NJAC National Jewish Advocacy Center

NATIONAL JEWISH ADVOCACY CENTER
1954 Airport Road, #1196, Atlanta, GA 30341 · (332) 278-1100 · mark@njaclaw.org

October 26, 2026

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division
Leo Terrell, Esq.
Chair, Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Resolution Agreement between the United States of America and Columbia University (July 23, 2025); request that the United States invoke the Agreement's notice provisions as to Paragraphs 12, 28 and 29

Dear Assistant Attorney General Dhillon and Mr. Terrell:

Columbia University agreed to pay $200 million and accepted a three-year monitorship to resolve the United States' claims against it, and in exchange it promised, among other things, to review the Center for Palestine Studies for balance and to apply its own policies without regard to ideology.[1] Tomorrow evening that Center will host, in a University facility, with University security at the door, the former lead spokesman of the organization Columbia has pledged never to engage, and the man Columbia denied campus access on public-safety grounds last November. The National Jewish Advocacy Center asks the United States to invoke the Agreement's notice provisions and find out how.

No one asks the Department to police a book talk. The Agreement disclaims any authority over the content of academic speech, and this letter claims none. It concerns the terms Columbia accepted about how it applies its own policies, and whether the compliance certification Columbia delivered to its Monitor on October 1, 2026, is accurate.

The facts are short. The Center for Palestine Studies, a unit of the Middle East Institute, and the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism are presenting "No Land to Stand On," an evening with Mahmoud Khalil in conversation with the Center's co-director, on October 27, 2026, limited to CUID holders, with bags checked at the door, refreshments, and a book signing; the Center's

[1] Columbia University, Semi-Annual Report, Columbia University Resolution Agreement (Oct. 1, 2026), at 2, 8–10 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶ 12 and reporting its status as "In Progress"), https://www.columbia.edu/content/sites/www.columbia.edu.content/files/content/RA/Columbia-University-Resolution-Agreement-Semi-Annual-Report-October-2026.pdf.

page, on a columbia.edu domain, describes the United States government as a lawless regime.[2] On July 15, 2025, Columbia pledged in writing that it has not recognized or met with, and will not recognize or meet with, Columbia University Apartheid Divest ("CUAD"), its representatives, or its affiliates, and reaffirmed that pledge on March 1, 2026, after conditioning every recognized student group's existence on it.[3][4] Mr. Khalil was CUAD's lead negotiator and public spokesman during the April 2024 encampment.[5] According to published reporting of his immigration proceedings, an immigration judge found in September 2025 that he deliberately omitted his CUAD affiliation from his application for permanent residence, and the Board of Immigration Appeals affirmed in April 2026.[6] In November 2025, after a public safety review, Columbia declined to let him appear in person at Pulitzer Hall, denied his campus-access request to address a School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) class on facilities and public-safety grounds, and denied him a guest pass.[7] On September 14, 2026, he sued Columbia in the Southern District of New York seeking, among other relief, restoration of his campus access; Columbia's stated basis for the denial remains public safety.[8]

Three paragraphs of the Agreement are implicated. Paragraph 12 commits the Senior Vice Provost to a thorough review of the Center for Palestine Studies and the Middle East Institute, including

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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).

[7]Jerusalem Post, *supra* note 6 (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).

all aspects of leadership and curriculum, to ensure comprehensive and balanced offerings; Columbia reported that review as in progress on October 1, described new courses and faculty searches, and said nothing about the programming of the Center under review.[9] Paragraph 28 requires Columbia to apply University rules and policies "without regard to identity or ideology."[10] The zero-tolerance pledge is a University policy, enforced against student groups as a condition of recognition and now disregarded by a University center and a University school. Paragraph 29 requires even implementation of Columbia's Title VI policies.[11] A public-safety determination that keeps a man off campus in November and admits him to a University building as the featured guest in October is many things, but it is not even.

Columbia has told its own community that only the United States can trigger the Agreement's enforcement machinery: if the government has a compliance concern, Columbia says, it must give notice and an opportunity to cure before the dispute-resolution process begins.[12] We take Columbia at its word. We are asking the United States to give that notice.

Specifically, the National Jewish Advocacy Center requests that the Department:

1. Provide notice to Columbia under the Agreement's notice provisions concerning Paragraphs 12, 28 and 29, as applied to the October 27, 2026 event and to the programming of the units under Paragraph 12 review.

2. Request that the Resolution Monitor review the matters set out in the enclosed Paragraph 33 report and obtain the documents identified there, including the November 2025 public safety review, any rescission of the resulting determination, and the approval chain for the October 27 event.

3. Require Columbia to state whether its Paragraph 12 review encompasses the programming of the Center for Palestine Studies and the Middle East Institute, and to account for the omission of that programming from its October 1, 2026 report.

4. Require Columbia to state in writing whether its Affirmation of Zero Tolerance applies to University centers, institutes and schools on the same terms on which it applies to recognized student groups.

Enclosed are our letter of today's date to President Mnookin and the University's leadership, and the Paragraph 33 report submitted to the Monitor and the Resolution Administrator. Columbia

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[9] Semi-Annual Report, *supra* note 1, at 8–10 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶ 12).

[10] Id. at 40 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶ 28).

[11] Id. at 41 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶ 29).

[12] Columbia University, "Resolution Agreement Frequently Asked Questions," https://www.columbia.edu/content/resolution-agreement-frequently-asked-questions (stating that if the government has a compliance concern it must give notice and an opportunity to cure before the agreement's dispute-resolution process).

negotiated for a monitor instead of a court. The United States negotiated for compliance. Tomorrow evening will show whether either side received what it bargained for.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures: Letter to Columbia University (Oct. 26, 2026); Paragraph 33 Report (Oct. 26, 2026)
cc: The Secretary of Education; the Secretary of Health and Human Services (signatories to the Agreement)
The Honorable Tim Walberg, Chairman, Committee on Education and Workforce, U.S. House of Representatives
Charles J. Cooper, Esq., Resolution Monitor

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October 26, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Jennifer L. Mnookin, President
Angela Olinto, Provost
Office of the General Counsel
Jim Glover, Vice Provost and Resolution Administrator
Title VI Coordinator, Office of Institutional Equity
Michelle Greenberg-Kobrin, Special Advisor and Jewish Life Liaison
David Greenwald and Jeh Johnson, Co-Chairs, Board of Trustees
Columbia University in the City of New York
535 West 116th Street
New York, NY 10027

Re: October 27, 2026 University-hosted event with Mahmoud Khalil; Columbia's Affirmation of Zero Tolerance; Resolution Agreement ¶¶ 12, 28, 29 and 33

Dear President Mnookin, Provost Olinto, and colleagues:

Tomorrow evening, two units of Columbia University will host, at a University facility, with University security at the door and University refreshments inside, the man Columbia barred from campus on public-safety grounds eleven months ago, a bar he is now suing the University to lift, and the most visible representative of the one organization Columbia has pledged in writing never to engage. This letter does not ask Columbia to silence an author or cancel a book. It asks Columbia to apply its own commitments to its own units, and to say on the record which of two incompatible positions it holds.

The facts are Columbia's. The Center for Palestine Studies, a unit of the Middle East Institute, and the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism at the Journalism School are presenting "No Land to Stand On," an evening with Mahmoud Khalil 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. The Center's own page, on a columbia.edu domain, restricts attendance to CUID holders, requires bags to be checked at the door, promises light refreshments and a book signing, and describes the government of the United States as "a lawless regime shredding basic rights."[1]

The commitment is also Columbia's. On July 15, 2025, under the heading "Affirmation of Zero Tolerance," the University announced that it "has not, and will not, recognize or meet with" the

[1] 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).

group calling itself Columbia University Apartheid Divest, its representatives, or any affiliated organization, and that organizations which promote violence or encourage disruption of the academic mission are unwelcome on Columbia's campuses and will not be engaged.[2] On March 1, 2026, the University reaffirmed that policy, noted that it had conditioned every recognized student group's continued recognition, funding and space on compliance with it, and said that it stands by it.[3]

Mr. Khalil was CUAD's lead negotiator and public spokesman during the April 2024 encampment; he was the person the University dealt with when it dealt with CUAD.[4] 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, and the Board of Immigration Appeals affirmed that ruling in April 2026.[5] If he is not a CUAD representative within the meaning of Columbia's pledge, the word has no referent.

Here is what Columbia has already decided about Mr. Khalil's presence on campus, in Columbia's own words and conduct. In November 2025, after a public safety review, the University declined to let him appear in person at Pulitzer Hall for a film screenning and recommended a different campus venue so that facilities and public safety staff could support thee event and limit disruption; the organizers put him on Zoom instead. The same month, the University denied his campus-access request to address a SIPA class, citing its ability to manage facilities and public safety on campus, and permitted only virtual participation. On November 5, 2025, he was denied a guest pass.[6] On

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[2]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.

[3]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.

[4]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.

[5]Marlene Lenthang & Chloe Atkins, "Immigration judge orders Mahmoud Khalil to be deported to Algeria or Syria," NBC News (Sept. 17, 2025), https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/immigration-judge-orders-mahmoud-khalil-deported-algeria-syria-rcna232049 (quoting the immigration judge's finding that he "willfully misrepresented material fact(s)"); NPR, "Mahmoud Khalil ordered deported, but there's a long legal fight ahead" (Sept. 18, 2025), https://www.npr.org/2025/09/18/nx-s1-5545637/mahmoud-khalil-ordered-deported-but-theres-a-long-legal-fight-ahead (omitted information included his UNRWA work and his involvement in a pro-Palestinian activist group at Columbia); Columbia Daily Spectator, "Board of Immigration Appeals denies Khalil's appeal to deportation order, issues 'final' administrative removal order" (Apr. 9, 2026), https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2026/04/09/board-of-immigration-appeals-denies-khalils-appeal-to-deportation-order-issues-final-administrative-removal-order/.

[6]Office of Public Affairs, Columbia University, "Correcting Misinformation" (Nov. 20, 2025), https://communications.news.columbia.edu/news/correcting-misinformation; Jerusalem Post, "Columbia University denies campus access to activist Mahmoud Khalil over safety concerns" (Nov. 25, 2025),

September 14, 2026, Mr. Khalil and the SIPA Palestine Working Group sued the University, its Trustees and the SIPA dean in the Southern District of New York; the relief they seek includes restoration of his campus access, and the University's stated basis for the denial remains public safety.[7]

That leaves Columbia holding two positions at once. Either the public-safety determination underlying the November 2025 denials was sound, in which case a University center has scheduled a reckless event in a University building with the University's own officers at the door, or it was not sound, in which case Columbia owes its community the explanation it will soon owe a federal judge. Columbia cannot be both the defendant that cannot safely admit Mr. Khalil and the host that serves him refreshments. Which is it?

To be clear, an alumnus with a book is entitled to publish it, and a bookstore across Broadway hosted him on October 11 without any involvement of the University.[8] But Columbia did not promise zero tolerance for bookstores. It promised, to its own community and in the shadow of its agreement with the United States, that it would not engage CUAD or its representatives, and it has enforced that promise against every recognized student group as a condition of existence. A Center and a School are now doing what a student group would be defunded for doing. Run the substitution test: had the coalition's demands targeted any other protected group, no University center would be hosting its chief spokesman fifteen months after the University's pledge, and no one would be calling the objection censorship.

The Resolution Agreement turns this from a programming dispute into a compliance question. Paragraph 12 commits the Senior Vice Provost to a thorough review of the Center for Palestine Studies and the Middle East Institute, including "all aspects of leadership and curriculum," to ensure comprehensive and balanced offerings; the University reported that review as "In Progress" on October 1, 2026.[9] The Center's co-director is tomorrow's interlocutor. Paragraph 28 obligates

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https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-875187 (quoting Columbia Public Affairs); Emily Pickering, "Columbia denies Mahmoud Khalil, SIPA '24, campus access for planned events, citing security reasons," Columbia Daily Spectator (Nov. 20, 2025) (November 5 guest-pass denial).

[7]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).

[8]Columbia Daily Spectator, "'This change happens at Columbia': Mahmoud Khalil, SIPA '24, discusses his new memoir 'No Land to Stand On' at Book Culture" (Oct. 11, 2026), https://www.columbiaspectator.com/arts-and-culture/2026/10/11/this-change-happens-at-columbia-mahmoud-khalil-sipa-24-discusses-his-new-memoir-no-land-to-stand-on-at-book-culture/.

[9]Columbia University, Semi-Annual Report, Columbia University Resolution Agreement (Oct. 1, 2026), at 2, 8–10 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶ 12 and reporting its status as "In Progress"), https://www.columbia.edu/content/sites/www.columbia.edu.content/files/content/RA/Columbia-University-Resolution-Agreement-Semi-Annual-Report-October-2026.pdf.

Columbia to apply University rules and policies "without regard to identity or ideology."[10] Paragraph 29 obligates even-handed implementation of the University's Title VI policies.[11] The University's October 1 report to the Monitor describes new economics courses and visiting appointments under Paragraph 12; it says nothing about the programming of the Center under review. Within four weeks of filing that report, the Center scheduled this event.

Accordingly, the National Jewish Advocacy Center requests the following:

1. By 12:00 p.m. on October 27, 2026, written confirmation of whether the University has rescinded the public-safety determination underlying its November 2025 denials of Mr. Khalil's campus access, and if so, who made that decision, when, and on what review. If no such rescission has occurred, the University should apply its November 2025 precedent and move the event off campus or to a virtual format.

2. A written statement of how University hosting of the event is consistent with the Affirmation of Zero Tolerance and with Paragraphs 12, 28 and 29 of the Resolution Agreement.

3. Preservation of all documents and communications concerning the event, including any public safety review, among the Center for Palestine Studies, the Middle East Institute, the Li Center, the Journalism School, Public Safety, University Events, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of the President.

4. Confirmation that the event, and the programming of both presenting units, has been referred to the Senior Vice Provost's Paragraph 12 review and to the Resolution Administrator.

We are copying the Resolution Monitor, and members of the Columbia community will be reporting this matter under Paragraph 33 of the Agreement, with the protections that Paragraph 32 guarantees them.[12] The pledge was Columbia's. So is the explanation.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Charles J. Cooper, Esq., Resolution Monitor

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[10] Id. at 40 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶ 28).

[11] Id. at 41 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶ 29).

[12] Id. at 47–48 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶¶ 32–33); 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.

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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.

[12] Semi-Annual Report, supra note 1, at 41 (reproducing Resolution Agreement ¶ 29).
[13] Semi-Annual Report, supra note 1, at 4 (Executive Summary).

Sincerely,

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