



October 6, 2025

Ms. Jessica Oros
Director, Office of Student Conduct
Johns Hopkins University
3510 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21211

Re: Rockwell Shapiro – Immediate Lifting of Interim Suspension – Student Rights and Due Process Concerns

Greetings Ms. Oros:

The Maryland office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MD) is writing on behalf of *Mr. Rockwell Shapiro*, a Jewish student entering his final year at Johns Hopkins University in good academic standing, who has been placed on an interim suspension by university administrators since May 9, 2025, for his alleged participation in peaceful campus protest.

CAIR is deeply concerned that the University's handling of this matter raises serious questions of fairness, due process, and discriminatory treatment:

1. Excessive Delay and Failure to Provide a Prompt Resolution – Despite Mr. Shapiro's timely appeal in May, his interim suspension has remained in place for over five months without a decision, depriving him access to campus spaces, resources and activities, classes, his peers and the ability to continue his education. CAIR understands that the Office of Student Conduct promised a resolution before the start of the Fall 2025 semester; however, no decision has been issued as of the date on this letter despite Mr. Shapiro's cooperation with university officials in the investigation. This indefinite suspension has caused unfair harm and prevented Mr. Shapiro from resuming his education, in clear violation of the University's own stated policies and procedures, specifically, those which guarantee a "prompt" resolution.

2. Disparate and Targeted Treatment – The University's suspension of Mr. Shapiro is based on allegations of his involvement with a much larger group of students. Singling out one student in this manner is unethical, disingenuous and unjust. This selective enforcement raises the appearance of retaliation against him in violation of both basic principles of fairness and the University's obligations under Maryland law to adhere to an equitable application of its policies.

3. Problematic Allegations of Antisemitism – Mr. Shapiro is reportedly under investigation for antisemitism by JHU's Office of Institutional Equity, despite being a Jewish student himself. This is an egregious and absurd allegation arises from his participation in advocacy supporting Palestinian human rights. On September 16, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry [released](#)

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[its most serious findings](#) to date – concluding that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. Mr. Shapiro’s relationship to Judaism is deeply informed by the perspectives and struggles of his great grandparents who fled Russian pogroms. It is his sincerely held religious belief that it is his obligation to speak out against the Israeli government’s crimes. Punishing, retaliating against, or accusing him of misconduct or wrongdoing for speaking truth and standing for justice is a direct violation of his right to freely exercise his right to practice his faith. JHU’s stated vision is to “create and nourish an environment and culture where people from all backgrounds feel valued, engaged, and empowered to succeed.” Any attempt to conflate his advocacy with antisemitism is unfounded.

Given these facts, CAIR urges Johns Hopkins University to **immediately lift the interim suspension against him** so that he can continue his studies. The University has an obligation to issue a prompt resolution to his case in accordance with its own policies and procedures.

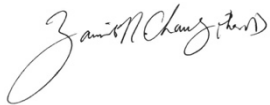
We respectfully remind the University that while it is a private institution, it is nonetheless bound by its contractual obligations to students and by broader principles of nondiscrimination and fairness. The indefinite denial of access to education is a disproportionate and punitive measure.

CAIR calls on the university to lift Mr. Shapiro’s interim suspension and work with his attorney, Boothe Ripke, of Nathans Law to resolve all other issues in a just and expedited manner in the coming days.

Should the University continue to delay, CAIR in partnership with other civil rights groups and human rights activists is prepared to pursue all available advocacy measures to seek an appropriate resolution to this injustice.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Zainab Chaudry, Pharm.D.
Director, CAIR Maryland

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