



Young Americans for Freedom

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To The Michigan State University Community:

The national headquarters of Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) has been advised that the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) may place the Michigan State University chapter of Young Americans for Freedom (MSUYAF) on its list of hate groups when they publish such list later this April.

If this is the case, National YAF finds it troubling at best that the SPLC would make such an allegation without initially providing a full report for public review. Such action makes it difficult to establish the SPLC's reasoning and the specifics behind such an accusation. In view of the firestorm of news that reports of the SPLC's supposed intentions have already created against a YAF chapter in good standing, we must immediately turn to various news articles, particularly those in the Michigan State University *State News*, and to conversations with MSUYAF's leadership to determine the validity of the charges.

Let us first establish that YAF, America's oldest, largest, and most active conservative youth group, has strict standards *against* advocating beliefs that are racist and/or anti-religious, among other things. These standards are written into our national bylaws and each chapter must sign an affiliation agreement affirming their understanding and agreement with the standards. YAF's founding document, the Sharon Statement, focuses on the integrity of the individual. Advocating racist activity or speech will lead to expulsion of a YAF member and/or chapter. YAF's past actions, including fighting in favor of a tough stance against communist human slavery and in support of laissez faire economic policies, which economically punish discrimination, clearly backs our anti-racist stance and strong support of individual rights.

Without any further explanation at this time, it must be assumed that the charges against MSUYAF stem in large part from their activities in opposition to laws and policies that work to differentiate people based on their ethnic background or perhaps because of MSUYAF's stand in favor of enforcing current laws vis a vis border security.

Protesting against governmental and university policies that treat people differently because of their ethnicity is definitely in line with YAF's beliefs and bylaws. It is inherently offensive when government and/or universities institute racial preference policies. Some would say any activity in support of racial segregation is simply racism. The government and universities should judge people as individuals and not based on the color of their skin. It is important to note that the U.S. Supreme Court recently denied review of a positive decision in regard to the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative.

Enforcing America's immigration laws is only a matter of fairness. It is very difficult to legally emigrate to the U.S. Yet, many people go through the laborious and lengthy process because they want to become part of America and part of doing so is following our laws. Some have noted to us that they appreciated the difficult process because it helps to ensure America's and, therefore, their security. What does it say to legal immigrants about our respect for our own laws and defense when we permit so many illegal immigrants?

Based on these criteria, MSUYAF's activities can only be labeled as a pro-freedom group. National YAF applauds their activism and courage.

On the other hand, reports of attempts to silence MSUYAF's pro-freedom message suggest that there is indeed hateful activity and groups at Michigan State University. MSUYAF's members have reported assaults against them and other harassment at their speaking events. Another instance is a group called "By any Means Necessary" (BAMN) that constantly opposes MSUYAF and promotes continued and renewed racial preferences by the government and universities. Their very name even seems to connote the threat of violence. Is this not hateful?

The SPLC has a lot of explaining to do. Calling a pro-freedom group a hate group cheapens the hate group term and makes it more difficult to identify new legitimate hateful groups that are aspiring to take up the mantle of organizations like the Klu Klux Klan or the Black Panther Party.

In the famous words of the Pledge of Allegiance, Americans must work towards "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Yours in Freedom,
Policy Committee,
Young Americans for Freedom

The Policy Committee is a standing committee of the National Board of Directors. Its members are:

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