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March 27, 2014

Carlos Villareal, Esq.  
National Lawyers Guild  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
558 Capp Street  
San Francisco, California 94110

Dear Mr. Villareal:

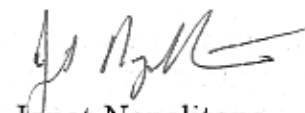
Thank you for your letter of February 21 expressing support of the principle of academic freedom at the University of California, particularly as to discussions of issues relating to Israel and Palestine, and concern about statements by the Amcha Initiative and StandWithUs.

The University is indeed deeply committed to allowing, and encouraging, the robust exchange of viewpoints and ideas that are so fundamental to our mission, and our approach to this area of discourse on our campuses is no exception. The First Amendment protects the rights of all community members to express their views, even if those views are highly offensive to others. In particular, this protection encompasses the full spectrum of views on issues relating to Israel and Palestine.

The University is equally committed to ensuring that its campuses are free of intimidation and harassment, and we will continue to take any such concerns seriously. The appropriate balancing of this interest, on the one hand, with our commitment to free speech and diversity of thought, on the other, is challenging but critical.

I appreciate your taking the time to write and share your views and those of the organizations on whose behalf you wrote.

Yours very truly,

  
Janet Napolitano  
President

cc: Provost Dorr  
Senior Vice President Dooley  
General Counsel Robinson  
Associate Vice President Juarez  
Secretary and Chief of Staff Kelman