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Statement Regarding the Ongoing Protests at Columbia University

The First Amendment is broad, but it does not protect threatening physical violence, stalking, or harassment. According to an [open letter signed by Jewish students at Columbia](#), people unaffiliated with the University have glommed on to existing protests and exhibited all of these behaviors.

It is easy to dismiss others' experiences, and so while painful, I believe it is useful to list a few examples: someone held a sign calling Jewish students Al-Qasam's next targets; they have yelled at Jewish students in their dorms that "we know where you live now" and "you killed half our family"; they vowed to repeat the October 7th terrorist attack 10,000 more times; and in at least one case, someone was punched in the face.

I am horrified by outside agitators traveling to Columbia to use student protests as a pretense to spew their vile antisemitism. If any of the examples above (or similar actions) turn out to have been perpetrated by students, staff, or faculty, the behavior should also be labeled as antisemitic, condemned, and swiftly punished.

Universities have a proud tradition of campus activism; any students protesting peacefully without threatening, harassing, or intimidating others should not be suspended. Yet the actions detailed above do not fit within that tradition. All students are entitled to a safe campus, and I encourage the university to ensure that all of its students are protected.

Sincerely,

Alex Bores
Assemblymember, 73rd District