



## National Lawyers Guild

### NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW CHAPTER

*"..in the service of the people, to the end that human rights shall be regarded as more sacred than property interests."*

[www.NLG.org](http://www.NLG.org), [www.NLGMass.org](http://www.NLGMass.org), [nlg.nusl@gmail.com](mailto:nlg.nusl@gmail.com)

Monday, November 10, 2014

### **The Northeastern University School of Law Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild Condemns the Anti-Semitic Graffiti at Northeastern University School of Law**

The Northeastern University School of Law chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (NUSL NLG) stands with Northeastern's President Dr. Joseph Aoun and NUSL's Dean Jeremy Paul, and all Northeastern students and administrators of conscience, in condemning the actions of the individual(s) who drew swastikas on flyers for an Alliance for Israel and Louis D. Brandeis Center event discussing the legal challenges of asymmetrical warfare between democracies and non-state actors.

The National Lawyers Guild is dedicated to safeguarding and extending the rights of all marginalized communities; working to eliminate racism; and bringing together those who look upon the law as an instrument for the protection of the people, rather than for their repression. Following in this tradition, NUSL NLG stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people, and is disturbed by the presence on our campus of a high-ranking official of the army that is illegally occupying Palestinian lands. We also oppose all acts of anti-Semitism – such acts create an unsafe environment in our school and threaten to curb honest dialogue. We hope that conversation at the event tonight can be challenging but respectful.

The ongoing debate about a resolution to the conflict in Palestine and Israel is deserving of our deepest and most passionate response. While the First Amendment protects our right to free expression, as future lawyers we can and should choose to exercise that right in ways that do not reinforce systems of oppression and histories of terror. It is all the more outrageous that someone at Northeastern, with its express commitment to social justice, might have anonymously scrawled a symbol representing the murder of millions of people, instead of participating in actual dialogue.

We are glad that the University is investigating the incident. We assume that the investigation will afford all those involved due process to avoid reaching hasty conclusions. We hope that whoever is responsible will come forward and begin the long process of making amends, whatever disciplinary action is taken by the University.

We are also encouraged to hear both President Aoun and Dean Paul affirm the University's commitment to fostering an environment free of hate, prejudice, and bigotry. This has not always been the experience of students at Northeastern, particularly members of Students for Justice in Palestine. We hope that the statements from the President and the Dean reflect a renewed commitment to ensuring that there is space for *all* student voices.

This incident is clearly motivated by anti-Semitism, and the NUSL NLG stands in solidarity with all students who have been impacted by seeing such a menacing symbol in a place that should be safe for all of us. As a community we must continue to call out acts of anti-Semitism such as this, and refrain from applying the label of anti-Semitism to students engaged in respectful expressions of opposition to what is, indeed, an asymmetrical war.