

Defender la libertad académica en San Francisco State

Estimado Presidente Wong y junta directiva del CSU,

Los abajo firmantes queremos expresar nuestra oposición contra la difamación, intimidación, y asaltos contra la libertad académica que continúan llevándose a cabo contra académicos de la SFSU, los cuales han sido perpetuados por la organización de derecha sionista, The Lawfare Project. Este es sólo uno de los últimos episodios realizados por varias organizaciones sionistas contra la Profesora Abdulhadi y el programa de estudios árabes musulmanes y etnicidades diásporas en SF State (1). Nos complica la ausencia de una declaración pública clara por parte del Presidente Wong para ofrecer una defensa en base a principios de la Profesora Rabab Abdulhadi, la cual ha sido blanco de repetidos e injustos ataques, como también lo han sido el Colegio de Estudios Étnicos y el decano Kenneth Monteiro.

The Lawfare Project interpuso una demanda judicial contra SFSU en la corte federal el 19 de junio, 2017. (2) La demanda iguala las críticas hacia Israel y su negación de los derechos de los Palestinos con el anti semitismo, sobre esta base acusa a SFSU de violar los derechos constitucionales y civiles de los estudiantes y miembros de la comunidad universitaria que son judíos. La intención de esta demanda judicial es clara: silenciar a los investigadores y defensores de los derechos de los Palestinos y asegurarse de que sean castigados.

The Lawfare Project se describe a sí mismo como “el brazo legal de la comunidad pro-israel”. Su directora, Brooke Goldstein, ha aparecido en diversas ocasiones en Fox News y otros medios de comunicación haciendo comentarios explícitamente islamófobos, por ejemplo, desacreditando la palabra “islamofobia” como un “término inventado [que] ha sido propagado por la Hermandad Musulmana”. Ha desestimado la preocupación en torno al odio creciente contra los musulmanes como un “fenómeno peligroso”. (3) Incluso, ha negado la existencia de los Palestinos, declarando “Por qué estamos usando la palabra Palestino? No existe algo así como una persona Palestina”. (4) Yendo más lejos con esta agenda, el Lawfare Project también ha atacado a organizaciones de derechos humanos, incluyendo a Human Rights Watch y el Center for Constitutional Rights.

La demanda del Lawfare Project hace referencia a la protesta ocurrida en abril del 2016 realizada por estudiantes de SFSU con respecto a un evento de SF Hillel en el que presentaba el alcalde de Jerusalém Nir Barkat. Lo que ocasionaba la protesta era la historial de Barkat que incluía demoliciones de casas y racismo contra los Palestinos. (5) Cuando los estudiantes protestaron contra esta charla, SF Hillel transmitió declaraciones falsas de anti-semitismo y amenazas físicas no existentes contra estudiantes judíos. SFSU condujo su propia investigación sobre esto y determinó que estas acusaciones eran falsas.

Esta investigación independiente comisionada por el Presidente Wong y conducida por el Bufete de abogados Van Dermymdem Maddux sobre el “evento de abril” concluye qué:

“La protesta fue dirigida hacia el alcalde de Jerusalén en base a sus políticas, y no hacia ninguno de los miembros de la audiencia, basándose en las características protegidas de los miembros de la audiencia. La grabación apunta hacia la conclusión de que la atención, comentarios y conducta de quienes protestaban estaba dirigida hacia el alcalde. Estos resultados fueron apoyados por el hecho de que quienes protestaban dejaron el evento poco rato después de que el alcalde abandonara la habitación.”(6) Y más allá de esto “Mientras que algunos miembros de la audiencia se sintieron heridos, incluso asustados, por la protesta, en esta circunstancia específica no habían amenazas directas de violencia inminente que hubieran justificado de intervención policial, específicamente de arresto y remoción del área.”(7)

El reporte de SFSU encontró que mientras que la protesta fue disruptiva de la charla del Alcalde, la protesta no ocasionaba riesgos de seguridad y que estaba enfocada en el Alcalde debido a sus políticas racistas, y no hacia los estudiantes asistentes por su identidad judía.

La demanda legal falsamente acusa a la Profesora Abdulhadi de anti-semitismo y de tener conexiones con organizaciones terroristas, el Colegio de Estudios Étnicos (COES) ha sido objetivo de repetidas declaraciones dentro de la demanda legal; y SFSU es retratada como “el campus más anti semita de la nación.” Más allá de esto, la demanda legal calumnia la histórica huelga de 1968, que llevó a la creación del COES, como el comienzo de una cultura anti-semita en SFSU. Estas escandalosas e insultantes acusaciones demandan una clara, fuerte e inmediata respuesta que reivindique la reputación académica de la facultad de SFSU y el repudio del racismo implícito en ellas.

A pesar de esto, en vez de citar los resultados de las propias investigaciones de SFSU y de asegurar a la comunidad dentro del campus y el público general que las acusaciones dentro de la demanda legal son falsas, la declaración del Presidente Wong erróneamente concedía que la irrupción del evento del alcalde Barkat fue un “feo recordatorio” de que “el anti-semitismo ... es real y que nuestra comunidad tiene trabajo que hacer”. (8) Para ser perfectamente claros, no había nada anti-semita en la protesta que se encontraba dirigida en su totalidad contra las políticas racistas promovidas e implementadas por el Alcalde Barkat.

Volver equivalentes las críticas **al Estado** de Israel con anti-semitismo se ha vuelto la táctica estándar de las organizaciones sionistas, que buscan censurar la crítica al Estado de Israel. (9) La táctica en sí misma es fundamentalmente anti-semita porque asocia con el judaísmo una lista interminable de casos bien documentados de políticas racistas y de crímenes contra la humanidad cometidos por el estado de Israel, e ignora a los muchos judíos que activamente se oponen a esos crímenes. Más allá de la loable meta de luchar contra el verdadero anti-semitismo, esta demanda legal sirve los propósitos de propaganda del estado de Israel, teniendo como costo la libertad académica y los derechos constitucionalmente protegidos de los residentes de California.

Las universidades públicas tienen una responsabilidad particular de proteger la libertad académica y la libertad de expresión. La libertad académica permite a los profesores

conducir y diseminar investigación académica, diseñar cursos y enseñar a estudiantes en las áreas de su experticia, y de gozar de las protecciones que hace la Primera Enmienda al discurso extramural. Estas actividades son esenciales para cualquier institución que se haga llamar una universidad.

Instamos con vehemencia al Presidente Wong a apoyar y defender la libertad académica de la Profesora Rabab Abdulhadi y a los académicos de San Francisco State University, y a posicionarse públicamente contra las acusaciones falsas de organizaciones externas con agendas racistas. Demandamos que:

- 1) Se niegue a resolver esta demanda legal concediendo cualquiera de los ataques difamatorios que se han realizado contra académicos y estudiantes San Francisco State University, y que conduzca una defensa vigorosa y con principios contra este reclamo.
- 2) Defienda públicamente y sin ambigüedades la libertad académica y la reputación intelectual de nuestra colega Profesora Abdulhadi, haciendo una declaración pública que reivindique su nombre de los ataques viciosos y completamente infundados contra ella, y que al hacer esto protejan la integridad intelectual de SFSU;
- 3) Expresé de forma pública, clara y sin ambigüedades su apoyo moral y financiero hacia el programa de estudios AMED y al Colegio de Estudios Étnicos de SFSU, y que defienda su rol fundamental en la misión educativa de SFSU;

Esperamos una respuesta urgente para apoyar a nuestra colega,

Académicos y aliados de la comunidad en defensa de la Libertad Académica, Estudios Étnicos contra la Islamofobia

PRESIONE SIGUIENTE PARA FIRMAR

Recursos y referencias:

(1) Aquí podrá encontrar un breve resumen de la serie de intimidaciones, acoso y matonaje de la campaña de difamación de la Amcha en el 2016 hasta carteles del Horowitz Freedom Center que aparecieron en el campus en Octubre del 2016 y Mayo del 2017. https://www.launchgood.com/project/professor_rabab_abdulhadis_legal_fund#/

(2) Puede encontrar la demanda legal aquí: <http://thelawfareproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/SFSU-Federal-Complaint.pdf>

(3) Aquí hay un ejemplo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSPZhaSQkVA>

(4) <https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/israel-lawfare-group-plans-massive-punishments-activists>

(5) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_ayRyCkryU

(6)

<https://president.sfsu.edu/sites/default/files/Independent%20Review%20Regarding%20April%20Event.pdf>

(7)

<https://president.sfsu.edu/sites/default/files/Independent%20Review%20Regarding%20April%20Event.pdf>

(8) <https://news.sfsu.edu/announcements/san-francisco-state-university-statement-disputing-lawsuit-affirming-commitment>

(9) Una fuente útil sobre los peligros y la falta de base legal que tiene equiparar anti-semitismo y la crítica al Estado de Israel

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/548748b1e4b083fc03ebf70e/t/56e6ff0cf85082699ae245b1/1457979151629/FAQ+onDefinition+of+Anti-Semitism-3-9-15+newlogo.pdf>

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