

Holding Universities Accountable for Gross Negligence

The Safety of American Students Must Come First. This Should Be a Given.

Sorry America,
You were not accepted.
Your foreign enemy was.

Cowdrey

Universities in the United States carry a profound responsibility to protect the safety of their students, faculty, and surrounding communities. When institutions ignore credible risks or fail to exercise reasonable caution in admissions decisions and campus oversight, the consequences can be severe.

Recent incidents reported in national and regional news have raised serious questions about the duty of care exercised by university administrations.

One example involves the shooting at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, where a gunman identified as Mohamed Bailor Jalloh carried out an attack that resulted in the death of an instructor and injuries to others. Reports indicated prior concerns related to extremist ideology.

Another case involved suspects connected to Rowan University in New Jersey who were investigated in connection with an alleged plot inspired by the terrorist group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

These incidents illustrate the seriousness of institutional responsibility in maintaining campus safety. Universities operate with public trust, taxpayer support, and the expectation that student welfare will remain a primary priority.

When warning signs exist such as criminal histories, extremist affiliations, or documented investigations, institutions must take these risks seriously. The obligation to protect students should guide institutional decision making at every level.

American families send their children to universities with the expectation that campuses are environments of learning, safety, and responsible governance. Universities hold authority over admissions, campus policies, and security procedures. With that authority comes responsibility.

When institutions fail to act on obvious risks, the public has reason to demand accountability.

In this new world shaped by war, slavery and global security challenges, institutions must exercise vigilance and sound judgment. The safety of American students must remain central to every administrative decision.

Administrative negligence places students at risk and erodes public trust in higher education. Universities must acknowledge their responsibility and take decisive action to protect the people they serve.

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