ABC News Transcript WORLD NEWS TONIGHT WITH DAVID MUIR 6:32 PM EST

May 2, 2024 Thursday

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Anchors: DAVID MUIR

Reporters: TREVOR AULT (LOS ANGELES, CA USA)

Body

CONTENT: PROTESTS, COLLEGES, GAZA, BIDEN, ARRESTS

DAVID MUIR (ABC NEWS)

(Off-camera) Good evening. And it's great to have you with us here on a Thursday night. That crash and explosion here in the northeast on I-95, closing down the interstate in both directions. We're over the scene tonight.

GRAPHICS: BREAKING NEWS

GRAPHICS: BIDEN CONDEMNS "VIOLENT PROTEST"

DAVID MUIR (ABC NEWS)

(Off-camera) But we begin tonight with the dramatic new images of the crackdown and arrests on campuses across the country. President Biden speaking out for the first time, defending peaceful protest, saying violent protest is not protected.

DAVID MUIR (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) The dramatic images tonight from UCLA. Hundreds of protesters defying orders to leave. Police moving in overnight, and right into today, firing flashbangs to break up the crowds. Confrontations turning physical in the chaos and smoke there. Officials tonight say, at UCLA, more than 200 arrested. In Portland, Oregon, tonight, officers taking back the library at Portland State University. Police releasing images of ball bearings, makeshift armor and what they called improvised weapons. In New York City tonight, new images from inside Columbia and, this evening, police now say of the nearly 300 arrests at Columbia and nearby City College, nearly half were outside agitators.

DAVID MUIR (ABC NEWS)

(Off-camera) ABC's Trevor Ault leading us off, starting with those dramatic images from UCLA early today.

GRAPHICS: POLICE CRACK DOWN ON CAMPUS DEMONSTRATIONS ACROSS U.S.

TREVOR AULT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) Tonight, the dramatic images of authorities moving in during the overnight hours, cracking down on protesters at UCLA and driving them out, continuing their effort to oust them as the sun came up. The university declaring this pro-Palestinian encampment an unlawful gathering, calling in outside help.

POLICE OFFICER (MALE)

Get back. Get back.

TREVOR AULT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) Hundreds of officers arriving in riot gear, firing flashbangs and nonlethal ammunition.

TREVOR AULT (ABC NEWS)

(Off-camera) Protesters basically spent all of yesterday putting up this barricade. We're watching law enforcement tear it apart one-by-one, firing these projectiles here as this encampment is basically slowing, slowly coming down.

PROTESTERS (GROUP)

We're not leaving.

TREVOR AULT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) Protesters donning hard hats and gas masks, at times spraying fire extinguishers, insisting they had no weapons, asking police not to shoot. Officers then moving in.

PROTESTERS (GROUP)

Peaceful protest.

TREVOR AULT (ABC NEWS)

(Off-camera) Law enforcement basically pinned these demonstrators up against the building here. They're being walked away in zipties. They have been taken into custody, peacefully so far.

TREVOR AULT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) More than 200 people arrested at UCLA. And in Portland tonight, the dramatic clashes there just today at Portland State University...

POLICE OFFICER (FEMALE)

You're under arrest. If you resist, we will use force.

TREVOR AULT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) ...as officers cleared the library where anti-war protesters had barricaded themselves inside. Police releasing photos of ball bearings and DIY armor they say were homemade weapons.

POLICE OFFICER (MALE)

If you are interfering or resisting arrest may result in use of force and criminal charges.

TREVOR AULT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) And tonight, authorities revealing what they say has become all too common. Outside agitators. Of the 12 people arrested in Portland, police say just four were actually students.

POLICE OFFICER (MALE)

Let's deploy a flashbang.

TREVOR AULT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) And tonight in New York, authorities releasing new images from inside the NYPD's raid at Columbia University, making the same point, that much of this is being driven by outside agitators. Police in New York say, of the 282 people arrested at Columbia and nearby City College, nearly half of them, 134, were not affiliated with the schools. And tonight, after days of protests across the country, President Biden now speaking out, saying order must prevail.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN (UNITED STATES)

Destroying property is not a peaceful protest. It's against the law. Vandalism, trespassing, breaking windows, shutting down campuses, forcing the cancellation of classes and graduation. None of this is a peaceful protest.

TREVOR AULT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) The President condemning antisemitism and threats of violence against Jewish students. He also spoke out against discrimination against Arab-Americans.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN (UNITED STATES)

There is no place for hate speech, or violence of any kind whether its antisemitism, Islamophobia or discrimination against Arab-Americans or Palestinian-Americans. It's simply wrong.

TREVOR AULT (ABC NEWS)

(Off-camera) And President Biden said the National Guard should not intervene in these protests. He did specify the demonstrations have not swayed his policies on Gaza. And, David, here at UCLA tonight, the only thing left of this encampment is this dumpster filled with debris, but you can't rule out the possibility of new demonstrations popping up. David?

DAVID MUIR (ABC NEWS)

(Off-camera) Much different scene there behind you tonight. Trevor Ault, thank you.

Classification

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Geographic: PORTLAND, OR, USA (92%); NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); NEW YORK, USA (79%); OREGON, USA (79%); STATE OF PALESTINE (79%); UNITED STATES (79%)

Load-Date: May 6, 2024

Biden condemns unrest following Gaza protests after police storm campuses: 'Violent protest is not protected'

The Independent (United Kingdom)
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Section: US POLITICS, AMERICAS, WORLD; Version:4

Length: 921 words

Byline: Andrew Feinberg

Highlight: President's remarks come after police were met with violence while clearing Gaza protest encampments

from college campuses nationwide

Body

President Biden on Thursday condemned the unrest and violence that has disrupted college campuses over the last week, while stressing the importance of Americans' rights to protest peacefully in support of the Palestinians' treatment during Israel's ongoing war against Hamas in Gaza.

Mr Biden said peaceful protest is "in the best tradition of how Americans respond to consequential issues" because the US is "not an authoritarian nation where we silence people or squash dissent".

He said the images of police clashing with protesters put the "fundamental American principles" of free speech and the rule of law "to the test" as he pointed out the importance of maintaining the latter to allow the former.

"Peaceful protest is in the best tradition of how Americans respond to consequential issues, but neither are we a lawless country. We're a civil society, and order must prevail," he said.

Mr Biden also condemned actors who are using the campus unrest and protests to "score political points" and called the protests "a moment for clarity".

"Let me be clear ... violent protest is not protected, peaceful protest is," he said.

"Destroying property is not a peaceful protest – it's against the law. Vandalism, trespassing, breaking windows, shutting down campuses, forcing the cancellation of classes and graduations. None of this is a peaceful protest, threatening people, intimidating people, instilling fear in people is not peaceful protest. It's against the law."

The president also stressed that while dissent remains "essential to democracy", it "must never lead to disorder or denying the rights of others".

"It's basically a matter of fairness. It's a matter of what's right. There's the right to protest, but not the right to cause chaos. People have the right to get an education, the right to get a degree, the right to walk across the campus safely without fear of being attacked," he said.

Biden condemns unrest following Gaza protests after police storm campuses: 'Violent protest is not protected'

Mr Biden's remarks came just hours after police in Los Angeles were met with hurled projectiles while clearing an encampment on the UCLA campus.

Officers muscled their way into a central plaza of the university on Wednesday evening before forcing their way into the anti-war encampment at around 3:15am, tearing down barricades and arresting occupants who refused to leave.

Live TV footage showed about six protesters under arrest, kneeling on the ground, their hands bound behind their backs with zip ties as dozens of loud explosions were heard during the clash from flash-bang charges, or stun grenades, fired by police.

The UCLA chancellor Gene Block said in a statement that "a group of instigators" perpetrated the previous night's attack, but he did not provide details about the crowd or why the administration and school police did not act sooner.

The clash between protesters and police in California occurred less than a day after New York Police Department officers forcibly removed protesters from the Columbia University administration building in a scene that came nearly 56 years to the day that police had also cleared a similar occupation by students angry over the Vietnam War.

A statement issued by the university read in part: "The NYPD arrived on campus at the University's request. This decision was made to restore safety and order to our community.

"We regret that protesters have chosen to escalate the situation through their actions. After the University learned overnight that Hamilton Hall had been occupied, vandalised, and blockaded, we were left with no choice. Columbia public safety personnel were forced out of the building, and a member of our facilities team was threatened. We will not risk the safety of our community or the potential for further escalation."

The president had not been expected to address the matter of the protests or the violence that occurred overnight, and White House officials had previously described the protests and police response as matters for state or local law enforcement.

But Republicans have seized on his apparent reluctance to weigh in by casting it as tacit approval of the worst elements of the pro-Palestinian protesters, some of whom have spouted openly antisemitic rhetoric and have intimidated students and passersby who they deemed to be Jewish or "zionists".

Mr Biden condemned the antisemitism demonstrated by some of the protesters, saying there is "no place" for "hate speech or violence of any kind" on any campus in America.

"Whether it's antisemitism, Islamophobia, or discrimination against Arab Americans or Palestinian Americans. It's simply wrong. There's no place for racism in America. It's all wrong, it's un-American," he said.

"I understand people have strong feelings and deep convictions in America. We respect the right and protect the right for them to express that. But it doesn't mean anything goes. It needs to be done without violence without distraction, without hating and within the law," he added.

While prominent GOP figures – including former president Donald Trump, Mr Biden's likely 2024 election opponent – have called for the use of force, including by the military, to remove the protesters from campuses, the president declined to endorse calls for such violent actions, replying "no" when asked if the National Guard should be used to disperse the protests.

He also told reporters that the protests haven't pushed him to reconsider his support for the Israeli government, even as discontent with the ongoing war has appeared to cost him support in states he will need to defeat Mr Trump in the November election.

Classification

Biden condemns unrest following Gaza protests after police storm campuses: 'Violent protest is not protected'

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Industry: COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (89%); MILITARY WEAPONS (61%)

Person: JOE BIDEN (79%)

Geographic: LOS ANGELES, CA, USA (79%); CALIFORNIA, USA (92%); NEW YORK, USA (79%); UNITED

STATES (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); ISRAEL (79%)

Load-Date: May 2, 2024

Violence and pro-Palestinian protests spread to US universities

CE Noticias Financieras English May 2, 2024 Thursday

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Length: 856 words

Body

The wave of student demonstrations has been spreading across the United States since last week. Students at renowned institutions such as Columbia in New York and the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) are calling on universities to cut off all relations and business with the Israeli government in retaliation for the attacks on the Gaza Strip.

Hundreds of students from different public and private universities across the country have been arrested for taking part in these protests. On Tuesday night (30), the New York police entered Hamilton Hall, a Columbia building marked by great symbolic value for the protests against the Vietnam War in 1968, which had been occupied by students. According to CNN, more than 200 demonstrators were arrested at Columbia and at the City College of New York, another protest site.

There were also police actions at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Texas, where student camps and demonstrations were also taking place.

Columbia is considered the epicenter of university protests in the United States against the war in the Gaza Strip. The mayor of New York, Eric Adams, said that the occupation of Hamilton Hall "was led by individuals who are not enrolled at the university".

"There were people on campus who should not have been there. We saw a change in the tactics that were being used... This was led by outside agitators," Adams pointed out. On Wednesday, the mayor estimated the total number of people detained at the pro-Palestinian university protests in the city during Tuesday's (30) actions at 282.

"Right now we have 282 detainees: 173 are from CUNY (the city's public university) and 109 from Columbia," Adams said at a joint press conference with Edward Cabán, commissioner of the New York Police Department. The mayor did not offer data on arrests of off-campus individuals following the eviction operation.

Politicians from both major US parties have condemned the protests and Joe Biden's administration has labeled some of the students' slogans and several of their strategies, such as the occupation of university buildings, as "anti-Semitic and violent."

University of Wisconsin

At least 34 students from the University of Wisconsin, in the north of the United States, were arrested on Wednesday during a confrontation with the police. Local police entered the university campus at around 7am (local time, 9am Brasília) to clear the camp that the students had set up in one of the institution's parks, according to the local press.

Violence and pro-Palestinian protests spread to US universities

In videos posted on the social network X, you can see how the students confronted the officers, who were carrying riot shields. At times, the officers knocked down several students and teachers during the confrontation. Although the university warned that it was forbidden to set up camps on campus, hundreds of students have decided to gather since Monday (29) at one of the main points of the educational center.

UCLA

Police units were mobilized on Wednesday (1) on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) following last night's violent clashes between groups of pro-Israel demonstrators and those demanding an end to the war in the Gaza Strip. The police said they had to be mobilized "due to multiple acts of violence inside the large encampment [set up by pro-Palestinian protesters] on their campus".

The intervention took place after groups of pro-Israel protesters dressed in black and wearing white masks confronted students set up in the camp. The clashes erupted hours after the university announced that the protest "is illegal and violates university policy" and warned that students who did not leave could be suspended or expelled, the Los Angeles Times reported.

University of Texas

On Monday (29), 40 students were arrested at the University of Texas at Austin. Troops from the state police and the institution's security authorities - equipped with riot gear - arrested the members of an occupation taking place inside the institution in protest against Israel.

They did not want to leave the space voluntarily and tried to resist the arrest. Some were throwing themselves on the floor to avoid being taken away. In a statement, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, of the Republican Party, said that "encampments will not be allowed" in educational institutions.

Trump praises police action at Columbia

Former US president and Republican Party pre-candidate Donald Trump praised the action of the New York police who demobilized an encampment of pro-Gaza protesters at Columbia University. "The police arrived, and in two hours everything was resolved. It was beautiful to see," said the Republican, to applause from supporters.

During a rally in Waukesha, Wisconsin, the politician said that "New York was being attacked" by students who denounced the US policy of supporting Israel in the war against the Islamic group Hamas in the Gaza Strip. He accused the president of Columbia University, Nemat Shafik, of being "very weak" and of "waiting too long" to act, but in the end, according to him, the police "did an incredible job" by entering the building that had been occupied by several students.

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Violence and pro-Palestinian protests spread to US universities

NEGATIVE SOCIETAL NEWS (78%); POLITICAL DETAINEES (78%); POLITICAL PROTESTS (78%); RIOTS (78%); SCHOOL FACILITIES (77%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (73%); PUBLIC SCHOOLS (73%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (73%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (72%); SOCIAL NETWORKING (72%); VIETNAM WAR (69%); PRESS CONFERENCES (62%); Mundo (%)

Organization: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (84%); UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (LOS ANGELES) (84%); UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS (56%); UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN (56%)

Industry: COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (90%); EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (90%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (73%); PUBLIC SCHOOLS (73%)

Person: ERIC ADAMS (79%); JOE BIDEN (79%)

Geographic: LOS ANGELES, CA, USA (79%); NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); NEW YORK, USA (94%); CALIFORNIA, USA (92%); STATE OF PALESTINE (94%); UNITED STATES (93%); ISRAEL (92%)

Load-Date: May 3, 2024

NYC Colleges Turns To Private Security To Supplement Law Enforcement Amidst Violent Protests Erupting Across NYC

MENAFN - Press Releases (English)

May 2, 2024 Thursday

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Length: 763 words

Body

Link to Story

Protecting What Matters Most

Strategic Security Corp. (SSC) announced another emergency response contract with a NYC university to provide 300 guards a day with de-escalation experience.

Strategic Security Corp. has been contracted to provide a New York City Educational University with 300 licensed security guards a day within a 10 day start up window." - Joseph SordiNEW YORK, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES, May 2, 2024 /EINPresswire / -- Today, Joseph Sordi, head of Strategic Security Corp. (SSC) a nationally proven contract security company that provides emergency response for civil and labor unrest, humanitarian crisis and national disasters, announced another emergency response contract with a New York City Educational University to provide 300 licensed security guards with conflict resolution, de-escalation and law enforcement experience per day to supplement campus police and the NYPD.

"Strategic Security Corp. has been contracted to provide a New York City Educational University with 300 licensed security guards a day within a 10 day start up window. We are the best in the business at rapid emergency response with urgent contractual startup times. Strategic has provided in excess of 40,000 hours per week providing security services and temporary facilities for asylum seekers along the Texas and Arizona border, in excess of 93,468 hours in 2023, and thus far in 2024 in excess of 36,257 hours performing emergency guard services for 26 + (plus) presidential Disasters nationwide for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. We have the ability and know-how to identify and monitor threats via our intelligence platform, effectively staff, and maintain a large manned guarding work force to offer the flexibility to our clients to make changes as they deem necessary in regard to both surges and reductions. We are extremely responsive having mobilized in as little as 4 hours to 7 days with 1200 guards for past deployments," said Joseph Sordi. "As crime rates have spiked across the nation and the police have struggled with lower recruitment with the myriad of evolving threats, several police departments

NYC Colleges Turns To Private Security To Supplement Law Enforcement Amidst Violent Protests Erupting Across NYC

across the nation have become more and more absent due to lack of personnel, overworked officers and their corresponding response times being longer and longer. Local businesses, places of worship and educational institutions are increasingly turning to private security firms to supplement traditional policing duties."

Amidst a surge of pro-Palestinian demonstrators converging on college campuses nationwide, seeking to occupy, vandalize, and disrupt university operations, local law enforcement agencies, notably the NYPD, are commendably asserting the imperative that campus life cannot be persistently disrupted by individuals flouting regulations and breaking the law. Intelligence indicates the infiltration of seasoned agitators deploying non-permissive asymmetrical guerrilla warfare tactics to actively resist, inflame crowds, and instigate violence and chaos.

Strategic Security's emergency response security officers are trained in conflict resolution, de-escalation and most possess law enforcement experience to supplement campus police and the NYPD. With a proven track record since 2002, Strategic Security has been at the forefront of emergency and crisis response, assisting the Federal Government, states, and counties in numerous response operations. Over the years, the company has responded to over 189 emergencies for Government and commercial clients, all within an impressive 4-hour timeframe. Strategic Security's mission is to provide unparalleled support and assistance during times of crisis. Strategic understands the importance of swift and effective response, which is why our team is equipped and ready to mobilize at a moment's notice.

About Strategic Security Corp.

Strategic Security is a full-service emergency and crisis response company with a proven track record dating back to 2002. Strategic Security, comprised of former police officers, active and retired military members, and industry experts, offers a range of services, including armed and unarmed guards, crisis management, temporary life support structures, intelligence, and drone surveillance. With a commitment to excellence and rapid deployment, Strategic Security stands ready to support clients nationwide during times of crisis. To learn more, visit .Joseph Sordi

Strategic Security Corp.

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Classification

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NYC Colleges Turns To Private Security To Supplement Law Enforcement Amidst Violent Protests Erupting Across NYC

DEPARTMENTS & AUTHORITIES (77%); COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (73%); HUMANITARIAN CRISES (73%); NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS (73%); MIDDLE EAST PROTESTS & UPRISINGS (72%); POLITICAL ASYLUM (71%); LABOR FORCE (68%); GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES (64%)

Organization: US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (54%)

Industry: SECURITY GUARD SERVICES (90%); EDUCATION SYSTEMS & INSTITUTIONS (78%); EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (78%); COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (73%); INVESTIGATION & SECURITY SERVICES (73%)

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Joe Biden condemned violence at U.S. college protests: "Order must prevail".

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Body

Listen to

WASHINGTON - After days of pro-Palestinian anti-Israel protests on college campuses, President Joe Biden said in a speech at the White House that he will maintain his Middle East policy and condemned the "vandalism," the seizure and destruction of buildings, and the episodes of harassment, anti-Semitism and racism that have colored the demonstrations over the war in the Gaza Strip.

"We have all seen images that test two fundamental American principles. The first is the **right to free speech**. And for people to peacefully assemble, make their voices heard. The second is the **rule of** law. Both must be upheld," Biden said in an off-agenda message at the official residence.

"We are not an authoritarian nation where we silence people or crush dissent. The American people are listened to. Indeed, **peaceful protest follows in the best tradition of how Americans respond to important issues**. But we are also not a lawless country, we are a civil society. Order must prevail," he said.

Biden's speech came after a fierce wave of police crackdown on protests on several college campuses that included violent clashes between protesters and police at Columbia, City College of the City University of New York (CUNY) and Fordham in New York; at the University of Arizona in Tucson; and at the University of California (UCLA) in Los Angeles, where there was also a violent clash between demonstrators from the pro-Palestinian protest camp and a pro-Israel counter-protest that attempted to evict them.

"Violent protest is not protected. Peaceful protest is," Biden differentiated. "Destroying property is not peaceful protest. It's against the law. Vandalism, trespassing, breaking windows, shutting down campuses, forcing the cancellation of classes and graduations. None of these are peaceful protests. The threats, the intimidation. Instilling fear in people is not peaceful protest. It is against the law," the president enumerated.

The crisis unleashed by the encampments at the universities ended up overshadowing the Middle East conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip that gave rise to the demonstrations. The protests, the most intense on college campuses since the demonstrations in the late 1960s against the Vietnam War, became the **main political discussion in the United States in the prologue to the presidential campaign**.

The Republican Party, its virtual presidential candidate, Donald Trump, and the country's right-wing aligned themselves against campus demonstrations, and **linked them to Hamas and anti-Semitism**, thus delegitimizing

Joe Biden condemned violence at U.S. college protests: "Order must prevail".

the claim for the **34,000 victims in the Gaza Strip**, most of them women and children. From the beginning of the crisis, the right wing pushed to quell the protests.

The Democratic Party and the left were left in a much more uncomfortable position, particularly the Biden administration. Although figures on the left, such as Senator Bernie Sanders, have condemned the episodes of anti-Semitism, they also validated claims and criticisms against the offensive deployed by the government of Benjamin Netanyahu, accused of committing genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza.

Biden sought to close that rift on the left by defending the right to freedom of expression as long as demonstrations are within the framework of the law, a balance that clashes with the tradition of civil disobedience that runs through much of America's protest history, including the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Biden also again **condemned episodes of anti-Semitism** on campuses by reiterating that "there is no place for hate speech or violence of any kind," and that it is

There should be no place on any campus or in America for anti-Semitism or threats of violence against Jewish students. There is no place for hate speech or violence of any kind, whether it is anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, or discrimination against Arab Americans or Palestinian Americans. It is simply wrong. There is no place for racism in America.It's all wrong," he insisted.

"As president I will always defend free speech. And I will always be just as strong defending the rule of law. That is my responsibility. To the American people. My obligation to the Constitution," the president closed.

Classification

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Organization: UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA (54%); UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (54%); UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (LOS ANGELES) (54%)

Industry: COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (90%); EVICTION (78%)

Person: JOE BIDEN (91%); DONALD TRUMP (79%); BERNIE SANDERS (50%)

Joe Biden condemned violence at U.S. college protests: "Order must prevail".

Geographic: LOS ANGELES, CA, USA (79%); TUCSON, AZ, USA (79%); CALIFORNIA, USA (92%); NEW YORK, USA (92%); ARIZONA, USA (79%); ISRAEL (94%); STATE OF PALESTINE (94%); UNITED STATES (94%); MIDDLE EAST (88%)

Load-Date: May 3, 2024