



# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Matt Gress (R-4)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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Thursday, October 17, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Representative Matt Gress Calls on ASU to Hold Professor Accountable for Remarks Celebrating Hamas Terrorism

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – State Representative Matt Gress has spoken out against Arizona State University (ASU) Associate Professor Khaled Beydoun’s [hateful comments](#) made during a pro-Palestine rally in Australia, in which celebrated the atrocities committed by Hamas terrorists against Israel on October 7 of last year. Professor Beydoun referred to the day of deadly attacks, where some 1,200 people were murdered and hundreds taken hostage, as a “good day.”

In a letter today to the Dean of ASU’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, Representative Gress urged the university to take immediate action to address the matter, questioning whether Professor Beydoun’s conduct aligns with the values and reputation of ASU.

Representative Gress asked the university to clarify whether previous allegations concerning Professor Beydoun dissemination of false and harmful narratives on social media were investigated, and if so, what the outcomes were. He also asked whether any university funds were used to cover Professor Beydoun’s travel expenses for his recent trip to Australia, where his visa was revoked by Australian authorities due to his remarks.

**“Professor Beydoun’s remarks cannot be ignored,”** said Representative Gress. **“ASU must uphold the highest standards of professionalism and integrity among its faculty. His comments condoning acts of terror clearly violate those standards, and the university should hold him accountable.”**

Representative Gress’s letter is attached.

*Matt Gress is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 4 in Phoenix. Follow him on X/Twitter at @MatthewGress.*

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## Arizona House of Representatives

October 17, 2024

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Stacy Leeds

Dean and Regents Professor of Law

Arizona State University

111 E. Taylor Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4467

**Re: Associate Professor Khaled Beydoun's Promotion of Terrorism**

Dear Dean Leeds,

It has come to my attention that Associate Professor Khaled Beydoun recently traveled to Australia and spoke at an event celebrating the atrocities committed by Hamas against Israel one year ago on October 7th. According to reports, Professor Beydoun stated that the first anniversary of Hamas's attack marked "considerable celebration" for its role in elevating "global literacy" on Palestine. As a result of his remarks, Australian government officials revoked his visa.

I am deeply concerned that Professor Beydoun has engaged in a pattern of behavior unbecoming of a professor of law. Just last year, my colleague, Representative Alex Kolodin, asked you to open an investigation into Professor Beydoun's spreading of false and harmful narratives on social media platforms. Did you investigate those allegations? If so, what was the outcome of that investigation?

As you may know, it is unlawful under Arizona Revised Statute § 13-2308.01(A)(3) for a person to intentionally or knowingly promote or further an act of terrorism. Professor Beydoun's actions reflect poorly on the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University and call into question whether he is capable of exercising appropriate judgment in his position of trust and influence over students at ASU.

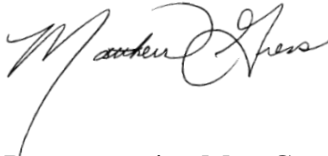
Professor Beydoun's pattern of misconduct should not be tolerated any longer. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss what steps you intend to take to hold him accountable, including whether ASU will initiate the process for terminating his employment at the university. I would also like to know if ASU paid any portion of Professor Beydoun's travel expenses associated with his recent trip to Australia.

Letter to Dean Leeds

October 16, 2024

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Gress". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Representative Matt Gress  
Legislative District 4

cc (via email):

Governor Katie Hobbs

Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes

Arizona Board of Regents Chair Cecilia Mata

Arizona State University President Michael Crow

Executive Director of the Arizona Board of Regents Chad Sampson

Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives Ben Toma

Arizona State Senate President Warren Petersen

House Education Chair Beverly Pingerelli

Senate Education Chair Ken Bennett