

September 9, 2020

Ramón Gonzalo García  
El rector  
The Public University of Navarra

c.c. María Chivite Navascués, President of the Navarra Region  
c.c. María del Carmen Calvo Poyato, Vice president of the Spanish  
Government Carmen Calvo

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Dear Rector Gonzalo García,

On behalf of the Combat Anti-Semitism Movement, I write to you to express grave concern about the online course *Apartheid en Palestina y la criminalización de la solidaridad*, to be taught this month at your institution.

We have deep respect for the values of academic freedom and free inquiry. We would never expect the courses and curricula of your institution to apply special treatment to any one subject or issue. Unfortunately, that is exactly what it is set to do; by engaging in a program that celebrates and advocates for the dissolution of the world's only Jewish state. In holding Israel to a standard unlike any other, and embracing the BDS Movement, which calls for its destruction, this course promotes anti-Semitism.

We were pleased to learn earlier this summer that Spain had become the 23<sup>rd</sup> European nation to commit to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism. It offers a clear and detailed description of anti-Semitism in its various forms, including hatred and discrimination against Jews, Holocaust denial, and, of particular note, anti-Semitism as it relates to Israel. This includes “denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor” and “Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation”. The online course seemingly violates these guidelines and is therefore engaged in anti-Semitism.

Exactly one year ago, *el Juzgado Contencioso Administrativo nº3 de Pamplona* found the boycott of Israel to be illegal, finding that it created discrimination against Israel and Israelis – a violation of the right to equality, as enshrined in the law. A university course that promotes the very act that was locally found to be illegal is an act of injustice in its own right. We respectfully ask that you consider postponing the course and formally collaborating with our Spanish colleagues at *Acción y Comunicación sobre Oriente Medio* (ACOM) to find an equitable solution.

Respectfully yours,

Sacha Roytman-Dratwa  
Director, Combat Anti-Semitism

*The Combat Anti-Semitism Movement is a non-partisan, global grassroots movement of individuals and organizations, across all religions and faiths, united around the goal of ending anti-Semitism in all its forms. Since its launching in February 2019, 274 organizations and 285,000 individuals have joined the Combat Anti-Semitism Movement by signing the campaign's pledge. The CAM Pledge draws upon the IHRA international definition of anti-Semitism and its list of specific behaviors used to discriminate against the Jewish people and the Jewish State of Israel.*