



1901 West Carroll Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60612
(312) 329-6299

January 14, 2021

Dear University Administrator:

We are writing to ask you to publicly break ties with Amazon, the Blackstone Group, Fidelity, and Google for their role in enabling the insurrection in Washington, DC on January 6th. Yesterday, we joined with 40 other organizations in sending letters to the CEOs of these four corporations demanding they stop providing funds and platforms to fascist politicians and hate groups. Those letters are attached and detail the role each of them has played in enabling the rise of white supremacy and fascism in our country. Copies of the letters can also be found at [StopFundingFascism.org](https://www.stopfundingfascism.org).

We all watched in horror last week as a group of armed insurrectionists stormed the United States Capitol and attempted a coup in support of Donald Trump. As the story unfolds, it is becoming clear that many in the mob were prepared to kidnap, and even execute, members of Congress and the Vice President, in a harrowing attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 Presidential Election.¹

This deadly insurrectionist violence was incited by Donald Trump, numerous members of Congress, and networks of white supremacist and far-right organizations who spread misinformation and conspiracy theories about the election, stoked racial division, and even encouraged violence. Their actions were enabled by corporations like Amazon, the Blackstone Group, Fidelity, and Google that have provided fascist politicians and organizations money and a platform.

Sadly, the January 6th attack could mark the beginning of a new era of bolder and more commonplace racist and antidemocratic violence in our politics. The seditionists who led last week's insurrection are actively planning further armed demonstrations at the U.S. Capitol and all 50 state capitols in the days leading up to the Presidential Inauguration next week.²

As institutions of higher education, colleges and universities are the guardians of democracy. The actions of these four corporations pose a direct threat, not only to the democratic process, but to democracy itself. It is essential that you examine your own complicity in these attacks through your various connections to these corporations.

Until these corporations agree to the demands in our letters, we call on you to publicly pledge to:

- Not partake in any future business with Blackstone and Fidelity;
- Divest your endowment of shares of Amazon, Blackstone, and Google;
- Not use the G Suite for Education and other Google products;
- Not use Amazon Web Services and other Amazon platforms and products;

¹ Godfrey, Elaine. "It Was Supposed to Be So Much Worse." *The Atlantic*. 09 Jan 2021.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2021/01/trump-rioters-wanted-more-violence-worse/617614>.

² Cohen, Zachary and Whitney Wild. "FBI warns 'armed protests' being planned at all 50 state capitols and in Washington DC." CNN. 12 Jan 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/11/politics/fbi-bulletin-armed-protests-state-us-capitol/index.html>.

- Ban all employees of Amazon, Blackstone, Fidelity, and Google from any board or teaching positions; and
- Ban Amazon, Blackstone, Fidelity, and Google from career fairs, conferences, and other networking events on campus.

Due to the dire urgency of the situation, we request your response by the close of business on Friday, January 15th. Please direct your response and any questions to me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saqib Bhatti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Saqib" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bhatti".

Saqib Bhatti
Co-Executive Director
Action Center on Race and the Economy