

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2024

Dr. Minouche Shafik
President
Columbia University
202 Low Library
535 W. 116th St, Mail Code 4309
New York, NY 1002

President Shafik,

Over the past few days, anarchy has engulfed the campus of Columbia University. As the leader of this institution, one of your chief objectives, morally and under law, is to ensure students have a safe learning environment. By every measure, you have failed this obligation. The situation unfolding on campus right now is a direct product of your policies and misguided decisions. As Representatives from the State of New York, many of our constituents are directly impacted by the unfolding chaos on Columbia's campus. Based on these recent events and your testimony in front of Congress, we have no confidence in your leadership of this once esteemed institution.

Last week, while you testified in front of Congress claiming you were successfully working to address antisemitism and committed to enforcing protest policies, a large unauthorized antisemitic riot unfolded on campus as the 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment.' Despite implementing new rules to stop such unauthorized events and this illegal, antisemitic encampment clearly violating these rules, it was nearly two days before the New York Police Department (NYPD) was authorized to clear the encampment¹. Since then, the encampment has shockingly been allowed to reconvene, order has not been restored, and NYPD has not been allowed to return². The words in your testimony ring hollow and you have clearly failed to live up to any commitment of enforcement. This is made even more evident through your cover-up of the lack of punishment for pro-terror Professor Joseph Massad³.

This unsanctioned mob of students and agitators being permitted to continue to target Jewish students has led to several documented incidents of despicable antisemitic harassment and calls for violence and terrorism since your testimony about enforcing the consequences⁴. The situation

¹ <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/18/shafik-authorizes-nypd-to-sweep-gaza-solidarity-encampment-officers-in-riot-gear-arrest-over-100/>

² <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/296-24/mayor-adams-on-ongoing-protests-columbia-university>

³ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/stefanik-accuses-columbia-president-pro-terrorist-professor-cover-up-warns-potential-felony>

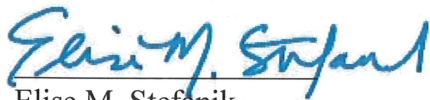
⁴ <https://www.foxnews.com/media/columbia-student-recounts-having-front-row-seat-madness-anti-israel-protests>

has posed such a danger to Jewish students that Rabbi Elie Buechler with the Orthodox Union Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus, messaged Orthodox Jewish students recommending they return home⁵.

The ongoing situation that has unfolded is a direct symptom of your continued lax enforcement of policy and clear double standards. Your failure to enforce the rules on campus has created an environment in which students and outside agitators know they are able to operate with impunity and without any accountability. While the rot is systemic, the responsibility rests squarely on your shoulders.

It is time for Columbia University to turn the page on this shameful chapter. This can only be done through the restoration of order and your prompt resignation. We, the undersigned members, urge you to step down immediately so that someone who will take action against this mob can step up to meet the moment this crisis demands.

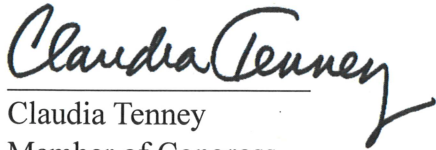
Sincerely,



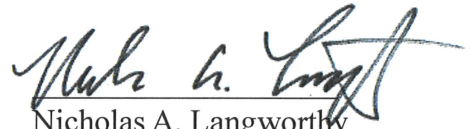
Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



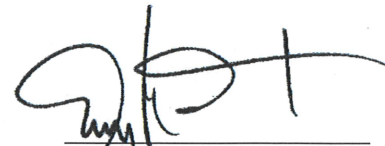
Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress



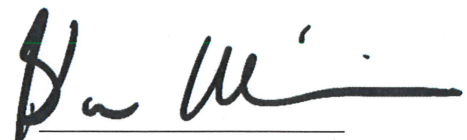
Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress



Brandon Williams
Member of Congress

⁵ <https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/21/us/columbia-university-jewish-students-protests/index.html>



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Marcus J. Molinaro
Member of Congress