

President Sally Kornbluth
President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

President Kornbluth and Chair Gorenberg,

We, 607 MIT Alumni, Staff, and Students, are writing to express our deep concern, fear, and disappointment regarding the recent protest that took place Thursday afternoon, in front of the MIT Stratton Student Center. While we fully support the principles of free speech and the right to peaceful assembly, it is essential that we also prioritize the safety and well-being of all members of the MIT community.

During the protest, a particular slogan was prominently displayed and chanted, which has raised significant concerns. The slogan **"From the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea, Palestine will be free!"** has been a source of contention due to its potential implications and the real safety risks it poses to Jewish and Israeli students on campus [See video footage attached]. This slogan has been time and again associated with **calls for the destruction of the State of Israel** and has been used in contexts that promote violence, which raises legitimate concerns about the safety and security of our Jewish and Israeli students and staff.

Furthermore, we would like to draw your attention to recent events that demonstrate the potential dangers associated with this slogan. During the 2023 Israel-Hamas war, British Home Secretary Suella Braverman proposed criminalizing the use of the slogan in certain contexts, recognizing the potential harm it can cause. Additionally, on October 11, '23, Vienna police banned a demonstration, citing the inclusion of the phrase "from the river to the sea" in invitations, as it was seen as a portrayal of a violation of Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

In addition to the use of these derogatory messages, several attendees of the event used hateful wordings and messages towards Jewish and Israeli bystanders. In one case, a perpetrator aggressively held their bicycles as intended to harm a Jewish MIT student, stating that *"[your] ancestors did not die in the Holocaust so they could kill Palestinians"* [See video footage attached]. In another incident, protesters chanted **"one solution, intifada revolution"**. In the context of the on-going Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the word "Intifada" means the armed and violent Palestinian insurrection targeting Israelis, including civilians, which resulted in the killing of thousands of Israelis in the last few decades.

On Oct. 22nd, a statement by MIT CAA (Coalition Against Apartheid) came to our attention. In this document, MIT CCA states that they **"hold the Israeli regime responsible for all unfolding violence"**. They later call the October 7th terror attack a "response to the settler colonial regime", and continue justifying it throughout the document.

In this matter, MIT CAA is justifying the heinous and barbaric crimes committed on Oct 7th. Furthermore, these statements have the potential to fuel acts of aggression, hate speech, and ultimately, violence, as evidenced by incidents witnessed last week.

Consequently, we urgently implore MIT to take the following actions:

1. Cease all operations associated with individuals and organizations responsible for these statements on MIT grounds. The dissolution of the CAA is imperative, accompanied by appropriate disciplinary actions against its leadership.
2. Establish unequivocal rules and regulations to be enforced against perpetrators on campus, specifically phrases that are an open incitement of violence.
3. Heighten security and oversight at events, incorporating measures such as increased presence of MIT police and the implementation of both physical and technological measures.

We understand the importance of fostering an environment of free expression and diverse viewpoints on our campus. However, it is also our responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of our community. **We therefore request that MIT take this matter seriously and implement immediate measures to prevent the propagation of slogans, messages, and hateful acts that may threaten the safety of Jewish and Israeli students or any other group on campus. We request that any financial support by MIT to groups advocating terrorism is ceased.**

We appreciate your attention to this matter and hope that we can work together to address these concerns in a way that upholds MIT's commitment to both academic freedom and the safety of its diverse community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
607 MIT Alumni, Staff, and Students

Appendix

1. [Rally Video](#) - hundreds chanting "one solution, intifada revolution" and "from the river to the sea".
2. [Die in the Holocaust so they could kill Palestinians Video](#)
3. [CAA Statement](#) - as published on their official landing page.