

Rabbis for Ceasefire Statement on Free Speech and Bogus Charges of Antisemitism

August 2026 | Elul 5786

Many people - both Jewish and non-Jewish - who have spoken in support of Palestinian rights or criticized the actions of the Israeli government have been accused of antisemitism. While genuine antisemitism must be confronted wherever it occurs, accusations of antisemitism should not be used to silence legitimate criticism of a government or its policies, or to shield governments and their supporters from accountability.

Raising concerns about unfettered corporate power and the risks created through the consolidation of American media, as well as the ties of the corporate influences behind that media to the white-nationalist, tech-dominated agenda of the Trump Administration, is not inherently antisemitic simply because the corporate leadership in question is Jewish, nor is pointing out legitimate connections between American corporations and their role in the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Mark Ruffalo has a long track record of human rights, environmental, and anti-corporate activism, speaking out on behalf of people and the planet. His longtime support of the rights of Palestinians and criticism of the Israeli government and its actions must be distinguished from hostility towards Jewish people or Judaism. He is also not alone in speaking out against the proposed merger of Paramount Skydance and Warner Brothers, with opposition coming from entertainment industry workers, advocates for freedom of the press, investors, and consumer groups, as well as a coalition of state attorneys general who have sued to block the merger. It is deeply concerning that Ruffalo's activism is being weaponized by an industry group to accuse him of antisemitism.

In a free and democratic society, we must preserve the right to question, criticize, and condemn governments, militaries, corporations, and their leaders - particularly when their actions may cause profound harm to human lives and livelihoods. Defending that right is not a defense of hatred or bigotry; it is a defense of free expression, accountability, and the principle that no government or institution should be beyond scrutiny.

Rabbis for Ceasefire is a membership organization of 450 rabbis and other Jewish clergy across political affiliations and denominations. We speak out with one voice to fulfill the most sacred obligation in Jewish tradition Pikuach nefesh: Saving a life.

