

Professors Ernst and Tamari,

As I have indicated to both of you either live or in voice mails, over the past several days I have received a torrent of email from students, faculty and alumni of the School of Law expressing anger and dismay of the deepest kind at clear, anti-semitic programming that took place during the Center of Middle East and Islamic Studies' recent conference Conflict Over Gaza: People, Politics, and Possibilities. Despite conversations beginning on Tuesday of this week with Professor Tamari, I have received no explanation or context for, in particular, the "entertainment" portion of the conference that was displayed on the YouTube video with which you are both by now familiar.

The law school used scarce resources to sponsor this conference at your Center's request, with no knowledge of its content other than a statement in the sponsorship request email I received from Professor Tamari last September. The relevant portion of the email read:

I'm in the process of planning a conference titled "Conflict over Gaza: People, Politics, and Possibilities", which will be held on campus March 22-24, 2019. The purpose of the conference is to shed light on the current situation in Gaza in the areas of health, security, politics, economy, law and culture.

One of the panels will be focused on the freedom of movement of Gazans as they relate to Israeli, Egyptian, and international law. We are bringing Tania Hary from Israel, who runs Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement<<http://gisha.org/about/about-gisha>>. Gisha often deals with Israeli courts (including Israel's Supreme Court) in order to assist Gazans wishing to leave or enter Gaza.

Based solely on this language, indicating that the conference would include legal subject matter, I concluded it would be appropriate for the law school to assist as a sponsor. With no other conditions or stipulations, I trusted your Center to ensure that the content of this conference would be appropriate and would reflect well on the University and the units whose resources you sought. I am deeply disappointed in your breach of trust with innocent campus units who sought only to be good citizens and partners to the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies. Due to your inclusion of conference content over which I had no knowledge or control, I have been forced to spend most of the last two days responding to outraged members of my own community who are ashamed and embarrassed to see the law school shown as a sponsor of what they consider hate speech. I must repeat that I consider this situation to be a breach of trust.

As a result of this experience, I will be refusing all future sponsorship requests from other units on this campus. I have copied the deans of the other schools listed as sponsors on your website so that they are aware of my position going forward and my reasons for it. I have also asked Provost Blouin to place the question of campus sponsorships on the agenda for a future meeting of the Provost's Cabinet.

I believe your sponsors are owed an explanation and an apology for the Center's conduct. In any event, I hereby demand that you immediately remove the law school's name from the list of co-sponsors on your website,<http://gazaconference.web.unc.edu/co-sponsors/><<http://gazaconference.web.unc.edu/co-sponsors/>>. I am preparing a statement

for issuance later today repudiating the law school's connection to this conference and expressing regret at our support of it.

I also demand that the \$500 in sponsorship funds that the law school transferred to the UNC Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies be returned to the law school. If you are unable to return our funds, my finance office will seek to have the ledger entry reversed at the main campus level.

Martin H. Brinkley  
Dean and Arch T. Allen  
Distinguished Professor