

From: [Mudders Against Murder](#)
To: [Harriet Nembhard](#); [Karen Angemi](#); [Thyra Briggs](#); [Andrew Dorantes](#); [Tom Donnelly](#); [Timothy Hussey](#); [Cynthia Martinez](#); [Kimberly Stafford](#); [Joseph Vaughan](#)
Subject: Commitment to Nonviolence & Response to Cabinet Email
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2024 9:01:06 AM

Dear members of the President's Cabinet and the Harvey Mudd College community,

We are disappointed by the HMC administration's fearmongering about Mudders Against Murder, and we are particularly concerned about the attempts to misrepresent this group of students as a threat to the community. Below is a statement confirming our commitment to nonviolence and responding to the Cabinet's claims, summarized at the top.

Summary:

We are a nonviolent group. The safety of the HMC community will never be at risk due to our actions. Our escalations will not be violent, endanger bystanders, or target anyone's personal safety. We wear masks to anonymize members because of the retaliation against students that have been identified as supporting Palestine and anti-war efforts. Individual students that have been contacted haven't responded on behalf of the whole group, and we have chosen not to disrupt open spaces for the student body to discuss, such as listening sessions and email listservs. However, we have not avoided any direct engagement with our group. We were directly contacted via email only on the evening of April 16th, less than 24 hours before the Cabinet's email.

Full Statement:

We have been, and always will be, a nonviolent group that engages in peaceful forms of protest. The safety of faculty, staff, fellow students, members of the administration, or anyone else will never be put at risk. We do not condone targeting individual students, either because they are on specific clinic teams, or for any other reason. Some of us are on the very Clinic projects listed in the petition, and joined MAM because we are against what our work is contributing to.

As stated in the emails we sent to the Directors of OCS and Engineering Clinic, we do intend on escalating if our demands are ignored. Escalation is not the same thing as violence. We do not support endangering our members or the people around us. Student organizing has historically included peaceful forms of escalation at the 5Cs and across college campuses in the US.

One third of the student body has signed the petition and shares the goals of removing Mudd's ties to the military industrial complex. We are not a fringe group, nor are we outside agitators. **We are students and thus also members of the HMC community.** We understand that the way the Cabinet is framing our actions is intended to sow division and

suspicion amongst students, and encourage us to turn against each other. In contrast, our campaign calls for solidarity between students, staff, faculty, alumni, and the broader community alike.

Furthermore, the Cabinet's email describes us as "masked protestors" without any consideration for why we, as students, might have been masked. **They portray masking as a threatening act, but we mask to protect ourselves from retaliation and doxxing if we are identified to the administration and the public.** On April 5th, 20 peaceful student protestors were arrested at Pomona College, proving that the 5Cs are not a safe place to protest. We have no reason to believe that Harvey Mudd's administration will act differently than its sister college, Pomona, especially given these recent attempts to misrepresent us. The email also prompts students to contact Campus Security if they feel unsafe. This will only embolden others to target student protestors and put them in further risk at the hands of Campus Security and potentially Claremont Police, who evidently feel comfortable using violence against students. To endorse calling the police on students right after the recent arrests at Pomona shows it is the administration who is threatening to escalate with violence, not us.

Finally, we'd like to address their assertion that Mudders Against Murder has rejected all attempts to engage.

For the Clinic listening sessions, we decided not to attend as an organized campaign. We wanted to respect that this was a space for all students to voice their individual perspectives and concerns, and did not want to take that opportunity away from the student body. Similarly, this is why we chose not to officially interact with the community-l discussions, since we wanted to keep dialogue open.

We also feel individual students should not be pressured about their support of or involvement in our campaign by faculty or administration. **As we've always stated, we can be contacted at our official email.** We have already, and will continue to, communicate with faculty through this email. **We were only directly contacted at our official email on the evening of April 16th**, by Dean Cindy on behalf of OCS and Clinic Directors – less than 24 hours before the cabinet's email was sent to the entire community. We discussed this as soon as was possible for us, and we have now responded with an offer to meet in a way that does not put individual students at risk. Additionally, we do not view the announcement of a Strategic Task Force as a way of communicating with us, as it does not address or even explicitly acknowledge our demands.

We hope you will take this into consideration, and we assure you **we mean no harm or threat to the safety of the community.** If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at [REDACTED] and we'd be happy to clarify further.

Best Regards,
Mudders Against Murder