

STUDENT COALITION FOR PALESTINE OFFICIAL STATEMENT IN REGARDS TO THE OUMM “COUNTER-PROTEST” MESSAGE

On Tuesday, March 5, 2024, an email calling on OU students in support of Israel was sent out to all OU students through the OU mass e-mail platform. The email was authored by an OU student and sent out by an OU math professor. It announced a "counter-protest" in support of Israel at the same time and place as the SCPL's sit-in. The email adopted hateful and reactionary rhetoric, calling on the "rational minds" of OU to stand in support of the Zionist state. The biased and dishonest language used in the email was intended to distract from the SCPL's objectives for the sit-in and escalate the situation by suggesting that we would employ violence during the event, a claim that has never been true and was disproven today yet again. The authors of the email went so far as to suggest we were connected to the "suspicious package" incident on February 16th. If they had read our statement and the article put out by OU Daily following the incident, they would know that this implication has no basis and can be easily dismissed. Moreover, the pro-Palestine display that they referred to was proven to not have been a threat.

The SCPL also believes that the email calling for a "counter-protest" in support of Israel violates the guidelines for OU Mass Mail. OUMM messages must be attached to either an RSO or a department of the university. The "counter-protest" was not clearly sponsored by an RSO or an OU department. Aside from this breach of OUMM's guidelines, this email which sought to provoke aggression against fellow students should not have been approved to be sent out to the student body.

As we proved today and at all of our past events, we are not looking to incite violence but rather to demand justice and the total liberation of Palestine. Nothing will deter us from continuing to fight for this objective, including this email. OU SCPL stands with the hundreds of students who came out today to protest the university's complicity in Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza and against the Zionist occupation. Our numbers are only growing and we will not relent.

From the River to the Sea,

OU Student Coalition for Palestine