



One Hundred Eighteenth Congress  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Director Wray:

We write to request information regarding any efforts by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to assist law enforcement and other partners against the surge of anti-Semitic, pro-Hamas mobs on college campuses. While we recognize that every American has the right to peacefully protest, individuals who endorse or espouse terrorist activity or support a terrorist organization are patently dangerous, and potentially criminal.<sup>1</sup>

Since October 7th, when Hamas terrorists carried out the horrific terrorist attacks against innocent Israelis and dozens of U.S. citizens, we have seen a troubling increase in pro-Hamas, anti-Israel mobs on college campuses throughout the United States. These mobs have threatened violence against Jewish students and the Jewish community, while also endorsing or espousing terrorist activity or support of a terrorist organization.<sup>2</sup> Reports indicate that law enforcement authorities have arrested nearly 1,000 people during these so-called “protests” nationwide.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 18 U.S.C. § 2332b prohibits acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries into the United States and 18 U.S.C. § 2339A prohibits providing material support to terrorists. The U.S. State Department designated HAMAS as a terrorist organization on October 8, 1997, *Foreign Terrorist Organizations*, U.S. DEP’T OF STATE, <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/> (last visited May 3, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> Isabel Keane, *Shocking video captures moment protester near Columbia University yells, ‘We’re all Hamas,’ ‘Long live Hamas’*, N.Y. POST (Apr. 18, 2024), <https://nypost.com/2024/04/18/us-news/columbia-universityprotester-yells-were-all-hamas-video/>; *Anti-Israel Protesters Glorify Terror Groups, Violence*, ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE (Apr. 26, 2024), <https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/anti-israel-protesters-glorify-terror-groups-violence>.

<sup>3</sup> Jake Offenhartz, et al., *Israel-Hamas war protesters and police clash on Texas campus, Columbia University begins suspensions*, AP NEWS (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinian-campus-student-protests-war-19ed919ff6ff9573a8add4ec67e26181>.

Despite receiving substantial federal funding under DHS' Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) grant program, many universities have failed to effectively respond to an increase in threats and acts of violence directed at Jewish students and the Jewish community. This includes, for instance, the Teachers College at Columbia University, who received \$820,332 in TVTP grant funding in fiscal year 2023, for the purposes of countering violent extremism.<sup>4</sup> Recently, a Jewish chaplain at Columbia University in New York recommended that Jewish students depart campus as a result of the university's failure to ensure their safety and security.<sup>5</sup> This security was imperiled last month when dozens of outside, professional agitators illegally took-over an academic building at the school.<sup>6</sup>

This past November, you both appeared before the Committee on Homeland Security and testified about increased security threats following Hamas' terrorist attack on October 7th. Secretary Mayorkas testified that DHS "is closely monitoring unfolding events and will continue to engage in information sharing with our homeland security partners at home and abroad."<sup>7</sup> He further stated that DHS, with its partners across the government, "will continue to help communities prepare for and respond to a range of public safety challenges and are working tirelessly on this mission, which has never been more important."<sup>8</sup> It is unclear, however, that DHS is taking sufficient steps to ensure the safety and security of the homeland.

Additionally, Director Wray testified that the FBI has observed a "rogue's gallery of foreign terrorist organizations' call for attacks on Americans and our allies," and how terrorist organizations are urging their followers to target Jewish communities in the United States and elsewhere.<sup>9</sup> We are especially concerned about the threat of a "lone wolf" actor attempting to commit a terrorist attack based on an ideology of hate against Jewish people. It is unclear from the Committee's oversight how the FBI is protecting the American people from these potential terrorist attacks by countering possible terrorist cells and operatives here in the homeland.

To assist the Committee in its oversight work, please provide the following documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2024:

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<sup>4</sup> USASPENDING.GOV, Department of Homeland Security Project Grant EMW-2023-GR-00137, [https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST\\_NON\\_EMW-2023-GR-00137\\_7022/](https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_EMW-2023-GR-00137_7022/).

<sup>5</sup> Celina Tebor, et al., *Columbia University faces full-blown crisis as rabbi calls for Jewish students to 'return home'*, CNN (Apr. 22, 2024), [https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/21/us/columbia-university-jewish-students-protests/index.html#:~:text=Underscoring%20concerns%20about%20student%20safety,Orthodox%20Jewish%20students%20%E2%80%9Cstrongly%E2%80%9D%20recommending;JorgeL.Ortiz,Antisemitismand'anarchy':RabbiurgesJewishstudents'toleaveColumbiafortheirsafety,USATODAY\(Apr.22,2024\),https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/04/21/columbia-rabbi-jewish-students-protest/73406502007/](https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/21/us/columbia-university-jewish-students-protests/index.html#:~:text=Underscoring%20concerns%20about%20student%20safety,Orthodox%20Jewish%20students%20%E2%80%9Cstrongly%E2%80%9D%20recommending;JorgeL.Ortiz,Antisemitismand'anarchy':RabbiurgesJewishstudents'toleaveColumbiafortheirsafety,USATODAY(Apr.22,2024),https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/04/21/columbia-rabbi-jewish-students-protest/73406502007/).

<sup>6</sup> Katherine Donlevy and Amanda Woods, *'Professional outside agitators' behind illegal takeover of Columbia University academic building: NYPD*, N.Y. POST (Apr. 30, 2024), <https://nypost.com/2024/04/30/us-news/professional-outside-agitators-behind-illegal-takeover-of-columbia-university-academic-building-nypd/>.

<sup>7</sup> *Worldwide Threats to the Homeland, Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Homeland Sec.*, 118th Cong. (2023) (statement of Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y., Dept. of Homeland Sec.).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* (statement of Christopher A. Wray, Dir., Fed. Bureau of Investigation).

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1. All documents and communications, including but not limited to, memoranda, intelligence bulletins, threat assessments, situational information reports, briefing materials, and requests for assistance, referring or relating to the anti-Semitic, pro-Hamas protests on college campuses, from October 7, 2023, to the present;
2. All documents and communications, between or among DHS and the FBI shared with state, local, and campus law enforcement agencies, referring or relating to anti-Semitic, pro-Hamas protests on college campuses, from October 7, 2023, to the present;
3. A document sufficient to explain whether any DHS or FBI employees communicated with any of the participants in the anti-Semitic, pro-Hamas protests on college campuses, including whether the FBI had any related undercover employees, online covert employees, or confidential human sources, from October 7, 2023, to the present; and
4. All applications, documents, and communications relating to Columbia University in the City of New York's request for financial assistance under the DHS TVTP grant program, or any other DHS grant program, from January 1, 2019, to the present.

An attachment contains instructions for responding to this request. To the extent a complete response to this inquiry requires the provision of classified information, please do so under separate cover. Please contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417 with any questions about this request.

Per Rule X of the U.S House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy, and has special oversight functions of "all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security."

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



MARK E. GREEN, MD  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security



AUGUST PFLUGER  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism,  
Law Enforcement, and Intelligence

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cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Seth Magaziner, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence