Media Advisory: Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC)

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Jewish Students and Community Speak Out Against Pro-Hamas, Anti-Jewish Hate on Campus

Friday, Apr. 26 / 1:00 PM Minnesota Hillel

1521 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – Jewish students at Minnesota Hillel and JCRC are hosting a joint press conference to call out the appalling and dangerous use of pro-Hamas and anti-Jewish rhetoric on campus. Students will speak about their experience in an increasingly hostile learning environment.

This week alone, protestors brought signs and vandalized Coffman Memorial Union with the following violent and hateful messages:

- "INTIFADA IS REVOLUTION IS ARMED STRUGGLE"
- "<u>GLORY TO THE RESISTANCE</u>"
- "<u>AL-QASSAM MAKE US PROUD</u>" (Al-Qassam is the military wing of Hamas)
- "ZIONISTS F*** OFF"
- "<u>NOTHING BUT HATE FOR ISRAEL AND ZIONISM... FROM GAZA TO THE AMERICAS,</u> <u>DECOLONIZATION MEANS ATTACK</u>"
- "DEATH TO AMERICA"

These are not "pro-peace" or "anti-war" messages. These messages endorse terrorism as part of an extreme, maximalist vision to destroy Israel ("From the River to the Sea…"). This vision is shared by Hamas and the Islamic Republic of Iran. It's no surprise that these terrorists, who are responsible for the deadliest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, have <u>endorsed the student protests</u>.

Although Jewish students are approximately one percent of the U of M undergraduate student body, reports of anti-Jewish/anti-Israel incidents account for 1 of 3 bias incidents <u>reported on campus this</u> <u>year</u>.

Nationally, Jewish students have been assaulted, verbally abused, and marginalized to the point where, in many instances, it is no longer safe to be visibly Jewish on campus, with <u>Hillel International</u> documenting a 700% increase in antisemitism year over year.

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