Hello ▮▮▮▮▮ ,

I am reaching out with regards to the comments that you made during today's virtual meeting with Dr. McKnight, which took place at 11:30 am.

As I recall, you expressed your support for those who have been affected by Hamas's recent attacks without mentioning your support for Palestinians affected by Israel's 75+ years of colonial violence, which includes its recent bombings on Gaza. The remarks you offered were highly problematic, as they erased Palestinians as being worthy of solidarity or condolences.

Since you are providing commentary about geopolitical events, you should be well aware that Israel has been bombing Gaza, a 140 square mile area with 2.2 million Palestinians, for the past week. Gaza is one of the most densely populated areas in the world and was deemed an unlivable open-air prison by multiple human rights organizations. This past week alone, over 2,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed by over 6,000 Israeli bombs, which are targeting civilians, hospitals, ambulances, and press. These bombings equate to genocide as Israel is using white phosphorous on civilians, which is a war crime. I know multiple Palestinian families who have lost loved ones due to Israeli aggression both before and during this week's attacks on Gaza.

MCPS prides itself on serving one of the most diverse populations of staff and students in Maryland. It is highly insensitive and deeply inappropriate to offer soothing remarks and sympathies regarding the recent events that exclude any mention of the Palestinian struggle. If you are to offer condolences and extend support to those affected by what is going on in the region, I expect your sympathies to extend to Palestinian lives.

Thank you.

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