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12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
13 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
14 WESTERN DIVISION

15 RONEN HELMANN, on behalf of all
16 others similarly situated,

17 Plaintiffs,

18 v.

19 CODEPINK WOMEN FOR PEACE, a
20 California entity, CODEPINK ACTION
21 FUND, a California entity, HONOR
22 THE EARTH, a Minnesota entity,
23 COURTNEY LENNA SCHIRF, and
24 REMO IBRAHIM, d/b/a
25 PALESTINIAN YOUTH
26 MOVEMENT, and JOHN AND JANE
27 DOES 1-20,

28 Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-cv-05704-SVW-PVC

DEFENDANTS' PALESTINIAN
YOUTH MOVEMENT,
COURTNEY LENNA SCHIRF,
AND REMO IBRAHIM'S, NOTICE
OF MOTION AND CORRECTED
MOTION TO DISMISS
PLAINTIFFS' SECOND
AMENDED COMPLAINT

Judge: Hon Stephen V. Wilson
Hearing Date: MARCH 3, 2025
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Courtroom: 10A

1 TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:
2 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on March 3, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. or as soon
3 thereafter as this matter may be heard in Courtroom 10A of the above-entitled Court
4 located at First Street Courthouse, 350 W. 1st Street, Courtroom 10A, 10th Floor,
5 Los Angeles, CA 90012, Defendants PALESTINIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT,
6 COURTNEY LENNA SCHIRF and REMO IBRAHIM, will and hereby do move
7 the Court to dismiss Plaintiffs' Second Amended Complaint.

8 This motion is based upon this Notice of Motion, the attached Memorandum
9 of Points & Authorities, the files and records in the case, and any evidence or
10 argument that may be presented at a hearing on this matter.

11 Respectfully submitted,

12 Dated: January 27, 2025 LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS B. HARVEY
13

14
15 By: /s/ Thomas B. Harvey
16 Thomas B. Harvey

17 Attorney for Defendants
18 PALESTINIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT
19 COURTNEY LENNA SCHIRF
20 REMO IBRAHIM
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**MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF
DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS PLAINTIFFS' SECOND AMENDED
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

I. INTRODUCTION AND FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Defendants Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM), Courtney Schirf (Schirf), and Remo Ibrahim (Ibrahim) (collectively “Defendants”) move to dismiss the instant complaint. Plaintiffs’ Second Amended Complaint (“SAC”) accuses Defendants of making social media posts encouraging supporters to protest the illegal sale of occupied Palestinian land, conspiring with Defendants Code Pink and Code Pink Fund (“Code Pink”), and controlling the actions of 100 Doe “rioters” who were present at the protest. The SAC relies extensively on generalized assertions and conclusory restatements of the elements of the pled causes of action. In sum, Plaintiffs seek to punish Defendants’ protected First Amendment activity expressing support for Palestinians and principled opposition to Israel’s illegal occupation of the West Bank and its ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Plaintiffs seek to punish Defendants for posting about a protest against My Home in Israel’s (“MHI”) sale of occupied Palestinian land in the illegal, Jewish-only settlements in Occupied Palestine—an event that never mentioned religious obligations. (SAC at fns. 100, 104). The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights is investigating MHI for “discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ancestry, national origin, and other protected characteristics” during the previous events.¹ MHI has drawn protests throughout the country facing accusations of supporting apartheid and genocide. MHI’s Los Angeles event Los Angeles was no different.²

¹Arvind Dilawar, “Organizers of Israeli Real Estate Event in LA Under Investigation in New Jersey,” September 4, 2024 (last accessed October 22, 2024)
<<https://lapublicpress.org/2024/09/israeli-real-estate-fair-housing-investigation/>>.

² Id.

1 The SAC alleges that PYM's social media account shared a post giving the
2 time of the sale "12 PM SHARP," saying "OUR LAND IS NOT FOR SALE" (SAC
3 ¶¶210, 211) and "STAND AGAINST SETTLER EXPANSION AT SUNDAY'S
4 REAL ESTATE EVENT SELLING HOMES TO BUILD 'ANGLO
5 NEIGHBORHOODS' IN PALESTINE." *Id.* Plaintiffs seek damages for FACE Act
6 and Civil Rights Act violations.

7 Plaintiffs lack standing to proceed and their complaint should be dismissed
8 with prejudice. Plaintiffs' injuries are not fairly traceable to Defendants' alleged
9 conduct. They are attributable to people over whom Defendants had no control.
10 Plaintiffs' claims fail under both statutes because Defendants engaged in protected
11 free speech activity. They also fail under the Civil Rights Act because Plaintiffs'
12 entirely speculative alleged conspiracy was not motivated by racial animus.

13 The SAC should be dismissed against Schirf and PYM for lack of personal
14 jurisdiction, as Schirf is a resident of Texas (SAC ¶ 82), and PYM has no corporate
15 entity established in California. (SAC ¶ 39).

16 For these reasons and others discussed below, Plaintiffs' Second Amended
17 Complaint should be dismissed with prejudice.

18 **II. THE COURT SHOULD DISMISS PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS**
19 **BECAUSE PLAINTIFFS LACK PERSONAL JURISDICTION**
20 **OVER DEFENDANTS**

21 **A. Legal Standard Fed.R.Civ.Proc. 12(b)(2)**

22 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(2), a party may move to dismiss
23 a complaint for lack of personal jurisdiction. The plaintiff bears the burden of
24 making a *prima facie* "showing establishing that jurisdiction is proper."
25 *CollegeSource, Inc. v. AcademyOne, Inc.*, 653 F.3d 1066, 1073 (9th Cir. 2011). A
26 court may only exercise personal jurisdiction over a non-resident defendant if doing

1 so would comport with the Fourteenth Amendment’s Due Process Clause because it
2 “exposes defendants to the State’s coercive power.” *Goodyear Dunlop Tires*
3 *Operations, S.A. v. Brown*, 564 U.S. 915, 918 (2011).

4 Personal jurisdiction is established either through general, i.e. “all purpose,
5 ”jurisdiction derived from a defendant’s establishment of the jurisdiction as its home
6 base, or specific, i.e. “case-linked,” jurisdiction derived from a defendant’s
7 jurisdictional contacts if sufficiently related to the claims at issue. *Bristol-Myers*
8 *Squibb Co. v. Superior Court of California, San Francisco Cty.*, 137 S. Ct. 1773,
9 1779 (2017).

10 The specific personal jurisdiction inquiry is “defendant-focused,” with an
11 emphasis “on the relationship among the defendant, the forum, and the litigation.”
12 *Walden v. Fiore*, 134 S. Ct. 1115, 1121-22 (2014) (citation and quotation omitted).
13 “[T]he defendant’s suit-related conduct must create a substantial connection with the
14 forum State.” *Id.* at 1121. “When there is no such connection, specific jurisdiction
15 is lacking regardless of the extent of a defendant’s unconnected activities in the
16 State.” *Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. Superior Court of Calif.*, 137 S. Ct. 1773, 1781
17 (2017).

18 As recently articulated by a California appellate court in *Preciado v.*
19 *Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp.*, 87 Cal. App. 5th 964, 977 (Cal.App.4th 2023):

20 For a state to have specific jurisdiction, the defendant “must take ‘some
21 act by which [it] purposefully avails itself of the privilege of conducting
22 activities within the forum State.’...The contacts must be the
23 defendant’s own choice and not ‘random, isolated, or
24 fortuitous.’...They must show that the defendant deliberately ‘reached
25 out beyond’ its home—by, for example, ‘exploit[ing] a market’ in the
26 forum State or entering a contractual relationship centered there...Yet
27 even then—because the defendant is not ‘at home’— the forum State
may exercise jurisdiction in only certain cases. The plaintiff’s claims ... ‘must
arise out of or relate to the defendant’s contacts’ with the
forum.”....

1
2 **B. The Court Lacks General Personal Jurisdiction Over Defendants**
3 **PYM and Schirf**

4 For general jurisdiction to exist over a nonresident defendant, the corporate
5 defendants must have “continuous and systematic general business contacts” that
6 “approximate physical presence” in the forum state. *Helicopteros*
7 *Nacionales de Colombia, S.A. v. Hall*, 466 U.S. 408, 415 (1984) (finding no
8 general jurisdiction where defendant did not have a place of business in forum state
9 and had never been licensed to do business in forum state, despite existence of
10 other connections).

11 The standard for obtaining general personal jurisdiction, even over a
12 corporation, is “demanding.” *Daimler AG v. Bauman*, 134 S. Ct. 746, 750-751
13 (2014). For a corporation, “the place of incorporation and principal place of business
14 are paradig[m] . . . bases for general jurisdiction.” *Id.* at 760 (internal quotations and
15 citations omitted). Only in an “exceptional case” is general jurisdiction available
16 elsewhere. *Id.* at 751 n.19. An “exceptional case” exists only if a defendant’s
17 contacts in the state are “substantial” or “continuous.” *Bancroft & Masters, Inc. v.*
18 *Augusta Nat. Inc.*, 223 F.3d 1082, 1086 (9th Cir. 2000) (citing *Helicopteros*
19 *Nacionales de Colombia, S.A. v. Hall*, 104 S. Ct. 1868 (1984)).

20 The SAC includes no specific allegation that PYM spent funds on this protest
21 (“attack was organized, publicized, aided, and (upon information and belief) funded
22 by Defendants,” SAC, ¶ 8). The SAC fails to even clearly and definitively allege
23 that PYM members were present at the protest (“Upon information and belief,
24 members of PYM were among those who blocked Plaintiff Helmann and Proposed
25 Class Members from accessing the Synagogue on June 23, 2024” SAC ¶ 49).

26 The SAC alleges nothing that would justify the exercise of general
27 jurisdiction over PYM or Schirf. Plaintiffs do not identify any act in California taken

1 by Schirf that might be said to give rise or relate to their claims. It alleges no actual
2 contacts with California for Schirf and admits Schirf is a resident of Texas.

3 PYM is an unincorporated entity with operations across the country and no
4 principal place of business. The SAC alleges limited contact with the state, via a
5 social media posting it shared. Nothing in the SAC establishes contacts with
6 California that are “substantial” or “continuous.”

7 **C. The Court Lacks Specific Personal Jurisdiction Over Defendants**
8 **PYM and Schirf**

9 Plaintiffs do not allege that Schirf took any action that was purposefully
10 directed at California residents. Thus, it cannot be said that any alleged injury arose
11 out of relevant actions by Schirf. As such, there is no remotely colorable basis to
12 exercise specific jurisdiction

13 Plaintiffs simply allege that Schirf controls PYM’s social media – an entity that
14 does not have a place of business in California and operates around the world – and
15 conclude that constitutes purposeful direction of activities at California. Plaintiffs
16 have cited no authority to support that contention. Plaintiffs do not allege that Schirf
17 was ever in California or that she posted the notice in question about the illegal land
18 sale sponsored by MHI.

19 Similarly, Plaintiffs do not allege that PYM did anything other than share the
20 post calling attention to the illegal landsale. *See Strasner v Touchstone Wireless*
21 *Repair & Logistics, LP*, 5 Cal. App. 5th 215, 231, 210 Cal. Rptr. 3d 16, 28-30
22 (2016) (“Nor has [plaintiff] identified any authority in which a court found specific
23 jurisdiction without sufficient evidentiary support establishing that the defendant’s
24 conduct was targeted at the forum state with knowledge that the act would cause
25 harm in the state.”); citing *Pavlovich v. Superior Court*, 29 Cal.4th 262, 274-75
26 (2002) (posting on a passive website insufficient to establish purposeful availment
27

1 when defendant did not know his conduct would cause harm to plaintiff in
2 California; “the fact that a defendant’s actions in some way set into motion events
3 which ultimately injured a California resident cannot, by itself, confer jurisdiction
4 over that defendant”).

5 As to the second element, Plaintiffs do not specifically allege that PYM,
6 Schirf (or for that matter Ibrahim) spent money on the protest in California or were
7 even present at the protest, let alone that they blocked entrance to the landsale.
8 Plaintiffs have failed to plead that their alleged injuries arose from any actions taken
9 by Schirf, Ibrahim, or PYM.

10 Finally, the SAC fails to satisfy the third element of the specific jurisdiction
11 analysis: the exercise of jurisdiction must comport with fair play and substantial
12 justice, *i.e.*, it must be reasonable. *See Boschetto v. Hansing*, 539 F.3d 1011, 1016
13 (9th Cir. 2008); *Schwarzenegger v. Fred Martin Mtr. Co.*, 374 F.3d 797, 802 (9th
14 Cir. 2004). It would be entirely unreasonable to exercise personal jurisdiction over
15 Schirf because she (i) has no residence or presence in California, (ii) and is not
16 alleged to have sent any funds to California or done anything else in California.
17 Similarly, the SAC makes no allegations that PYM owns property in California, has
18 filed lawsuits in California, filed taxes in California, or has done anything other than
19 sharing a social media post to purposefully avail itself of the protection of
20 California’s laws.

21 **III. THE COURT SHOULD DISMISS PLAINTIFFS' CLAIM**
22 **ARISING UNDER THE FACE ACT (18 U.S.C. § 248)**

23 The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE Act) was passed in
24 1994, when women’s health clinics were being bombed and doctors who worked
25 there were being murdered. A far less-known provision in the bill protects places of
26 worship. The law’s “place of worship” cause of action has been seldom litigated and
27

1 caselaw interpreting the civil suit provision is scarce. Defendants are aware of no
2 cases from the 9th Circuit where such a suit has been brought.

3 Other circuits, however, have identified four elements required to plead a
4 violation of 18 U.S.C. § 248(a)(2): “Plaintiffs must demonstrate that Defendants
5 used or attempted to use (1) force, threat of force, or physical obstruction; (2) with
6 the intent to; (3) injure, intimidate, or interfere with a person; (4) because that
7 person is exercising or is seeking to exercise his or her right of religious freedom at
8 a place of religious worship.” *New Beginnings Ministries v. George*, 2018 WL
9 11378829, *15 (S.D.O.H. 2018) (citing *Lotierzo v. A Woman’s World Med. Ctr.*,
10 278 F.3d 1180, 1182 (11th Cir. 2002) (citations omitted)).

11 The “place of worship” subsection of the FACE Act has not been addressed
12 by this Court in any published decision. Plaintiffs fail to allege facts that can
13 plausibly show a violation of the statute.

14 **A. Legal Standard Fed.R.Civ.Proc. 12(b)(6)**

15 A district court must dismiss a claim if it “fail[s] to state a claim upon which
16 relief can be granted.” Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 12(b)(6). Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of
17 Civil Procedure requires a plaintiff to plead “enough facts to state a claim to relief
18 that is plausible on its face.” *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570
19 (2007). Although “a complaint need not contain detailed factual allegations . . . it
20 must plead enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.”
21 *Cousins v. Lockyer*, 568 F.3d 1063, 1067-68 (9th Cir. 2009) (internal quotation
22 marks and citations omitted). A claim is facially plausible only when it “allows the
23 court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct
24 alleged.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678, (2009) (internal quotation marks
25 omitted). “[C]onclusory allegations of law and unwarranted inferences are
26 insufficient to avoid . . . dismissal” under this standard. *Cousins*, 568 F.3d at 1067

(internal quotation marks omitted). A court may reject as implausible allegations that are too speculative to warrant further factual development. *Dahlia v. Rodriguez*, 735 F.3d 1060, 1076 (9th Cir. 2013). The allegations must be enough to raise a right to relief above the speculative level. *Twombly* at 548. The court need not accept allegations that are merely conclusory, are unwarranted deductions, or unreasonable inferences. *Sprewell v. Golden State Warriors*, 266 F.3d 979, 988 (9th Cir. 2001).

When the guesses, conclusory language, and innuendo are stripped away, what remains of Plaintiffs’ allegations that are grounded in specific facts is this: (1) PYM was one of several organizations that informed the public about a real estate event offering land sales in the occupied West Bank; (2) PYM promoted the demonstration, and invited its supporters to attend; and (3) persons unknown acted threateningly and said frightening things, and (4) some unknown persons used “bear spray”. From these crumbs, Plaintiffs build a mountain of surmise to insist that PYM Defendants must have directed these activities, along with other defendants. These are not facts sufficient to make a cognizable legal theory plausible. *Conservation Force v. Salazar*, 646 F.3d 1240, 1241-42 (9th Cir. 2011).

B. Plaintiffs’ Claim Under the FACE Act Fails Under Rule 12(b)(6)

1. Plaintiffs Fail to Plausibly Allege Defendants Used Force, Threats of Force, or Physical Obstruction to Interfere with Their Freedom of Religion

Plaintiffs do not plausibly allege that Defendants used force, threats of force, or physical obstruction against them as required under 18 U.S.C. § 248(a)(2). In its legislative history, 18 USC § 248(a)(2)’s sponsor stated the proposal would “do no more than give religious liberty the same protection that [the FACE Act] would give abortion,” and would address recent violence, including a protest where activists entered a facility during prayer and threw things at the congregants, and a series of

1 arson attacks against churches. 139 Cong. Rec. S15660, 1993 WL 470962 (Nov. 3,
2 1993).

3 A large, outspoken demonstration (and a viciously brutal counterprotest) bear
4 little resemblance to the violent acts contemplated by the statute. Plaintiffs have not
5 pled any fact that could plausibly show that defendants used physical force against
6 them—the only alleged physical force was used by unidentified people.

7 Furthermore, Plaintiffs’ own pleading shows that any force or threats of force
8 that may have occurred were not at the direction of Defendants but resulted from
9 clashes provoked by the pro-Israel counter-protesters. According to sources cited in
10 the First Amended Complaint, “clashes started when pro-Israeli protesters arrived...
11 things turned violent,” and the only person arrested for violence during the protest
12 was a pro-Israel counter-protestor carrying a spiked pole (FAC fn. 2). The SAC
13 links to a Yahoo News article which includes an interview with a physician and
14 volunteer medic who was treating injured people at the event. The physician
15 explains that the pro-genocide counter-protesters clashed with the anti-war crimes
16 protesters for more than an hour, while the Los Angeles Police Department formed a
17 line that prevented any of the anti-war crimes protesters from dispersing to their
18 vehicles; “the protesters were effectively ‘sandwiched’ between the counter-
19 protesters and the police” (SAC at fn. 100). The source provided in the SAC further
20 states that “a pro-Israel demonstrator who was carrying a spiked pole was arrested.”
21 *Id.* Another source quoted in the article stated that it was in fact “a handful of LAPD
22 officers” who were “standing at the entrance of the synagogue,” obstructing entry,
23 not the anti-genocide protesters. *Id.* These facts do not plausibly show that
24 Defendants intended or used force or violence, and in fact suggest that the
25 demonstration was nonviolent up until the counter-protesters arrived with weapons.

1 Plaintiffs have also failed to plausibly allege that Defendants used a *threat* of
2 force against them. The First Amendment protects “offensive and coercive speech,”
3 including “the use of speeches, marches, and threats of social ostracism.” *Planned*
4 *Parenthood of Columbia/Willamette, Inc. v. Am. Coal. of Life Activists*, 290 F.3d
5 1058, 1070 (9th Cir. 2002), *as amended* (July 10, 2002) (citing *NAACP v.*
6 *Clairborne Hardware Co.*, 458 U.S. 886, 933 (1982)). Where Plaintiffs rely on a
7 “threat of force” to plead a violation of the FACE Act, they must show that the
8 threat was a “true threat.” 290 F.3d 1073 (providing that “FACE on its face requires
9 that ‘threat of force’ be defined and applied consistent with the First Amendment”).

10 Under the Supreme Court’s true threat doctrine, Defendants’ speech was not a
11 “threat,” as speech only qualifies as a “true threat” where “in the entire context and
12 under all the circumstances, a reasonable person would foresee [it] would be
13 interpreted by those to whom the statement is communicated as a serious expression
14 of intent to inflict bodily harm upon that person.” *Id.* at 1077. The Supreme Court
15 recently recognized a recklessness *scienter* requirement for culpable true threats,
16 such that the Defendant must have “consciously disregarded a substantial risk that
17 his communications would be viewed as threatening violence.” *Counterman v.*
18 *Colorado*, 600 U.S. 66, 69 (2023). Although *Counterman* arose in the context of a
19 criminal charge, the *scienter* requirement that it recognized has also been applied to
20 civil causes of action based on threats. *Id.*, at 80-81. *See also, e.g. Kindschy v. Aish*,
21 412 Wis.2d 319, 333 (Sup. Ct. Wis. 2024) (directly applying *Counterman*’s *scienter*
22 rule to a civil dispute).

23 In this case, Plaintiffs do not plausibly allege that Defendants’ statements are
24 true threats such that they are unprotected by the First Amendment. Plaintiffs do not
25 allege that Defendants’ statements could be interpreted as a serious expression of
26 intent to inflict bodily harm upon them, nor that Defendants were aware of any

1 substantial risk of their communications being viewed as a threat of violence. As
2 such, Plaintiffs fail to plausibly allege that any of the Defendants used a threat of
3 force against them.

4 Plaintiffs allege that some protesters called for indiscriminate violence against
5 Jewish people (SAC at ¶229). Even if Plaintiffs were to somehow plead that
6 Defendants controlled those protesters, the article linked in support of that particular
7 allegation provides no support whatsoever—in fact, the only call for indiscriminate
8 violence mentioned in the source is a pro-Israel chanter who shouted “we have the
9 bullets, you have the blood” (SAC at fn. 74).

10 Plaintiffs also fail to plausibly allege that Defendants engaged in physical
11 obstruction. To plead violation based on physical obstruction, Plaintiffs must
12 specifically show that the alleged obstruction rendered ingress and egress to the
13 facility impossible or unreasonably difficult or hazardous. 18 U.S.C. § 248(e)(4);
14 *see also* S. Rep. 117, 103d Cong. 1st Sess. 31 (1993) (explaining that “physical
15 obstruction” would include blockades, “chaining people and cars to entrances with
16 bicycle locks,” strewing nails on public roads leading to clinics, and “blocking
17 entrances with immobilized cars”); H.R. Conf. Rep No. 103-488, 9 (1994)
18 (clarifying that physical obstruction would include, for example “physically
19 blocking access to a church or pouring glue in the locks of a synagogue”).

20 Finally, Plaintiffs fail to plausibly allege that Defendants physically made
21 ingress or egress unreasonably hazardous; only that they called for a political
22 demonstration outside of the facility, and that there were eventually clashes between
23 some unidentified individuals in the crowd. This could not be further from the
24 church burnings and intentional, coordinated physical violence against parishioners
25 that the FACE Act was intended to prevent.

1 Plaintiffs have therefore failed to allege any facts that can plausibly show
2 Defendants used force, threats of force, or physical obstruction to interfere with their
3 freedom of religion under the FACE Act, and the claim must be dismissed under
4 Rule 12(b)(6).

5
6 **2. Plaintiffs Fail to Plausibly Allege Defendants Intended to**
7 **Injure, Interfere with, or Intimidate Them Because of**
8 **Their Freedom of Religion**

9 Plaintiffs' only specific facts pled against PYM are that PYM's social media
10 shared a post asking people to show up at "12 PM SHARP" saying that "OUR
11 LAND IS NOT FOR SALE" (SAC ¶¶210, 211). The SAC further alleges that PYM
12 posted "STAND AGAINST SETTLER EXPANSION AT SUNDAY'S REAL
13 ESTATE EVENT SELLING HOMES TO BUILD 'ANGLO NEIGHBORHOODS'
14 IN PALESTINE." *Id.* Plaintiffs further allege "upon information and belief" that
15 "Named Defendants" distributed keffiyehs at the protest (SAC ¶226).

16 Plaintiffs do not allege any facts that could plausibly show any of the PYM
17 Defendants intended to injure Plaintiffs, restrict their freedom of movement, or
18 threaten bodily harm, much less that they intended to do so *because* of Plaintiffs'
19 exercise of freedom of religion. Plaintiffs do not allege any mention of prayer,
20 worship, Jewish people, or Judaism, nor any call for violence, physical force, or
21 intimidation. There are also no facts pled that could plausibly show the PYM
22 Defendants intended to injure, restrict the bodily movement of, or threaten violence
23 against people coming to exercise their religious freedom at the synagogue.
24 Plaintiffs' sources in the SAC show that the published advertisement for the Real
25 Estate event made no mention whatsoever of religion, prayer, worship, nor even of
26 *Aliyah*; the event is described as a real estate opportunity, with discounts offered in

1 exchange for participation (FAC, video in fn. 11). There is no information in the
2 advertisement from which Defendants could have known this was a religious event.

3 The facts pled therefore make it impossible for Plaintiffs to plausibly allege
4 that Defendants intended to injure, intimidate, or interfere with them because of
5 their exercise of freedom of religion.

6
7 **3. Plaintiffs Have Alleged No Facts Allowing Them to**
8 **Plausibly Claim That Defendants are Responsible for**
9 **any Harmful Acts**

10 Plaintiffs implicitly rely on an imputed agency relationship to hold
11 Defendants liable for the acts of the unidentified individuals. Yet Plaintiffs fail to
12 allege facts making it plausible that Defendants had “the right to substantially
13 control [these alleged agent’s] activities,” *Williams v. Yamaha Motor Co.*, 851 F.3d
14 1015, 1024 (9th Cir. 2017), nor how they did these things or knew these things.
15 *Fabricant v. Elavon, Inc.*, 2:20-cv-02960-SVW-MAA, 12-13 (C.D.C.A. 2020).
16 Even where the principal ratifies an act without knowledge of material facts of the
17 agent’s acts, the principal must still choose to ratify the act while aware that they
18 lack such knowledge to be liable for the act. *Fabricant*, 2:20-cv-02960-SVW-MAA
19 at 13-14, quoting *Kristensen v. Credit Payment Servs. Inc.*, 879 F.3d 1010, 1014
(9th Cir. 2018).

20 Even if the unidentified Does *were* PYM members (which is only alleged
21 upon information and belief) PYM can only be responsible under some *respondeat*
22 *superior* theory. Other national organizations (for example, labor unions) are only
23 responsible for members’ actions if common law *respondeat superior* doctrines
24 apply. To hold a union responsible for an agent’s acts under the common law ““it
25 must be clearly shown . . . that what was done was done by their agents in
26 accordance with their fundamental agreement of association.”” *Carbon Fuel Co. v.*

1 UMW, 444 U.S. 212, 217 (1979), quoting *Coronado Coal Co. v. Mine Workers*, 268
2 U.S. 295, 304 (1925). Statutes governing labor-management relations imported
3 common law *respondeat superior* doctrine, *see generally* 29 U.S.C.S. § 185, the
4 Taft-Hartley Act, § 301(b), Norris–LaGuardia Act § 6, 29 U.S.C. § 106, making a
5 union liable for its members’ acts only where there is “clear proof” of participation,
6 authorization, or ratification. *Simo v. Union of Needletrades, Indus. & Textile Emps.,*
7 *Sw. Dist. Council*, 322 F.3d 602, 620 (9th Cir. 2003). Thus, even courts invoking
8 these statutes rely upon traditional agency law. Liability turns on the nature and
9 extent of the actual control an international union exercises over a local union and
10 the local’s degree of autonomy. *Laughon v. Int’l Alliance of Theatrical Stage*
11 *Emples.*, 248 F.3d 931, 935 (9th Cir. 2001). Without evidence a union has
12 instigated, supported, encouraged, or ratified acts by its subdivision union, there is
13 no proof of an agency relationship, and thus a union cannot be held liable for the
14 subdivision union’s acts. *Carbon Fuel Co.*, 444 U.S. at 218; *see also Simo*, 322 F.3d
15 at 620. Even where an individual serves a double role as both the local and
16 international union official, looking to the organization being served at the time of
17 the conduct, courts “do not impute the conduct, or knowledge of the conduct, to the
18 international solely by virtue of the individual’s double role.” *Laughon*, 248 F.3d at
19 937. Even participating in negotiations and reporting to the international’s
20 representative on the local’s progress fails to demonstrate the international
21 controlled the local to impute liability. *Security Farms v. International Broth. of*
22 *Teamsters, Chauffeurs*, 124 F.3d 999, 1012-1013 (9th Cir. 1997).

23 Here, Plaintiffs make broad, sweeping, and completely factually unsupported
24 allegations against Defendants without pointing to a single fact showing how
25 Defendants did the things it is accused of or how it knew of these things. There are
26 no facts to support that Defendants controlled any individuals present at the event,
27

1 nor any facts supporting that Defendants instigated, authorized, ratified or even
2 encouraged any of the acts named in the complaint. With no facts to support its
3 broad sweeping allegations, Plaintiffs have failed to sufficiently plead Defendants'
4 liability via vicarious liability in a principal-agent relationship.

5
6 **4. Defendants' Alleged Activities Constitute Protected First Amendment Speech and Advocacy**

7
8 Demonstrations, marches, and picketing are undeniably protected First
9 Amendment activities. *Collins v. Jordan* 110 F.3d 1363, 1371 (9th Cir. 1996). Even
10 where protected First Amendment speech becomes intertwined with someone's later
11 possibly illegal conduct is to punish the conduct, not the speech. *Id.* The FACE Act
12 explicitly forbids construing its language to capture "expressive conduct (including
13 peaceful picketing or other peaceful demonstration) protected from legal prohibition
14 by the First Amendment to the Constitution[.]" 18 U.S.C. § 248(d)(1). Plaintiffs
15 therefore cannot plausibly allege a violation of either statute based on Defendants'
16 protected speech.

17 **IV. THE COURT SHOULD DISMISS PLAINTIFFS' CLAIM ARISING UNDER THE KU KLUX KLAN ACT (42 U.S.C. § 1985(3))**

18
19 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3), "plaintiffs must allege and prove
20 four elements: (i) a conspiracy; (ii) for the purpose of depriving, either directly or
21 indirectly, any person or class of persons of the equal protection of the laws, or of
22 equal privileges and immunities under the laws; and (iii) an act in furtherance of this
23 conspiracy; (iv) whereby a person is either injured in his person or property or
24 deprived of any right or privilege of a citizen of the United States." *Comm. to*
25 *Protect our Agric. Water v. Occidental Oil & Gas Corp.*, 235 F. Supp. 3d 1132,
26 1185 (E.D. Cal. 2017).

1 The cause of action under 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3) “requires at least one of the
2 wrongdoers in the alleged conspiracy to be a state actor. Indeed, the Supreme Court
3 has held that ‘an alleged conspiracy to infringe First Amendment rights is not a
4 violation of § 1985(3) unless it is proved that the State is involved in the
5 conspiracy’” or that the aim of the conspiracy is to influence state actors. *Pasadena*
6 *Republican Club v. W. Just. Ctr.*, 985 F.3d 1161, 1171 (9th Cir. 2021) (citing *United*
7 *Bhd. of Carpenters & Joiners, Local 610 v. Scott*, 463 U.S. 825, 830 (1983).

8 To plead a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3), a plaintiff must also plausibly
9 allege that the intended deprivation was “‘motivated by some racial, or ... other[]
10 class-based’ animus.” *Comm. to Protect our Agric. Water v. Occidental Oil & Gas*
11 *Corp.*, 235 F. Supp. 3d 1132, 1185 (E.D. Cal. 2017) (citing *Sever v. Alaska Pulp*
12 *Corp.*, 978 F.2d 1529, 1536 (9th Cir. 1992); see also *Manistee Town Center v. City*
13 *of Glendale*, 227 F.3d 1090 (9th Cir. 2000); *Gaxiola v. City of Los Angeles*, No. CV
14 10-6632 AHM (FMO), 2011 WL 13152832, at *9 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 30, 2011) (“To
15 avoid interpreting § 1985(3) as a general federal tort law, the Supreme Court has
16 emphasized that, as under §1981, the plaintiff must prove as an element of the cause
17 of action ‘some racial, or perhaps otherwise class-based, invidiously discriminatory
18 animus behind the conspirators’ action’” (citing *Bray v. Alexandria Women's Health*
19 *Clinic*, 506 U.S. 263, 268 (1993)); *RK Ventures, Inc. v. City of Seattle*, 307 F.3d
20 1045, 1056 (9th Cir. 2002) (To bring a cause of action successfully under § 1985(3),
21 a plaintiff must demonstrate a deprivation of a right motivated by “some racial, or
22 perhaps otherwise class-based, invidiously discriminatory animus behind the
23 conspirators’ action”). 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3) does not extend to “conspiracies
24 motivated by bias towards others on account of their economic views, status, or
25 activities.” *United Bhd. of Carpenters and Joiners of Am, Local 610, AFL-CIO v.*
26 *Scott*, 463 U.S. 825, 837 (1983).

A. Legal Standards

1. Fed.R.Civ.Proc. 12(b)(1) and the Attendant Standing Requirements

Federal courts have limited jurisdiction *see*, Art. III, U.S. Const., and Plaintiffs must prove their case lies within a court’s jurisdiction. *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of America*, 511 U.S. 375, 377-78 (1994). Plaintiffs must establish they have (1) suffered an injury in fact, (2) that is fairly traceable to the challenged conduct of the defendant, and (3) that is likely to be redressed by a favorable judicial decision. *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560-561 (1992). Plaintiff “bears the burden of establishing these elements” and “at the pleading stage, [he] must clearly allege facts demonstrating each element.” *Id.* (citation omitted). The injury pled must “be fairly traceable to the challenged action of the defendant, and not the result of the independent action of some third party not before the court.” *Lujan*, 504 U.S. at 560-61 (citation omitted). Further, “the line of causation between the [alleged] illegal conduct and injury” must not be “too attenuated.” *Allen v. Wright*, 468 U.S. 737, 752 (1984) (concluding that a weak demonstration of causation precludes Article III standing), *overruled on other grounds by Lexmark Int’l, Inc. v. Static Control Components, Inc.*, 134 S. Ct. 1377, 1388 (2014). Rather, the line of causation must be more than attenuated, and “where the causal chain ‘involves third parties whose numerous independent decisions collectively have a significant effect on plaintiffs’ injuries . . . the causal chain [is] too weak to support standing at the pleading stage.’” (citations and internal quotation marks omitted). *Native Village of Kivalina v. Exxon Mobil Corp.*, 696 F.3d 849, 867 (9th Cir. 2012).

1 **2. Fed.R.Civ.Proc. 12(b)(6) Requires Facts Sufficient to Make**
2 **a Claim Plausible**

3 A district court must dismiss a claim if it “fail[s] to state a claim upon which
4 relief can be granted.” Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 12(b)(6). Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of
5 Civil Procedure requires a plaintiff to plead “enough facts to state a claim to relief
6 that is plausible on its face.” *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570
7 (2007). Although “a complaint need not contain detailed factual allegations . . . it
8 must plead enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.”
9 *Cousins v. Lockyer*, 568 F.3d 1063, 1067-68 (9th Cir. 2009) (internal quotation
10 marks and citations omitted). A claim is facially plausible only when it “allows the
11 court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct
12 alleged.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678, (2009) (internal quotation marks
13 omitted). “[C]onclusory allegations of law and unwarranted inferences are
14 insufficient to avoid . . . dismissal” under this standard. *Cousins*, 568 F.3d at 1067
15 (internal quotation marks omitted). A court may reject as implausible allegations
16 that are too speculative to warrant further factual development. *Dahlia v. Rodriguez*,
17 735 F.3d 1060, 1076 (9th Cir. 2013). The allegations must be enough to raise a right
18 to relief above the speculative level. *Twombly* at 548. The court need not accept
19 allegations that are merely conclusory, are unwarranted deductions, or unreasonable
20 inferences. *Sprewell v. Golden State Warriors*, 266 F.3d 979, 988 (9th Cir. 2001).

21 **B. Plaintiffs’ 42 U.S.C. 1985(3) Claims Fail Under Rule 12(b)(6)**

22 **1. Plaintiffs Fail to Allege Specific Facts that Plausibly Show a**
23 **Conspiracy by Defendants**

24 A claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3) requires specific factual allegations that
25 plausibly show the Defendants conspired to violate the statute. *Comm. to Protect*
26 *our Agric. Water*, 235 F. Supp. 3d at 1185. Plaintiff must “allege facts to support the
27

1 allegation that defendants conspired together. A mere allegation of conspiracy
2 without factual specificity is insufficient.” *Karim-Panahi v. L.A. Police Dep’t*, 839
3 F.2d 621, 626 (9th Cir. 1988); *see also Sanchez v. City of Santa Ana*, 936 F.2d 1027,
4 1039 (9th Cir. 1991). Plaintiff has failed to do so in this case.

5 Rather than alleging specific facts that plausibly show a conspiracy among the
6 Defendants, the SAC relies on blanket generalized assertions that “Named Defendants
7 conspired with each other and then acted in concert” (SAC ¶9; *see also* SAC ¶¶146,
8 356). Plaintiffs allege that “Named Defendants agreed among themselves to organize
9 the riot” (SAC ¶400) without alleging any specific facts as to who agreed, what was
10 agreed to, when it was agreed to, by what means such agreement was communicated,
11 nor even what said alleged agreement included. Without specific factual allegations
12 that make a conspiracy plausible, the blanket assertion that ‘Defendants conspired to
13 organize a riot’ is insufficient to plead a claim. 235 F. Supp. 3d at 1185.

14 **2. Plaintiffs Fail to Allege Any Conspirator Was a State Actor,**
15 **or that Conspiracy Was Aimed at a State Action**

16 Plaintiffs fail to allege a state actor was part of any conspiracy, or that
17 Defendants was intending to influence state action. To state a claim under 42 U.S.C.
18 § 1985(3), Plaintiffs must plausibly allege that one or more of the conspirators is a
19 state actor, or that the conspiracy was intended to influence state action. *Pasadena*
20 *Republic Club v. Western Justice Center*, 985 F.3d 1161, 1171 (9th Cir. 2021)
21 (citing *United Bhd. Of Carpenters & Joiners, Local 610 v. Scott*, 463 U.S. 825, 830
22 (1983) (“an alleged conspiracy to infringe First Amendment rights is not a violation
23 of § 1985(3) unless it is proved that the State is involved in the conspiracy.”). The
24 SAC contains none of this.

25 **3. Plaintiffs Do Not Plausibly Allege a Racial or Class Based**
26 **Animus**

1 Plaintiffs allege that Defendants called on supporters to help advocate against
2 the sale of illegally occupied land (SAC ¶¶210-211). These pled facts cannot
3 plausibly show a racial or class-based animus on the part of PYM when it
4 encouraged supporters to attend the rally.

5 Sources cited in the Second Amended Complaint instead show that
6 Defendants were motivated by a desire to oppose “the illegal sale of stolen,
7 occupied land in Palestine” (SAC at fn. 90). Even if Defendants had animus
8 towards people who sought to attend the specific real estate event in order to
9 purchase a house in Occupied Palestine, that would amount to an economic animus,
10 which is specifically *not* a basis for a claim under 42 U.S.C. §1985(3). United Bhd.
11 of Carpenters and Joiners of Am, Local 610, AFL-CIO v. Scott, 463 U.S. at 837 (42
12 U.S.C. § 1985(3) does not extend to “conspiracies motivated by bias towards others
13 on account of their economic views, status, or activities”).

14 Plaintiffs have not set forth—and cannot point to a single statement or action
15 by Defendants that establishes—a plausible factual basis for finding a racial or
16 class-based animus, and in fact have provided the court with specific reasons to find
17 such a motivation *implausible*.

18 Where, as here, the pleadings include citation to clear, consistent statements
19 by the Defendants regarding their motivation, the Court cannot ignore these facts
20 and should treat them as true under Rule 12(b)(6). Ordinarily, affirmative defenses
21 may not be raised by motion to dismiss. *Scott v. Kuhlmann*, 746 F.2d 1377, 1378
22 (9th Cir. 1984) (per curiam). But a complaint may be dismissed when the allegations
23 of the complaint give rise to an affirmative defense that clearly appears on the face
24 of the pleading. *McCalden v. California Library Ass’n*, 955 F.2d 1214, 1219 (9th
25 Cir. 1990) (superseded by rule on other grounds as stated in *Harmston v. City &*

1 *County of San Francisco*, 627 F.3d 1273 (9th Cir. 2010); *Boquist v. Courtney*, 32
2 F.4th 764, 774 (9th Cir. 2022).

3 **4. Plaintiffs Do Not Plausibly Allege Harms That Are**
4 **Traceable to Defendants**

5 Standing under Article III requires Plaintiff to demonstrate a concrete injury
6 that is fairly-traceable to the complained-of conduct. *Alaska Right to Life Political*
7 *Action Comm. v. Feldman*, 504 F.3d 840, 848 (9th Cir. 2007) (quoting *Lujan*, 504
8 U.S. at 560-561. Courts are reluctant to endorse standing theories that rest
9 on speculation about the decisions of an independent actor. *Clapper v. Amnesty*
10 *Int’l. USA*, 568 U.S. 398, 414 (2013).

11 None of Plaintiffs’ pled injuries are fairly traceable to any of Defendants
12 alleged conduct. Plaintiff Helmann’s pled injuries are that he tried to enter the
13 synagogue through the front entrance but was “blocked by the angry mob,” “was
14 unable to enter the synagogue safely,” and ultimately “decided to return home” of
15 his own accord (SAC ¶12-4). These injuries are not fairly-traceable to any alleged
16 conduct by Defendants. There are no facts plead that can plausibly show that
17 Defendants controlled or directed, nor even encouraged, John Does 1-100, nor the
18 rest of “the mob” that scared Plaintiff Helmann, only that Defendants encouraged
19 supporters to attend the anti-genocide demonstration and to help advocate against a
20 war crime.

21 Plaintiffs’ injuries are therefore not fairly-traceable to the alleged conduct of
22 Defendants, but rather depend on the acts of unidentified third parties, including the
23 individual who allegedly sprayed other people with mace, the individuals who
24 allegedly took photographs of houses and cars, the counter-protesters who—
25 according to the sources in the Second Amended Complaint—started the violent
26 clash, and the police and private security who failed to sufficiently control the

1 crowd. Video footage cited in the First Amended Complaint shows that the anti-
2 genocide protesters were the smaller of the various groups involved, were attacked
3 by the pro-Israel counter-protesters, and were surrounded and kettled by security
4 (FAC fn. 11, embedded video at 12:42-14:09). Defendants had no control over any
5 of these actors, and Plaintiffs fail to offer a single fact that can plausibly suggest
6 otherwise.

7 As such, because Plaintiffs' injuries depend upon the acts of independent
8 third parties and are not fairly traceable to the alleged acts of Defendants, Plaintiffs
9 have no standing to bring this suit under 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3).

10 **V. PYM DEFENDANTS RESPECTFULLY JOIN IN THE**
11 **MOTIONS FILED BY ANY CO-DEFENDANT TO DISMISS**
12 **PLAINTIFFS' SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION**
13 **COMPLAINT TO THE EXTENT THEY APPLY**

14 PYM Defendants note that other defendants filed motions to dismiss and
15 motions to strike the Second Amended Complaint raising other arguments common
16 to all defendants, including, without limitation, those relating to Plaintiffs' lack of
17 standing, lack of jurisdiction under principles of international and humanitarian law,
18 Motion to Strike, and the failure to meet the requirements for class certification.
19 PYM Defendants respectfully join those arguments.

20 **VI. CONCLUSION**

21 The Court has a gate-keeping function, even at the pleading stage. That
22 function is perhaps most needed when political actors dress as litigants and demand
23 that judges turn their courtrooms into stages for ideological or even theological
24 disputes. That is why *Iqbal* and *Twombly* demand that the rhetoric must be tethered
25 to facts, and that grant theories be supported by enough of those facts to at least
26 make the theories plausible.

1 Those guardrails have been entirely breached here. Several groups called for a
2 demonstration. PYM asked its supporters to help advocate against the illegal sale of
3 illegally occupied land, and it had no knowledge that religious services were
4 scheduled at the synagogue that day—a Sunday, not a notable day for Jewish
5 religious gatherings. Yet in this hyperbolic atmosphere a constitutionally protected
6 call for legal protest has been recast as a campaign of terror.

7 The law requires more of a plaintiff than hyperbole. First, a court must have
8 jurisdiction over defendants, and the complaint fails to establish that with respect to
9 PYM and Schirf. There must be at least a nod to the reality-based community—a
10 latticework of facts and inferences that are plausible. The plaintiffs have utterly
11 failed at even this most basic requirement. There are no facts showing PYM
12 intended to obstruct religious services, no facts showing it called on anyone to do so,
13 no facts showing state actors were involved, and no facts showing even the faintest
14 link between a call for advocacy and the chaotic scene that eventually arose when
15 armed counter-protestors arrived and spent hours antagonizing the anti-genocide
16 demonstrators.

17 Plaintiffs have already amended their Complaint twice and still fail to identify
18 a single specific fact making their claims against PYM plausible or establishing
19 Article III standing. Because the Plaintiffs have thrice failed to plausibly plead their
20 invoked causes of action, and because further amendment would be a futile waste of
21 the Court’s resources, this complaint should be dismissed with prejudice.

1 Respectfully submitted,

2

3 Dated: January 27, 2025

LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS B. HARVEY

4

5

By: /s/ Thomas B. Harvey

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Thomas B. Harvey

7

Attorney for Defendants

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PALESTINIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

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COURTNEY LENNA SCHIRF

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REMO IBRAHIM

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L.R. 11–6.2 Certificate of Compliance

The undersigned counsel of record for Defendants certifies that this brief contains 6819 words, which complies with the word limit of L.R. 11–6.1.

Dated: January 27, 2025 LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS B. HARVEY

By: /s/ Thomas B. Harvey
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