



July 31, 2024

Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
Chief Data Practices Compliance Officer
Data Access & Privacy
lauriebk@umn.edu

Via Web-form and E-Mail

RE: Public Records Request

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a public records request under Minn. Stat. § 13.03 by the Center for Constitutional Rights (“CCR”) to the University of Minnesota (“UMN” or “University”). We seek records related to UMN’s offer of employment as Associate Professor with tenure and appointment as the Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University to Professor Raz Segal, as well as the rescinding of that offer.¹

Records Request

We request the following data and records², from December 27, 2023 through the date which this request is processed:³

1. All communications⁴ sent or received by the following custodians regarding Raz Segal⁵, including any data related to Prof. Segal’s application for employment, offer of

¹ See, e.g., “A Holocaust Scholar Called Israel’s Actions in Gaza ‘Genocide.’ It Cost Him a Job Offer,” The Chronicle for Higher Education, June 17, 2024. Available at: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-holocaust-scholar-called-israels-actions-in-palestine-genocide-it-cost-him-a-job-offer>

² Within this request, “data” and “records” refer to any materials of any sort that could constitute “government data” within the meaning of Minn. Stat. 13.02, subd. 7.

³ This includes any and all confidential data according to Minnesota Government Data Practices Act or any other Minnesota law.

⁴ “Communications” includes emails, text messages, social media direct messages, or any other forms of written communication, as well as any recordings of oral communications, including voicemail and voicenotes, or written notes regarding or reflecting any oral communications. Additionally, this also includes any messages, chat records or automated notetaking records from video conferencing platforms, included but not limited to Zoom, Google, Microsoft Teams, or Web-ex.

⁵ Prof. Segal is aware of this public records request and has signed a waiver regarding any personal information that may be released. This waiver is attached as Attachment 1 to this request.

employment and rescindment of that offer at UMN; any data related to any writing done by Prof. Segal; any data related to any of Prof. Segal's social media accounts; and any other data related to anything else discussed by custodians with other individuals internal and/or external to UMN about Prof. Segal.

- a. Professor Bruno Chaouat
 - b. Professor Karen Painter
 - c. Professor Richard W. Painter
 - d. Professor Oren Gross
 - e. Jeff Ettinger, Interim UMN President
 - f. Rebecca Cunningham, Current UMN President
 - g. Rachel T.A. Croson, UMN Provost
 - h. Ann Waltner, Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts
 - i. GerShun Avilez, Current Dean of the College of Liberal Arts
 - j. Sarah Chambers, Chair of the Department of History
 - k. Evelyn Davidheiser, Director of the Institute for Global Studies and Chair of the Search Committee
 - l. Joe Eggers, Interim Director of CHGS
 - m. Benjie Kaplan, University of Minnesota Hillel Director
 - n. Natan Paradise, Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Minnesota
 - o. Professor Sheer Ganor
 - p. Professor Leslie Morris
 - q. Professor Daniel Schroeter
 - r. Professor Joachim Savelsberg
 - s. Carrie Booth Walling, Director of UMN Human Rights Program
2. Any communications between Rebecca Cunningham and the unnamed colleagues mentioned in her email to all UMN staff⁶ where Cunningham states: "I have spoken with a number of colleagues who have expressed concerns about how the director search unfolded."
 3. Any communications between administrators and/or faculty at UMN with Rebecca Feinstein.
 4. Any communications between administrators and/or faculty at UMN with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas and/or with its director, Steve Hunegs.
 5. Any communications related to the following news media articles:
 - a. "Controversial Job Offer Leads To Resignations From Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies Board," TC Jewfolk, June 9, 2024. Available at:

⁶ See

<https://view.ecommunications2.umn.edu/?qs=6a01b1ba3d3c9a4d847374d0963f65a95b55351eda8b9ae72b2d9447ab4af5942221fee467197a3f34e3b7fe56d6e1ea01751c3d24cfb40440b9c1602a1d75d29757f94bafbb6952ea0d68868fe74939>.

<https://tcjewfolk.com/2024/06/09/controversial-hire-leads-to-resignations-from-center-for-holocaust-and-genocide-studies-board/>

- b. “A Holocaust Scholar Called Israel’s Actions in Gaza ‘Genocide.’ It Cost Him a Job Offer,” The Chronicle for Higher Education, June 17, 2024. Available at: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-holocaust-scholar-called-israels-actions-in-palestine-genocide-it-cost-him-a-job-offer>
 - c. “Scholar says he still wants U Holocaust center job despite controversy,” MPRNews, June 14, 2024. Available at: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2024/06/11/u-of-m-halts-search-for-holocaust-center-director-criticism>
 - d. “Holocaust Scholar Raz Segal Loses Univ. of Minnesota Job Offer for Saying Israel Is Committing Genocide,” Democracy Now!, June 18, 2024. Available at: https://www.democracynow.org/2024/6/18/raz_segal_university_of_minnesota
 - e. “Accusing Israel of genocide cost me a job — just another example of a university failing Jews,” The Forward, July 11, 2024. Available at: <https://forward.com/opinion/631746/university-protests-israel-genocide-campus/>
6. Any communications between UMN faculty and/or administrators
 - a. With Minneapolis Star Tribune reporters Aurora Weirens, David Banks, and/or Maya Rao
 - b. Related to coverage of Raz Segal and UMN in the Star Tribune
 7. Any communications between UMN faculty and/or administrators with journalist Maggie Hicks.
 8. Any communications between UMN faculty and/or administrators with journalists at TC Jewfolk related to the coverage of Raz Segal and/or UMN.
 9. Any and all policies, guidances, handbooks or other materials in use since December 1, 2023 which set out the process for hiring and approving the appointment of the Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the College of Liberal Arts at UMN.
 10. Any and all policies, guidances, handbooks or other materials in use since December 1, 2023 which set out the process for hiring and approving the appointment of Directors of other “Centers” or similar positions in the College of Liberal Arts at UMN.
 11. Any and all policies, guidances, handbooks or other materials in use since December 1, 2023 which set out the process for hiring and approving the appointment of any full-time, tenured professor in the College of Liberal Arts at UMN.

Suggested search terms for the above numbered requests:

- “Raz Segal”
- “Segal”
- “genocide”
- “RS”

- “Raz”
- “Palestine”
- “Israel”
- “Hammas”
- “JCRC” or “Jewish Community Relations Council”
- “Rebecca Feinstein” or “RF”
- “Hunegs”
- “minndakjerc.org”
- “CHGS” or “Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies”
- “antisemitic” or “anti-Semitic” or “antisemitism” or “anti-Semitism”

Conclusion

Please send all responses and correspondence regarding this request by e-mail to: **ihed@ccrjustice.org**. Additional contact information is below if needed.

Please provide digital/electronic versions of responsive documents, preferably in PDF format.

Please treat each individual request contained herein as severable from the others and provide responsive records on a rolling basis.

The Center for Constitutional Rights is a non-profit organization whose work is in the public interest. As such, we are asking that you waive the fees associated with this request. In the alternative, we would ask for a significant discount as we have no commercial interest in these records and they will be in service of government transparency and the public good. Please notify me in advance if any associated fees are expected to exceed \$100.

Per Minnesota law, all requests for government data must be complied with in an "appropriate and prompt manner." Minn. Stat. § 13.03, subd. 2(a). I look forward to your first response to this request within 10 business days.

Should you deny any portion of this request based on a determination that you are legally exempt from the disclosure requirement with respect to a particular document, please “cite the specific statutory section, temporary classification, or specific provision of federal law on which the determination is based.” Minn. Stat. § 13.03, subd. 3(f). Additionally, please provide a description of each item of data being withheld.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'R.A.' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Ian Head
Open Records Project Manager
Center for Constitutional Rights
666 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10012
ihead@ccrjustice.org

ATTACHMENT 1

Authorization for the Release of Records

I, Raz Segal, reside at 823 Almond street, Philadelphia, PA 19125 and hereby authorize the University of Minnesota (“UMN”) to release any and all records relative to me and created and/or maintained by UMN to Ian Head and the Center for Constitutional Rights, whose address is 666 Broadway, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10012. I declare, certify, verify and state that, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Minnesota, the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 30 July 2024



Raz Segal