

October 27, 2025

President Cynthia Teniente-Matson
Chancellor Mildred Garcia
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Vincent J. Del Casino Jr.
Governor Gavin Newsom
San José State University
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192

Urgent Call to Address Rising Anti-Muslim Rhetoric, Disinformation, and Potential for Escalation on Campus

Dear President Teniente-Matson and Provost Del Casino,

We are writing to you today as alumni and concerned members of the San José State University community, to urgently draw your attention to recent incidents involving current and former CSU employees. The rhetoric and unsubstantiated claims recently made in public forums are not only factually inaccurate but create a hostile environment that threatens the safety and well-being of our Muslim, Arab, and SWANA (Southwest Asian and North African) students, faculty, and community members.

We recently attended a public webinar - the hearing of professor Sang Kil, wherein a former SJSU professor named Linda Landau made the unfounded claim that pro-Palestine protestors were chanting antisemitic comments such as "kill the Jews." Along with roughly 75+ others, I was present during the protest and can unequivocally attest that no such comments were made. The protestors, including Jewish students and others, were focused on expressing our dissatisfaction at our Alma mater hosting the Zionist voice of CSU Long Beach professor and genocide denier, Jeffrey Blutinger.

We were also expressing solidarity with the Palestinian and American victims of Israel's 2-year genocidal campaign of indiscriminate killing of Gaza residents including children, medical workers, journalists, the elderly and infirm, and anything and everything that has breath in Gaza. Inviting someone like professor Blutinger to campus demonstrates a sincere lack of empathy and sensitivity to the Muslim, Arab, SWANA, and Palestinian members of the SJSU community.

This disinformation (i.e. claiming "kill the Jews" was chanted) was further echoed by professor Blutinger. However, when questioned in the matter, SJSU police chief Michael D. Carroll denied hearing "kill the Jews" being chanted. Further, body cam footage from the protest also failed to substantiate these claims. In fact, there was no evidence at all

of these despicable words being uttered by anyone. And yet these statements were entered into the hearing as though they were fact.

The repetition of these unsubstantiated and slanderous claims by current and former CSU employees, particularly those in positions of perceived authority or influence, is deeply troubling. This,, and other unsubstantiated rhetoric stated during the hearing carries a damning and accusatory tone that appears to be fueling a rising tide of anti-Muslim, anti-Arab, and anti-Palestinian sentiment.

These actions, left unaddressed, send a clear message that such disinformation is tolerated, thereby normalizing and escalating an atmosphere of hostility against specific members of our community.

This situation is exacerbated by the highly concerning and visible attempted dismissal of long-time tenured and well-respected Professor Sang Kil using claims of violating Time, Place, and Manner (TPM) policies—claims which many believe are also unsubstantiated. The simultaneous targeting of a respected professor and the spread of disinformation about pro-Palestine protests suggests a broader pattern of repression and an attempt to stifle academic freedom and political speech.

I urge you to take immediate and decisive action before this situation escalates into further reprisal, intimidation, or outright violence against members of the SJSU community.

I respectfully request that you, as the highest officials of this university, immediately address this issue publicly by:

1. Releasing a statement that unequivocally denounces the spread of unsubstantiated claims and disinformation by university-affiliated individuals that contribute to a hostile campus climate.
2. Affirming the right of our students and faculty to engage in political speech and peaceful protest without fear of unfounded accusations or disciplinary action.
3. Taking concrete steps to protect the academic freedom and employment of faculty, like Professor Sang Kil, who are being targeted.
4. Meeting with representatives from the impacted communities to discuss their safety and well-being.

The integrity of San José State University depends on its commitment to fostering an inclusive, safe, and intellectually honest environment for all its members. We must act now to ensure the safety and belonging of our Muslim, Arab, and SWANA students, faculty, and staff.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

San Jose Against War (SJAW)

San Jose Peace & Justice Center

Concerned Members of the SJSU Community

Faculty, Staff, and Students of SJSU

SJSU Alumni