NATIONAL JEWISH ADVOCACY CENTER
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October 26, 2026

VIA EMAIL (monitor@columbiamonitor.org; resolutionadministrator@columbia.edu)

Charles J. Cooper, Esq.
Resolution Monitor
Cooper & Kirk, PLLC

Jim Glover
Vice Provost and Resolution Administrator
Columbia University in the City of New York

Re: Report of potential noncompliance under Paragraph 33 of the Resolution Agreement; Paragraphs 12, 28, 29 and 32; October 27, 2026 event hosted by the Center for Palestine Studies and the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism

Dear Mr. Cooper and Mr. Glover:

The National Jewish Advocacy Center submits this report on behalf of [redacted] a faculty member of Columbia University and a member of the Columbia community within the meaning of Paragraph 33 of the Resolution Agreement between the United States of America and Columbia University dated July 23, 2025.[1] Complainant is entitled to the protections of Paragraph 32 and of the University's Non-Retaliation Policy, and we ask that both be confirmed in writing.

Four weeks after Columbia certified to you that its Paragraph 12 review of the Center for Palestine Studies was in progress and that it applies University policy without regard to ideology, the Center under review is presenting a University-hosted, University-secured, in-person evening with the former lead negotiator and spokesman of the one organization the University has pledged never to engage, a man the University itself denied campus access on public-safety grounds eleven months ago and who is now suing the University to lift that bar. This report asks you to find out how that happened and to recommend what should happen next.

The event. The Center for Palestine Studies, a unit of the Middle East Institute, and the Li Center at the Journalism School are presenting "No Land to Stand On," an evening with Mahmoud Khalil

[1]Columbia University, Semi-Annual Report, Columbia University Resolution Agreement (Oct. 1, 2026), at 47–48 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶¶ 32–33), https://www.columbia.edu/content/sites/www.columbia.edu.content/files/content/RA/Columbia-University-Resolution-Agreement-Semi-Annual-Report-October-2026.pdf; Columbia University, "Federal Resolution Agreement" (reporting page naming Charles J. Cooper as Resolution Monitor and Jim Glover as Resolution Administrator), https://www.columbia.edu/content/federal-resolution-agreement.

in conversation with the Center's co-director, Nadia Abu El-Haj, introduced by the Li Center's director, Azmat Khan, on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, from 6:10 to 8:00 p.m.. Attendance is limited to CUID holders with advance registration, bags are checked at the door, refreshments are served, and a book signing follows. The Center's description of the program, hosted on a columbia.edu domain, characterizes the United States government as a "lawless regime."[2]

The policy. On July 15, 2025, under the heading "Affirmation of Zero Tolerance," the University pledged that it has not recognized or met with, and will not recognize or meet with, the group calling itself Columbia University Apartheid Divest, its representatives, or its affiliates, and that organizations that promote violence or encourage disruption of the academic mission are unwelcome on campus and will not be engaged.[3] On March 1, 2026, the University reaffirmed the policy and noted that it had required every recognized student group to acknowledge and comply with it as a condition of recognition, funding and campus space.[4]

The representative. Mr. Khalil was CUAD's lead negotiator and public spokesman during the April 2024 encampment; when the University negotiated with CUAD, it negotiated with him.[5] According to published reporting of his immigration proceedings, an immigration judge found in September 2025 that he deliberately omitted his CUAD affiliation, among other information, from his application for permanent residence; the Board of Immigration Appeals affirmed in April 2026.[6]

The University's prior determination. In November 2025, following a public safety review, the University declined to let Mr. Khalil appear in person at Pulitzer Hall and recommended a different campus venue so that facilities and public safety staff could support the event; the organizers put him on Zoom. The same month the University denied his campus-access request to address a

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[2]Center for Palestine Studies, Columbia University, "No Land to Stand On," https://palestine.mei.columbia.edu/events-fall-2026/no-land-to-stand-on (accessed Oct. 26, 2026).

[3]Claire Shipman, Acting President, "Our Additional Commitments to Combatting Antisemitism," Office of the President, Columbia University (July 15, 2025), https://president.columbia.edu/news/our-additional-commitments-combatting-antisemitism; "Affirmation of Zero Tolerance," https://president.columbia.edu/content/affirmation-zero-tolerance.

[4]Office of Public Affairs, Columbia University, "University Reaffirms Zero Tolerance for Unaffiliated Group 'CUAD'" (Mar. 1, 2026), https://communications.news.columbia.edu/news/university-reaffirms-zero-tolerance-unaffiliated-group-cuad.

[5]Associated Press, "How Columbia University activist Mahmoud Khalil became a Trump administration symbol of campus protests" (republished at https://www.yahoo.com/news/columbia-university-activist-mahmoud-khalil-080000624.html); The Intercept, "Columbia Apologized to Mahmoud Khalil in May 2024 for One-Day Suspension" (Mar. 19, 2025), https://theintercept.com/2025/03/19/columbia-mahmoud-khalil-suspension-gaza-protests.

[6]NBC News (via Yahoo), "Immigration judge orders Mahmoud Khalil deported to Syria or Algeria," https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/immigration-judge-orders-mahmoud-khalil-210714430.html; Jerusalem Post, "Columbia University denies campus access to activist Mahmoud Khalil over safety concerns" (Nov. 25, 2025), https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-875187 (reporting the government's allegation that he failed to disclose his CUAD and UNRWA affiliations); Associated Press (via Townhall), "Palestinian Activist Takes His Deportation Case to the Supreme Court" (Oct. 20, 2026), https://townhall.com/news/jeff-charles/2026/10/20/palestinian-activist-takes-his-deportation-case-to-the-supreme-court-n2684981 (BIA ruled against him in April 2026).

School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) class, citing its ability to manage facilities and public safety, and he was denied a guest pass on November 5.[7] On September 14, 2026, he and the SIPA Palestine Working Group sued the University, its Trustees and the SIPA dean in the Southern District of New York, seeking among other relief restoration of his campus access; the University's stated basis for the denial remains public safety.[8]

Paragraph 12. The Agreement commits the Senior Vice Provost to a thorough review of regional programs beginning with the Middle East, expressly including the Center for Palestine Studies and the Middle East Institute, covering the educational offerings and "all aspects of leadership and curriculum," to ensure the offerings are comprehensive and balanced. The University's October 1, 2026 report describes that review as "In Progress," and its account of the review runs to new social-science courses, cross-registration, and visiting and permanent faculty searches.[9] The report says nothing about the programming of the Center under review. The Center's own fall calendar fills the gap: the October 27 evening sits between an October 12 program with Rashid Khalidi and a November 9 program on "Genocide in Gaza."[10] The Center's co-director is the October 27 interlocutor. Whether a review of "all aspects of leadership" that has not noticed any of this is a review at all is a question for the Monitor.

Paragraph 28. The Agreement requires Columbia to apply University rules and policies "without regard to identity or ideology."[11] The Affirmation of Zero Tolerance is a University policy; the University says so, and it has enforced the policy against recognized student groups as a condition of recognition. A University center and a University school are now hosting CUAD's former lead negotiator and spokesman, an engagement for which a recognized student group would risk its recognition, funding and campus space. The Paragraph 28 question is whether the policy binds by rule or by rank.

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[7] Jerusalem Post, "Columbia University denies campus access to activist Mahmoud Khalil over safety concerns" (Nov. 25, 2025), https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-875187 (quoting Columbia Public Affairs and reporting the Columbia Daily Spectator's account of the November 5 guest-pass denial).

[8] Inside Higher Ed, "Khalil Accuses Columbia of Discrimination in New Lawsuit" (Sept. 15, 2026), https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/free-speech/2026/09/15/khalil-accuses-columbia-discrimination-new-lawsuit; PBS NewsHour/Associated Press (Sept. 14, 2026), https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/mahmoud-khalil-lawsuit-says-columbia-university-failed-to-protect-pro-palestinian-activists; Reuters (via Al-Monitor) (Sept. 14, 2026), https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2026/09/mahmoud-khalil-sues-columbia-alleged-failure-protect-pro-palestinian-students. Complaint, *Khalil v. Columbia Univ. in the City of N.Y.*, No. 1:26-cv-07977 (S.D.N.Y. filed Sept. 14, 2026).

[9] Semi-Annual Report, supra note 1, at 2, 8–10 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶ 12 and reporting its status as "In Progress").

[10] Center for Palestine Studies, Fall 2026 events calendar, https://palestine.mei.columbia.edu/events-fall-2026 (listing, among others, the October 12 program with Rashid Khalidi and the November 9 program "From Disability Justice to Decolonization: Delayed-Death, Disabled Life, and Genocide in Gaza").

[11] Semi-Annual Report, supra note 1, at 40 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶ 28).

Paragraph 29. The Agreement requires even implementation of the University's Title VI policies.[12] In November 2025 the University determined that Mr. Khalil's in-person presence on campus raised public-safety concerns serious enough to deny him a guest pass and to decline to host him in person at Pulitzer Hall. In October 2026 a University center is hosting him in person. Either the determination has been rescinded, in which case the community is entitled to know by whom and on what review, or it has not, in which case the event proceeds in defiance of it.

To be clear, the Agreement gives neither the United States nor the Monitor authority over the content of academic speech, and Complainant does not ask you to pass judgment on Mr. Khalil's book. The question here is institutional consistency, which is precisely what Paragraphs 28 and 29 govern and what Paragraph 12 was written to review.

Complainant respectfully requests that the Monitor:

1. Request from the University the November 2025 public safety review or reviews concerning Mr. Khalil; any rescission of the resulting determination; the approval chain for the October 27 event across the Center for Palestine Studies, the Middle East Institute, the Li Center, the Journalism School, University Events, Public Safety, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of the President; and any communications with either presenting unit concerning the event and the Affirmation of Zero Tolerance.
2. Ask the Senior Vice Provost whether the Paragraph 12 review encompasses the programming of the units under review and, if it does, to account for the October 27 event and the Center's fall 2026 calendar in the review's next recommendations; if it does not, to explain why the October 1 report is silent on the point.
3. Recommend that the University apply the Affirmation of Zero Tolerance to University centers, institutes and schools on the same terms on which it applies that policy to recognized student groups, and state that application in writing.
4. Address this report in the Monitor's next assessment, and require the University to address it in its April 2027 semi-annual report.
5. Confirm in writing that Complainant's identity will not be shared with the University absent consent, and that the protections of Paragraph 32 apply.

The University's October 1 report opens by crediting its reforms with a marked decline in allegations of discrimination.[13] Columbia wrote the policy, reported its compliance, and scheduled the event. The Monitor exists for the gap between the second and the third.

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[12] Semi-Annual Report, supra note 1, at 41 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶ 29).

[13] Semi-Annual Report, supra note 1, at 4 (Executive Summary).

NJAC National Jewish Advocacy Center

Sincerely,

Mark Goldfeder
CEO, National Jewish Advocacy Center
Law Professor, Touro Law School

[redacted]