremely harmful to myself and other

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer):
Jews around the world.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): When
my Jewishness is conflated with a

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): government that is committing genocide and apartheid, it

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): is dangerous for all Jewish people, because at

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): that point, our faith is connected to

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): an extremely harmful government and military.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): That is why it is important to me to

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): have spaces to celebrate both my...to celebrate my Judaism

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): as it relates to Palestinian

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): liberation. None of us are safe until all of us are safe.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): And that is

why I believe, as a Jewish person, in a free

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer):

and safe world for all.

Paz (NU JVP Student Organizer): Thank you.

Ahmed: Thank you, Paz. I want to emphasize something she said, which I hear from a lot

Ahmed: of Jewish leaders in these movements. That they're not involved despite

Ahmed: their Judaism. They're involved because of it and through it.

Ahmed: These are the values that they were taught religiously and culturally by their

Ahmed: families and their spaces.

Ahmed: And this cannot be erased. Just as the Palestinian realities are erased and replaced

Ahmed: with the Zionist allegations, free of fact check. Essentially the line that

Ahmed: this is, you know, these encampments
are antisemitic, are Netanyahu's

Ahmed: lines, and they're being echoed
in American media without appropriate

Ahmed: vetting, while the voices on the
ground and the facts on the ground show

Ahmed: otherwise. I'll say one more
thing, and I'll turn it over to Lucas.

Ahmed: It's quite ironic that
the Zionist lobby presided

Ahmed: over the push for this
ridiculous bill through Congress.

Ahmed: Would do so and then essentially
then legislate through Congress

Ahmed: that to say that they have
power over Congress is illegal.

Ahmed: Quite ironic that they would pass

a law exhibiting this power over Congress

Ahmed: to say that, to note that they exhibit this power over Congress is

Ahmed: hitherto illegal.

Ahmed: I'll turn it now to Lucas, a Palestinian student at Northwestern University

Ahmed: and a member of the Middle East and North African club there, and also an

Ahmed: organizer of the encampments.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

Thank you for that introduction. Good

morning,
everyone.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): My name is Lucas, I am a Northwestern student and

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): organizer. And it is true that I am

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
Palestinian, but another part of my identity

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
that is extremely important to me is, my

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
father's side, which are Ashkenazi Jews, and

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
many of them are practicing Jews.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
So like Paz, I grew up in a family of

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
practicing Jews that stressed the same values.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
In terms of my Palestinian family, I saw the

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc.
Organizer): same values there as well.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): My

grandmother was born in Haifa, which is in

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
Palestine, and in 1948, Zionist paramilitaries

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
forced her and her family out of the country.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
And she has never been able to return since.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
Speaking in terms of the encampment, I would

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
like to echo everything that Paz said, I think

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
you explained it very well. So thank you for

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): that.
On a personal note in my experience, I have

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc.
Organizer): not been practicing.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc.
Organizer): It's been a long time

since I practiced the
Jewish

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc.
Organizer): ceremonies with

my families, the Passover Seder, the

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
Sabbath. And to be in the encampment, to be

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
around so many wonderful, practicing Jews with

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
Jewish Voices for Peace to be included, in

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
those ceremonies that truly meant the world to

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): me.
And it actually made me feel more connected

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
with my Jewish identity. So I would also like

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
to strongly refute any claims that there was

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc.
Organizer): any antisemitism

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
at the Northwestern encampment. If anything,

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
as I said, the encampment made me personally

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
feel closer to my Jewish faith.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
The only time when I saw virulent and I

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): mean
virulent, antisemitism on display, was at the

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
counter-protest where people showed up, from

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): the community, almost majority non Northwestern

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): students. They

stormed onto Northwestern's Deering Lawn

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): and they screamed things at our

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): Jewish students who were inside the encampment.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): Things like "you're not a real Jew"

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): "They would be ashamed of you".

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): Like "you're sick". All kinds of horrible slurs

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): that I would never say and could not say on

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
television. And that's not mentioning, all the

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): horrible
things that were said to our people of color,

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc.
Organizer): our Arabs, our Palestinians.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
This protest was actually attended by the

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
Hillel Executive Director of Northwestern,

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
Michael Simon. And this was, I stress, this was

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
the only time that I saw antisemitism on

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
display coming from an outside source, targeting

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

these students of our encampment.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

In regards to, the new antisemitism law

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

that was passed, by Congress, I am extremely

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc.

Organizer): disappointed in our nation.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

But unfortunately, I cannot say that I'm

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

surprised, although I've only, you know, been

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

on this earth for a few short years, and I'm

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

just an undergraduate student, in my lifetime,

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): I have

seen probably the strongest repression of any

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
free speech or critique toward the Israeli

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
government. It has long been the case in the

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
United States that it is actually illegal.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): It
is against the law to support the Boycott,

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
Divest, Sanction movement from Israel.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): Which
the Boycott, Divestment, Sanction was the movement

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): that
was used to dismantle the apartheid in South

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
Africa. It is now being applied to the

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
apartheid state of Israel, and it is illegal in

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): the United States and has been for some time to

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): call to Boycott, Divest or Sanction, Israeli

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): companies or corporations or the government.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): This is a clear violation of free speech.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): Israel has been long been an exception to the

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): free speech rule in this country.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): Unfortunately, which is the result of the

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): Israeli lobby groups paying our congresspeople

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): not

to represent us, but to provide protections

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
and enable the Israeli government in the new,

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
the new bill has just been introduced and

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
passed by Congress has only doubled down, on

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc.
Organizer): this sentiment.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
No other country in the entire world, is

legally... no other country in the entire

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
world are we, as American citizens for whom

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
free speech is a defining value of our

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

democracy. For no other country in the world

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

are we prohibited from critiquing the

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

government of that country. Not the people, not

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

the religious identities of that country, but

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

the actual government. And let me be clear:

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

All of this, every single thing, the news

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): reports

you see that critique the encampments, that

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): claim

that they're like a cesspool of antisemitism,

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): and

this law, all of it is to distract from the

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
genocide that is actually going on in Gaza.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
Since October, 30,000 innocent men, women, and

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
children have been slaughtered.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
Homes, entire homes have been raised.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
There is not a single university.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
There's not an education system in Gaza. That

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
has all been destroyed. Over 10,500 children

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
have been murdered in the encampment.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
There was a woman, a Palestinian woman from

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

Gaza, who spoke, and she had a sign with

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

every member of her family who has died since

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

October. That sign was filled on both

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

sides, and on that list were hundreds of names

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): of

people who had been slaughtered, hundreds of

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

children, women, men of all ages,

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): of

all ages. And that is what's important here.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

That's what we are fighting for. As students

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

from this university. We are fighting for the

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
disclosure of investments toward Israel, toward

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc.
Organizer): the war profiteering system,

toward the
apartheid,

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
toward the occupation, which we have secured a

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
promise from the university that they will make
those disclosures.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
The next step is full divestments from those

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
companies. We refuse as students to be

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):

complicit in our government and our

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
institutions and our universities that are not

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
only actively supporting this genocide, but

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
they are profiting from it, and we will not be

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
done there. We as students with a moral code

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): will
not rest. We will not stop until Palestine

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
has been liberated, until the people of

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
Palestine are treated equally to Israeli

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc.
Organizer): citizens, to non-Arab people.

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer): We
will not rest until that equality and liberation,

Lucas (NU MENA Student Assoc. Organizer):
until that has been achieved. Thank you.

Ahmed: You know, in conclusion, I
have to say again, express my pride

Ahmed: in these young voices.
With voices like these,

Ahmed: this country might stand a chance
in its future. With current leadership

Ahmed: it doesn't look very good.

Ahmed: I'll conclude by
saying that those who know me,

Ahmed: know that I'm a fan of Jewish resilience.

Ahmed: If you study history,
you know what I'm talking about.

Ahmed: And talent and creativity. Innovation.

Ahmed: I'm a fan of Palestinian
resilience and their moral courage

Ahmed: that is unmatched in the world today.

Ahmed: This is not a conflict between Jews
and Muslims or Israelis and Palestinians even.

Ahmed: This is truly a conflict
between those who want to live

Ahmed: together in peace and recognize
their common humanity and live as equals,

Ahmed: and live through justice as well as peace.

Ahmed: And those who want to intimidate and
bully and dox, essentially those who prescribe

Ahmed: to extremist supremacist ideologies,

Ahmed: whether it is antisemitism or Zionism.

Ahmed: And there's no question for those
who understand what Zionism truly is, and

Ahmed: what it has done, that it is
a supremacist ideology that states

Ahmed: that by virtue of your bloodline
and bloodline alone, you are...

Ahmed: you have the privilege of certain
citizenship. You have the privilege of certain

Ahmed: rights and laws. And if you lack
that bloodline, you're *bleep* out of luck.

Ahmed: Even if you're born in that land, even if you're ancestrally related to that land

Ahmed: through generations, you got to leave.
Others who've never been here for centuries,

Ahmed: for millennia, they
can claim this bloodline.

Ahmed: They come and take your place. That
is the definition of a supremacist ideology.

Ahmed: This is not liberation for anyone.

Ahmed: So let's just be very clear about these lines and what this conflict is about,

Ahmed: where this encampment stand and where this law stands.

Ahmed: This antisemitism between quotes law, actual antisemitism we're against,

Ahmed: but differing from the critique of these supremacist ideologies and their lobby groups and their governments.

Ahmed: It's absolutely not antisemitic. This is chilling

Ahmed: the American free speech and freedom of assembly and all so-called red blooded

Ahmed: American, patriots, need to stand up against this attack on our freedoms.

Ahmed: Thank you very much. And I bid you well.