



## MEMORANDUM

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TO: SUS Presidents

FROM: Chancellor Ray Rodrigues

DATE: October 24, 2023

RE: Deactivation of National Students for Justice in Palestine

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During a holy Jewish holiday, the recognized terrorist organization, Hamas, launched an unprovoked attack on Israel—among those killed were babies, women, and elderly. To date, approximately 1,400 Israelis<sup>i</sup> have been killed, including 31 American citizens.<sup>ii</sup> Governor DeSantis, our State University System and the Florida College System have condemned these attacks.

Hamas is responsible for this attack and claims it as “Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.”<sup>iii</sup> In the wake of this terror, military leaders of Hamas have called for the mobilization of Palestinians in support of the Operation.<sup>iv</sup>

In response, and leading up to a “Day of Resistance,” the National Students for Justice in Palestine (National SJP) released a “toolkit” which refers to Operation Al-Aqsa Flood as “the resistance” and unequivocally states: “Palestinian students in exile are PART of this movement, not in solidarity with this movement.”<sup>v</sup>

It is a felony under Florida law to “knowingly provide material support . . . to a designated foreign terrorist organization. . .” § 775.33(3), Fla. Stat. (2019). Here, National SJP has affirmatively identified it is part of the Operation Al-Aqsa Flood—a terrorist led attack.

The State University System of Florida has at least two institutions with active National SJP Chapters.

These chapters exist under the headship of the National Students for Justice in Palestine, who distributed a toolkit identifying themselves as part of the Operation Al-Aqsa Flood. **Based on the National SJP’s support of terrorism, in consultation with Governor DeSantis, the student chapters must be deactivated.** These two student chapters may form another organization that complies with Florida state statutes and university policies. The two institutions should grant these two chapters a waiver for the fall deadlines, should reapplication take place.

Promoting excellent educational quality while providing a safe environment for all students is paramount.

The State University System will continue working with the Executive Office of the Governor and SUS's Board of Governors to ensure we are all using all tools at our disposal to crack down on campus demonstrations that delve beyond protected First Amendment speech into harmful support for terrorist groups. These measures could include necessary adverse employment actions and suspensions for school officials.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/live-updates-whats-happening-on-day-15-of-the-israel-hamas-war#:~:text=More%20than%201%2C400%20people%20in,in%20the%20initial%20 Hamas%20a ttack.>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/10/18/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-october-7th-terrorist-attacks-and-the-resilience-of-the-state-of-israel-and-its-people-tel-aviv-israel/>

<sup>iii</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/hamas-calims-to-fire-5000-rockets-at-israel-declares-operation-al-aqsa-flood/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/hamas-calims-to-fire-5000-rockets-at-israel-declares-operation-al-aqsa-flood/)

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/hamas-commander-says-attacks-are-in-defense-of-al-aqsa-claims-5000-missiles-fired/ar-AA1hPuEf>

<sup>v</sup> <https://dw-wp-production.imgix.net/2023/10/DAY-OF-RESISTANCE-TOOLKIT.pdf>