To Whom It May Concern,

My name is [name], and I am a student currently enrolled in [University name]. I am writing to express my deep disappointment regarding the recent statements made by [University name] concerning the recent violence between Israel and Gaza.

These statements, while intended to address the recent situation, have presented a one-sided perspective showing solidarity and concern only for Israel, with no acknowledgment of the ongoing and historical suffering and death of Palestinians. This unbalanced and biased stance not only threatens the institution's reputation but also undermines the well-being of the numerous students, faculty, and staff within your district who identify as Muslim, Palestinian, Arab, or Jewish. It is imperative that you understand the potential consequences of such a stance.

Studies conducted by CAIR-FL and other reputable organizations have shown that marginalized students, such as those mentioned above, are already at an increased risk of peer-to-peer bullying, discrimination, and harassment from school administrators and faculty. When educators and academic institutions make one-sided public statements on the situation in Palestine and Israel that fail to acknowledge the realities, struggles, and humanity of Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab students, this can contribute to a hostile school environment, bullying, harassment, and retaliation.

I want to take this opportunity to not only discourage this unfair perspective but to urge you to educate our faculty, administration, and leadership. Over the past 75 years, the Palestinian people have endured immense suffering, displacement, and a 15-year-long inhumane siege and blockade in Gaza. Numerous human rights organizations have described Gaza as "the largest open-air prison," highlighting the devastating impact of the blockade on Palestinians' freedom of movement, economy, and access to basic human needs such as food, clean water, electricity, and medicine. The war crimes committed by Israel against Palestinians of all faiths have been extensively documented by reputable organizations, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and B'Tselem, leading to the unequivocal declaration of Israel as an apartheid state.

It is crucial to note that the United Nations has repeatedly deemed Israel's aggressions in Gaza and the Occupied West Bank as "illegal under international law" and a "substantial obstacle to peace." The death toll of the conflict in Palestine-Israel is disproportionately borne by the Palestinians. Between 2008 and 2021, at least 5,739 Palestinians and 251 Israelis were killed. According to the UN, for every Israeli life lost, 23 Palestinians have perished. Over the same time period, at least 121,438 Palestinians and 5,682 Israelis were injured. Your school must recognize the decades of dispossession, dehumanization, and annexation endured by the Palestinian people under the illegal Israeli occupation and apartheid system. Their humanity should be recognized and respected, particularly as they face the devastating consequences of violence, including the recent Israeli airstrikes in Gaza.

Let me be clear that this letter is not asking you to ignore the suffering of Israelis, nor does it condone violence perpetrated against civilians. However, it challenges you to identify the overwhelming hypocrisy of the recent statements, noting that no such unilateral support was previously offered to Palestinians who have been occupied, brutalized, and terrorized for over seven decades.

For decades, those of us in the academic and activist community who have openly criticized Zionism have faced relentless harassment, threats to our safety, baseless accusations of antisemitism, and have had our careers and academic pursuits threatened. Your statements enable those inside and outside our community to continue these attacks—attacks that are now emboldened by your recent careless and dangerous rhetoric. Therefore, I urge you to be thoughtful and steadfast in your understanding of the nuanced, complex, and long-lasting political crisis surrounding this issue to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all students, faculty, and staff.

I am calling on all school faculty, administrators, staff, and leadership to adopt a balanced view that ensures a truly welcoming and safe environment. In light of the recent biased statements, I implore you to issue a statement affirming the pain and suffering of the Palestinians—especially the more than two million Palestinians in occupied Gaza, half of whom are children—who have been dehumanized by Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, referring to them as "human animals." These individuals, who are currently experiencing indiscriminate bombing by Israel, also deserve your outrage and support.

I eagerly await your prompt response to my correspondence.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Contact information]