

May 22, 1952

Hon. Mayor Vincent Impellitieri  
City Hall  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Over a week ago, a Negro World War veteran-student at New York University, Enus L. Christiani, was killed by an "armed guard" at a student block party on Washington Square. He, other students and members of the NAACP Youth Chapter on the campus had previously protested the use of a racist stereotype of a Negro woman as a target in a dart throwing game.

This shocking death aroused the deep indignation of the National Board and membership of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order. We believe that the outcome of this case is of deep concern to the citizens of New York City because of the recent murders of Negroes in our city, in Yonkers and Florida; because of the racist insults to Miss Josephine Baker and the bomb threats to an East Side Jewish Sunday School.

This killing took place on the grounds of a University which uses racist-anti-Semitic questions and practices in school applications and in certain sports. The University uses an all-white "armed guard". Its labelling of interest and questions about the case as "meddling" and "race-inciting" sounds too familiarly like that of the Dixiecrats.



It leads us to the direct conclusion that this was another racist murder of an unarmed, patriotically outspoken Negro young man.

Up to date, no proper measures, justified by the racist character of this killing, have been taken by city authorities. We believe that there is required an immediate prosecution by the District Attorney's office of this murder and compensation to the widow of Enus L. Christiani.

All discriminating practices at New York University demand immediate investigation and cleaning up.

The deep desire of New York citizens to see racism eradicated and their power to do so was shown recently in the great victory over Jim Crow practices in Stuyvesant Town.

Therefore, Mr. Mayor, public expression on your part, giving the required lead to stop racism and secure justice in the Christiani case is needed now.

Very truly yours,

NATIONAL BOARD OF THE JPFO

Rubin Saltzman  
General Secretary

dpowa