

FBI is working with colleges to warn of antisemitic threats, violence amid protests

TheHill.com

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Section: US NEWS, Israel news & MIDDLE EAST NEWS

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Byline: Nick Robertson

Body

FBI Director Christopher Wray said his agency is working with colleges and universities to warn them of threats of violence amid a wave of protests surrounding the Israel-Hamas war on campuses across the country.

Wray, in a Tuesday interview with NBC News's Lester Holt, said the bureau does not directly track college protests, but it is providing information to schools as it becomes aware of possible threats.

The FBI is "keenly focused on working with state and local law enforcement, campus law enforcement and others to try to make sure that we stay ahead" of potential violence," he said.

Dozens of large-scale protests against the war have popped up on college campuses in recent days after protests escalated at Columbia University with the arrest of more than 100 students Friday.

Columbia has become the locus of political discussion of the protests, hosting high-profile visits from politicians from both sides of the aisle amid accusations of antisemitism by protesters and alleged threats of violence. Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) is set to make remarks and visit with Jewish students at the university Wednesday afternoon.

Hundreds of students have occupied Columbia's campus for days, protesting the Biden administration's response to the Israel-Hamas war, backing a cease-fire in the conflict and urging Congress to stop sending military aid to Israel. They have also demanded the university divest from companies with ties to Israel and increase financial transparency.

Police also sparred with protesters at New York University on Monday, resulting in more than 120 arrests, though violence hasn't been reported at any other campus protest related to the war.

The Columbia protesters have also pushed back against claims that the groups are antisemitic. A sizable number of the protesters are Jewish, with a large group holding a Passover Seder from the protest camp on Monday to celebrate the beginning of the holiday.

FBI is working with colleges to warn of antisemitic threats, violence amid protests

"We are frustrated by media distractions focusing on inflammatory individuals who do not represent us," Columbia protest leaders wrote in a Sunday statement. "Our members have been misidentified by a politically motivated mob."

"We firmly reject any form of hate or bigotry and stand vigilant against non-students attempting to disrupt the solidarity being forged among students," they continued. "Palestinian, Muslim, Arab, Jewish, Black and pro-Palestinian classmates and colleagues who represent the full diversity of our country."

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FBI is working with colleges to warn of antisemitic threats, violence amid protests

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GEO: ISRAEL

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SUB: MIDDLE EAST PROTESTS & UPRISINGS

SUB: JEWS & JUDAISM

PEO: MIKE JOHNSON

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SUB: LAW ENFORCEMENT

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FBI is working with colleges to warn of antisemitic threats, violence amid protests

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End of Document

'It Is Unconscionable To Glorify Antisemitic Violence'; Anti-Israel Protests; Trudeau'S Shameful Legacy On Display

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

April 23, 2024 Tuesday

National Edition

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Section: ISSUES; Pg. A1 ; Comment

Length: 845 words

Byline: Michael Higgins, National Post

Body

In a tweet Sunday, the prime minister condemned the hateful, genocidal rhetoric heard on the streets of Ottawa on the weekend - but it's too little, too late and too ineffectual. Antisemitism is ravaging this country and Justin Trudeau has been slow and weak in repudiating that evil.

It's not that he has lost moral authority, but that he never had it to begin with.

As the rising tide of Jew hatred sweeps Canada, Trudeau has either been equivocal - "we must condemn antisemitism and Islamophobia" - or inane, "This is not who we are."

Well, who we are was on display on Saturday and it was not pretty.

The pretence that these rallies are just pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrating against Israeli policies and the turbulent politics of the Middle East disappeared as the crowd roared its approval in support of the Oct. 7 attacks.

In a video posted to X, a man is heard shouting, "Our resistance and attacks are proof that we are almost free," as protesters march in front of the Parliament Buildings.

"October 7 is proof that we are almost free," he adds, and the crowd erupts in cheers and whoops.

"Long live October 7. Long live the resistance. Long live the intifada. Long live every form of resistance," he says.

So this is who we are, or at least a large number of Canadians, people who openly celebrate the slaughter of men, women and children, who glorify the mass rape of young women, who praise a terrorist entity committed to the eradication of another race.

This public support for Hamas and its vile ideology is a stain on Canada's reputation, but that it happened is not a surprise.

Only hours after the October 7 attacks, people in Canada were already on the streets in celebration.

The glorification of that massacre had begun.

'It Is Unconscionable To Glorify Antisemitic Violence'; Anti-Israel Protests; Trudeau'S Shameful Legacy On Display

Since then, hundreds of demonstrations have occurred across the country, organized by groups with ties to terrorism, and proclaiming support for the Palestinian "cause" which just happens to align with Hamas principles.

It has not been coincidental that a substantial number of these protests have happened in areas with large Jewish populations, or that Jewish students have been harassed, or that universities, and hospitals, and daycare centres, and schools, and synagogues, have all been vandalized or otherwise targeted for being Jewish. And if Jews have been terrified, silenced and bullied, we have justified it in the name of the Charter and free speech and the right to protest.

"Canadians have a right to protest, absolutely, to make their anguish, their anger, heard by other Canadians. That's important and we will always protect that right," Trudeau said last month.

"But when the protests turn to hatred, or to acts of harassment - particularly against fellow Canadians - there's a line that's crossed," he added.

That line was crossed long ago, it's just that the prime minister didn't see it. And there's the rub. Trudeau, like so many today, was too busy being empathetic, with calling out all hate, with wanting to appear that he deeply cared about everybody.

But it's been hatred of Jews that has been all too evident in this country.

The fact that terrorist sympathizers can now openly celebrate and proselytize in our nation's capital didn't happen in a vacuum. They have become emboldened by a prime minister who was so concerned with wanting to appear equitable that he refused to acknowledge the real issue, the dangerous rising tide of antisemitism.

We now live in a world where calling out something as either right or wrong is frowned on as judgmental and where objective truth is an outdated and laughable concept.

Far better to concentrate on sunny ways than do the difficult work of providing clear and courageous moral leadership. Trudeau's failure has been compounded by others around North America and the world. We have left Jews to their fate and what has happened? At Columbia University in New York, administrators blocked Jewish professor Shai Davidai from entering campus for a pro-Israel rally because they said they couldn't ensure his safety.

In Britain, a police officer told a yarmulke-wearing man "you are quite openly Jewish" and threatened to arrest him for being a provocation to pro-Palestinian marchers.

We are not just bowing to the mob, we are allowing them to walk all over us.

The Ottawa protest caused the prime minister to tweet, "There is a difference between peaceful protest and hateful intimidation. It is unconscionable to glorify the antisemitic violence and murder perpetrated by Hamas on October 7th. This rhetoric has no place in Canada. None."

It was a strong statement, but when terrorist cheerleaders are on the streets of Canada, it needed to be.

It would also have been more welcome from the very start of these protests which have always been antisemitic in character and intimidatory in nature.

A strong leader would have condemned the evils of antisemitism as soon as it saw the light of day. Trudeau allowed it to fester and grow until its malignancy was exposed on Saturday in front of Parliament.

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Graphic

Kena Betancur, Afp Via Getty Images; Anti-Israel protesters march outside Columbia University in New York City last Thursday.; Dacey Media; Anti-Israel protest in Ottawa on Saturday.; Dacey Media; Hundreds of demonstrations have occurred across the country, organized by groups with ties to terrorism, and proclaiming support for a cause which happens to align with Hamas principles, Michael Higgins says.;

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Person: JUSTIN TRUDEAU (79%)

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MASSIVE ARRESTS: CHAOS TURNS VIOLENT IN NEW YORK PROTESTS

States News Service

April 23, 2024 Tuesday

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Byline: States News Service

Dateline: WASHINGTON, DC

Body

The following information was released by the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ):

By Jordan Sekulow

Last night in New York City, protests turned violent as pro-Palestinian protesters clashed with the NYPD, leading to 150 arrests at NYU. And the antisemitic riots on college campuses continue to threaten the safety of Jewish students and faculty. Columbia University, where 100 rioters were arrested yesterday, is extending hybrid classes throughout the end of the semester to protect its students, and numerous arrests took place at Yale University.

ABC News reports on Monday nights chaos:

More than 150 people were arrested at New York University on Monday night, police said, as pro-Palestinian protests spread on college campuses throughout the country.

Students, faculty and others were arrested after school officials asked the New York Police Department for help clearing a plaza on NYUs Manhattan campus, police said. Many of those arrested were still being processed through the night and most if not all will be released, the department said. . . .

There is a pattern of behavior occurring on campuses across our nation, in which individuals attempt to occupy a space in defiance of school policy, Kaz Daughtry, the NYPD's deputy commissioner for operations, said in a social media post. Rest assured, in NYC the NYPD stands ready to address these prohibited and subsequently illegal actions whenever we are called upon.

Yesterday, we told you how Columbia sent its students home because the administration couldn't provide a safe environment for them. Now hybrid classes are in place for the rest of the school year. Will there be a graduation ceremony for the seniors?

Were having flashbacks to colleges during the early COVID-19 years when students were isolated and unable to interact with each other. I wonder if the COVID-19 isolation is connected to young people forgetting how to protest peacefully without attacking others and creating chaos.

This is the United States of America. We are a nation of laws. Why are school officials essentially giving up on trying to protect their students?

MASSIVE ARRESTS: CHAOS TURNS VIOLENT IN NEW YORK PROTESTS

When I was in college, my school shut down preemptively for five days when the administration believed a protest might get out of control. And that's the difference. School officials used to take precautionary measures to protect their students instead of waiting until violence spirals out of control putting students and faculty at risk.

And are we even talking about anonymous protests or anonymous chaos? When a mass number of people are arrested, it's not just civil disobedience. These rioters came to commit violence, to injure others, and to bring attention to their issue but not in a positive way. They've gone far beyond peaceful protest protected by the Constitution.

What's happening right now on college campuses speaks to the importance of the next election. Are we going to be a nation that allows violent pro-Hamas riots to break out regularly? Or are we going to be a nation that respects civil dissent without turning to violence?

Unfortunately, chaos isn't just occurring on college campuses the Middle East is also in turmoil. And we've got a huge bombshell to report from a FOIA request that we originally filed after Biden's Afghanistan withdrawal debacle.

We have a letter from a leading NGO network to the State Department from August 1, 2021, regarding Biden's forthcoming withdrawal from Afghanistan. The NGO network warned the State Department that if it did not change course, the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan would lead to a great power competition with China and Russia and interference by Iran to exert nefarious influence in the region and undermine U.S. strategic and security interests.

So basically, the letter became a fortuneteller, predicting everything that would unfold on the world stage during Biden's presidency. Russia has invaded Ukraine, Iran has been wreaking havoc in the Middle East and against Israel, and China continues to exert more control.

The ACLJ will continue to hold the Biden Administration accountable for its failures to protect America and our allies. We will keep you informed as we find other documents of interest from our FOIA.

Today's Sekulow broadcast included a full analysis of the violent protests on college campuses. ACLJ Senior Advisor for National Security and Foreign Policy Ric Grenell reacted to the lack of control by college administrations, and Five for Fighting's John Ondrasik discussed performing in Israel during Iran's recent attack.

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MASSIVE ARRESTS: CHAOS TURNS VIOLENT IN NEW YORK PROTESTS

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Dozens arrested at Yale and NYU as pro-Palestinian student protests spread

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Section: US NEWS; Version:3

Length: 621 words

Byline: Erum Salam and agencies

Highlight: Authorities move to break up encampments at two more US universities on Monday, as Columbia University cancels in-person classes

Body

Police arrested dozens of people at pro-Palestinian demonstrations at Yale University in Connecticut and New York University in Manhattan, as student protests over Israel's war in Gaza continue to roil US campuses.

On the Yale University campus in New Haven, Connecticut, authorities arrested at least 47 protesters on Monday evening, the university said in a statement. Students who were arrested will be referred for disciplinary action.

The police crackdowns came after Columbia University canceled in-person classes on Monday in response to protesters setting up tent encampments at its New York City campus last week.

Several hundred people had been protesting on the Yale university campus, demanding the university divest from military weapons manufacturers. Yale said it had repeatedly asked students to leave, and warned them they could face law enforcement and disciplinary action if they didn't.

In New York, officers moved on an encampment at Gould Plaza near New York University shortly after nightfall. There, too, hundreds of demonstrators had defied university warnings that they faced consequences if they failed to vacate the plaza.

Video on social media showed police taking down tents in the protesters' encampment in a tense and at times chaotic scene. Some officers tossed tents, and others grappled with demonstrators.

Protesters tussled with officers and chanted, "We will not stop, we will not rest. Disclose. Divest."

A New York police spokesperson said arrests were made after the university asked police to enforce trespassing violations but the total number of arrests and citations would remain unknown until much later.

The Washington Square News, the student newspaper, reported that the NYPD said over a loudspeaker announcement that students were being arrested for "disorderly conduct" and that protesters were unlawfully blocking traffic.

Dozens arrested at Yale and NYU as pro-Palestinian student protests spread

The law enforcement actions at Yale and NYU came after a tense few days on campuses across the US.

Columbia University president, Nemat Minouche Shafik, called in New York police last week to clear a tent encampment on its main lawn of students demanding the university divest from companies with ties to Israel.

More than 100 students were arrested on Thursday on charges of trespassing and the university and the affiliated Barnard College have suspended dozens of students involved in the protests.

On Monday, Columbia University announced it was canceling in-person classes on its New York City campus to try to “reset” the situation and “deescalate the rancor.”

A new encampment has now emerged and hundreds of faculty members have held a mass walkout to protest against the president’s handling of the situation.

Bassam Khawaja, an adjunct lecturer at Columbia law school and supervising attorney at the school’s human rights clinic, told the Guardian he was “shocked and appalled that the president went immediately to the New York police department”.

“This was by all accounts, a non-violent protest,” he said. “It was a group of students camping out on the lawn in the middle of campus. It’s not any different from everyday life on campus.”

After the crackdown at Columbia, students across the US launched their own protests in solidarity, many of them calling for their universities to back a ceasefire in Gaza and divest from companies with ties to Israel.

Students at Brown, Princeton and Northwestern held protests on Friday and over the weekend.

Students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Emerson College, both in the Boston area, have started their own protest encampments.

Other institutions that saw protest actions included Boston University, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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Dozens arrested at Yale and NYU as pro-Palestinian student protests spread

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Student Gaza protests: top Republicans call on Biden to send in federal officers

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Byline: Erum Salam and Joanna Walters in New York, Chris Stein in Washington, Coral Murphy Marcos in Berkeley and agencies

Highlight: Letter from 25 senators including Mitch McConnell says president 'must act immediately to restore order' on university campuses

Body

Senior Republican US senators on Tuesday waded into growing tensions at leading universities over the Israel-Gaza war, demanding the Biden administration send in federal law enforcement officers to curb pro-Palestinian protests that have led to hundreds of arrests.

Mitch McConnell, the Senate minority leader, and John Thune, his deputy, wrote to Merrick Garland, the US attorney general, and Miguel Cardona, the education secretary, calling demonstrators "antisemitic, pro-terrorist mobs".

Police arrested about 150 protesters at pro-Palestinian demonstrations at Yale and New York University on Monday night, while Columbia University announced that classes would be taught remotely for the rest of the semester, as anger boiled over following more than 100 arrests there last week.

Some university leaders, most notably at Columbia, are facing fierce criticism and calls for resignation this week from those outraged at the protests and those outraged at the crackdown on the protests.

On Tuesday afternoon, 25 Republican senators led by McConnell wrote: "The Department of Education and federal law enforcement must act immediately to restore order, prosecute the mobs who have perpetuated [sic] violence and threats against Jewish students, revoke the visas of all foreign nationals (such as exchange students) who have taken part in promoting terrorism, and hold accountable school administrators who have stood by instead of protecting their students."

The Missouri senator Josh Hawley and Arkansas senator Tom Cotton on Monday called for Joe Biden to send national guard troops on to campuses.

On the Yale campus in New Haven, Connecticut, authorities arrested at least 47 protesters on Monday evening, the university said in a statement. Students who were arrested will be referred for disciplinary action.

Student Gaza protests: top Republicans call on Biden to send in federal officers

Several hundred people had been protesting at Yale, including hunger strikers, demanding the university divest from military weapons manufacturers and other companies with ties to Israel.

Craig Birkhead-Morton, 21, who participated in the encampment protest at Yale's Beinecke Plaza, said his arrest surprised him.

"We were very surprised. We had built a very peaceful, safe community space where students could engage in discourse with each other, where New Haven and Connecticut community members could come onto the campus and engage with us."

He said the university is still in possession of his belongings from the encampment.

"As a Muslim student, my prayer rug is still in the possession of the university – I have not received that back yet. And I know that's the case for several other of the students who were arrested Monday."

And in downtown Manhattan, police clashed with protesters at New York University. There were reports of officers using pepper spray as demonstrators tried to block a police bus from leaving the scene with detained students. More than 100 people were arrested.

An NYU spokesperson, John Beckman, in a statement said "that there were intimidating chants and several antisemitic incidents reported".

NYU professors wrote an open letter signed by the executive committee of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) at the university denying that any NYU-affiliated protesters had engaged in antisemitism or intimidation of others via the demonstration, and decrying heavy-handed tactics by the police.

The letter said NYU leadership's decision to call the New York police department was "capricious" and noted that many protesters were people of color and that the NYPD had a history of brutality against this demographic.

The letter said: "The point of the protest was to express support for the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank," accused NYU of being complicit "in the genocide of the Palestinian people" and referred to "NYU's investment in the weapons manufacturing that facilitates such genocide".

Protesters tussled with officers on Monday night and chanted: "We will not stop, we will not rest. Disclose. Divest."

The police crackdowns came after Columbia witnessed a huge walkout by faculty on Monday in solidarity with students who were arrested last week after setting up a protest camp.

Bassam Khawaja, a lecturer at Columbia law school and supervising attorney at the school's human rights clinic, said he was "shocked and appalled that the president went immediately to the New York police department".

"This was by all accounts a non-violent protest," he said. "It was a group of students camping out on the lawn in the middle of campus. It's not any different from everyday life on campus."

After the crackdown at Columbia, the latest round of demonstrations spread, including tents being pitched on campus for round-the-clock protests.

Students from Columbia also held a press call on Tuesday about the arrests.

"It's very important to remember that being uncomfortable is different than being unsafe," said one Jewish student on the call, who did not give her name.

"Months ago, I was sprayed a noxious chemical on this campus. Multiple of my friends were hospitalised for the attack. I was bed-ridden for a couple days. I felt extremely unsafe on my own campus. I feel unsafe when Columbia professors like Shai Davidai tell me I'll be on the last train to Auschwitz."

Students at Brown, Princeton and Northwestern held protests on Friday and over the weekend.

Student Gaza protests: top Republicans call on Biden to send in federal officers

Birkhead-Morton, the Yale student who was arrested, called encampment protests at other universities across the US like Columbia, and the University of Maryland “inspiring”.

“It was only after Wednesday, when the Columbia encampment came up and Thursday, when it came down, and the arrest of students that we really felt the necessity to escalate here in New Haven and on Yale campus. And so that’s exactly what we did the following day. And so, lots of credit to the students at Columbia. They really are the leaders of the student movement right now.”

And in an open letter written on Monday in support of the Columbia student protesters, faculty and staff at Princeton University, in New Jersey, called on Columbia to remove the NYPD from campus and immediately reinstate students “wrongfully” suspended for “right to speech and peaceful assembly”.

Students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Emerson College and Boston University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are protesting.

At Cal Poly Humboldt, a public university in Arcata, California, students barricaded themselves in a building for a sit-in, prompting the campus to close.

At the University of California, Berkeley, known as the birthplace of the 1960s free-speech movement, about 40 tents were set up on the steps of Sproul Plaza on campus on Tuesday, where students listened to speakers calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and for the university to divest in holdings with companies doing business with Israel.

“We are demanding a direct acknowledgment and condemnation of this genocide [in Gaza],” said Matt Kovac, a member of the UC Berkeley Graduate Students for Justice in Palestine, adding that they stood in solidarity with protesters at Columbia and Yale.

One of the students camping out was Malak Afaneh, a law student and a Palestinian activist who was recently at the center of a controversy after pro-Palestinian students disrupted an event at a law professor’s house.

“We have continued to show that we are standing with the people in Palestine who deal with much worse, and we will not stop until divestment is achieved,” Afaneh said.

Meanwhile, Robert Kraft, a major donor to Columbia University and the owner of the New England Patriots, who funded the Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life at Columbia, on Monday announced he would pull his support “until corrective action is taken” on campus.

In contrast, Jameel Jaffer, director of the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, wrote to the institution president, Nemat Minouche Shafik, saying many aspects of the handling of pro-Palestinian protests was “unjustifiably harsh”.

Amid a diversity of views, some Jewish students have joined the pro-Palestinian protests, others are staying away and some have said they feel unsafe.

Shafik called in police last week and has come under criticism from many parties, including calls from some members of Congress to resign.

L éonie Chao-Fong, Reuters and Associated Press contributed reporting

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Organization: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY (83%)

Industry: COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (89%); COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (89%); EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (89%); PASSPORTS & VISAS (76%); EMERGENCY VEHICLES (73%); MANUFACTURING (73%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); ATTORNEYS GENERAL (71%); ARMED FORCES (64%); MILITARY WEAPONS (64%); DEFENSE INDUSTRY (62%); DEFENSE MFG (50%)

Person: JOE BIDEN (89%); MITCH MCCONNELL (89%); JOSH HAWLEY (79%); TOM COTTON (79%); MERRICK B GARLAND (78%); MIGUEL CARDONA (78%); JOHN THUNE (58%)

Geographic: NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); NEW HAVEN, CT, USA (72%); CONNECTICUT, USA (93%); NEW YORK, USA (92%); ARKANSAS, USA (79%); MISSOURI, USA (79%); STATE OF PALESTINE (93%); UNITED STATES (93%); ISRAEL (92%)

Load-Date: April 24, 2024

Dozens arrested at Yale and NYU as pro-Palestinian student protests spread

Yerepouni Daily News

April 23, 2024 Tuesday

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YEREPOUNI - ARMENIAN INDEPENDENT NEWS

Length: 684 words

Byline: admin

Body

Police intervene and arrest students at New York University (NYU) after they continue their pro-Palestinian protests on campus over the Israel-Gaza war. Photograph: Fatih Aktas/Anadolu/Getty Images

<https://www.theguardian.com/-Authorities> move to break up encampments at two more US universities on Monday, as Columbia University cancels in-person classes

By Guardian staff and agencies

Police arrested dozens of people at pro-Palestinian demonstrations at Yale University in Connecticut and New York University in Manhattan, as student protests over Israel's war in Gaza continue to roil US campuses.

On the Yale University campus in New Haven, Connecticut, authorities arrested at least 47 protesters on Monday evening, the university said in a statement. Students who were arrested will be referred for disciplinary action.

The police crackdowns came after Columbia University canceled in-person classes on Monday in response to protesters setting up tent encampments at its New York City campus last week.

Several hundred people had been protesting on the Yale university campus, demanding the university divest from military weapons manufacturers. Yale said it had repeatedly asked students to leave, and warned them they could face law enforcement and disciplinary action if they didn't.

In New York, officers moved on an encampment at Gould Plaza near New York University shortly after nightfall. There, too, hundreds of demonstrators had defied university warnings that they faced consequences if they failed to vacate the plaza.

Video on social media showed police taking down tents in the protesters' encampment in a tense and at times chaotic scene. Some officers tossed tents, and others grappled with demonstrators.

Protesters tussled with officers and chanted, "We will not stop, we will not rest. Disclose. Divest."

Dozens arrested at Yale and NYU as pro-Palestinian student protests spread

A New York police spokesperson said arrests were made after the university asked police to enforce trespassing violations but the total number of arrests and citations would remain unknown until much later.

The Washington Square News, the student newspaper, reported that the NYPD said over a loudspeaker announcement that students were being arrested for "disorderly conduct" and that protesters were unlawfully blocking traffic.

The law enforcement actions at Yale and NYU came after a tense few days on campuses across the US.

Columbia University president, Nemat Minouche Shafik, called in New York police last week to clear a tent encampment on its main lawn of students demanding the university divest from companies with ties to Israel.

More than 100 students were arrested on Thursday on charges of trespassing and the university and the affiliated Barnard College have suspended dozens of students involved in the protests.

On Monday, Columbia University announced it was canceling in-person classes on its New York City campus to try to "reset" the situation and "deescalate the rancor."

A new encampment has now emerged and hundreds of faculty members have held a mass walkout to protest against the president's handling of the situation.

Bassam Khawaja, an adjunct lecturer at Columbia law school and supervising attorney at the school's human rights clinic, told the Guardian she was "shocked and appalled that the president went immediately to the New York police department".

"This was by all accounts, a non-violent protest," she said. "It was a group of students camping out on the lawn in the middle of campus. It's not any different from everyday life on campus."

After the crackdown at Columbia, students across the US launched their own protests in solidarity, many of them calling for their universities to back a ceasefire in Gaza and divest from companies with ties to Israel.

Students at Brown, Princeton and Northwestern held protests on Friday and over the weekend.

Students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Emerson College, both in the Boston area, have started their own protest encampments.

Other institutions that saw protest actions included Boston University, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Classification

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Dozens arrested at Yale and NYU as pro-Palestinian student protests spread

UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (78%); CRIMINAL TRESPASS (78%); NEGATIVE BUSINESS NEWS (78%); SCHOOL SUSPENSION & EXPULSION (78%); AGENCY RULEMAKING (76%); DISORDERLY CONDUCT (74%); WEAPONS & ARMS (74%); UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION (73%); MILITARY WEAPONS (52%)

Company: GETTY IMAGES INC (58%)

Industry: NAICS518210 COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDERS, DATA PROCESSING, WEB HOSTING, AND RELATED SERVICES (58%); NAICS541430 GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES (58%); NAICS541922 COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY (58%); SIC7336 COMMERCIAL ART & GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES (58%); SIC7374 COMPUTER PROCESSING & DATA PREPARATION & PROCESSING SERVICES (58%); COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (90%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (78%); EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (78%); INTERNET VIDEO (73%); MANUFACTURING (71%); DEFENSE INDUSTRY (66%); DEFENSE MFG (52%); MILITARY WEAPONS (52%)

Geographic: NEW YORK, NY, USA (92%); NEW HAVEN, CT, USA (58%); NEW YORK, USA (97%); CONNECTICUT, USA (73%); ISRAEL (94%); STATE OF PALESTINE (94%); UNITED STATES (92%)

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Student protests erupt at US campuses as Israel's war in Gaza continues

Business Standard (Online)

April 23, 2024 Tuesday 1:23 PM GMT

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Length: 671 words

Body

Israel's war in Gaza, Palestine, has prompted student protests and demonstrations on university campuses in the United States. These demonstrations have sparked heated debates over free speech and the ongoing conflict, leading to arrests and disruptions at prestigious institutions such as New York University, Yale University, and Columbia University. Here is the latest on the situation. Police arrest student protestors At New York University (NYU), the police intervened on Monday evening to dismantle a protest encampment near the Stern School of Business. More than a 100 students were arrested.

The demonstrators, mostly students, had reportedly demanded transparency regarding the university's financial ties to weapons manufacturers and companies involved in the Israeli occupation. Earlier that day, nearly 50 students were arrested at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, where authorities confronted hundreds of protesters, many of whom refused to disperse.

Protest encampments have also been set up at various other elite learning centres including the University of California at Berkeley, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the University of Michigan, Emerson College, and Tufts University. Concern for student safety Pro-Palestine protests on campuses have led to concerns about violence and anti-Semitism. A group called Students Supporting Israel cited instances of intimidation and verbal attacks targeting Jewish, Israeli, and Zionist students.

In response to such allegations, pro-Palestine protesters released statements condemning hatred and emphasised their commitment to peaceful protest and social justice.

They highlighted the dangers they faced, including misidentification, doxxing, and arrests, as they demanded accountability from their universities. Columbia University and Congressional testimony Columbia University president, Minouche Shafik, a week ago testified before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on alleged anti-Semitism on college campuses.

New York Representative Elise Stefanik, a Republican, is among lawmakers who have called for action against university leaders for their alleged failure to effectively address the unrest.

On December 5, 2023, then-presidents of Harvard University, Claudine Gay, and the University of Pennsylvania, Elizabeth Magill, were also called to testify before the House Committee. Both resigned shortly after their hearings. Shafik said Columbia University "strives to be a community free of discrimination and hate in all forms and we condemn the antisemitism that is so pervasive today." She added that a working group had been established to "try to bring this crisis to a resolution."

A day after the hearing, Shafik authorised the New York Police to enter the campus, where more than 100 demonstrators were arrested, according to a report by the Columbia Spectator, a student-run media group.

Student protests erupt at US campuses as Israel's war in Gaza continues

Columbia University has now shifted all classes to virtual settings in response to "intimidating and harassing behaviour" on campus, according to a report by The Guardian. Biden's response to campus protests The White House has condemned any calls for violence or intimidation targeting Jewish students, labelling them as anti-Semitic and dangerous.

A statement released by the White House read, "While every American has the right to peaceful protest, calls for violence and physical intimidation targeting Jewish students and the Jewish community are blatantly Antisemitic, unconscionable, and dangerous."

When asked about the campus unrest, President Joe Biden denounced "anti-Semitic protests" and criticised "those who don't understand what's going on with the Palestinians".

According to the Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health, Israeli forces have caused the deaths of at least 33,000 people and injured over 76,000 others since October 7 in the Gaza Strip.

In Israel, officials report that Hamas and other Palestinian militants have killed at least 1,200 people and injured 6,900 others in an attack on October 7.

Classification

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Organization: YALE UNIVERSITY (84%); COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY (58%); MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (56%); UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (56%); UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN (55%)

Industry: COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (89%); MANUFACTURING (74%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (74%); DOXING (66%)

Person: ELISE STEFANIK (58%)

Geographic: SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, CA, USA (79%); NEW HAVEN, CT, USA (58%); NEW YORK, USA (94%); CALIFORNIA, USA (79%); CONNECTICUT, USA (79%); MASSACHUSETTS, USA (79%); MICHIGAN, USA (79%); ISRAEL (96%); STATE OF PALESTINE (94%); UNITED STATES (79%)

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Student protests erupt at US campuses as Israel's war in Gaza continues

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Is the Gaza war tearing U.S. campuses apart?

Is the Gaza war tearing U.S. campuses apart?

The Week

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THE WEEK

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Byline: Joel Mathis, The Week US

Body

Campus unrest over the war in Gaza "has reached a fever pitch in the final weeks of classes," said The New York Times, with confrontations between authorities and pro-Palestinian protesters at Columbia University, Yale University, New York University and others across the United States. The heart of the conflict: Administrators are "struggling to balance students free speech rights and the need to protect Jewish students" from threats to their safety.

The crisis is particularly acute at Columbia, where a rabbi linked to the school "urged Jewish students to stay home" to avoid "tense confrontations" with protesters, CNN said. (In fact, everybody is staying home: The university soon announced it was shifting to remote classes for the final weeks of the spring semester.) The White House even weighed in, condemning "blatantly antisemitic" rhetoric after videos appeared to show some Columbia protesters expressing support for Hamas deadly Oct. 7 attack on Israel.

"School administrators and local law enforcement have cracked down on the protests," Reuters said. More than 100 protesters have been arrested at Columbia, while other students have been suspended — and similar crackdowns have taken place at Yale, NYU and the University of Minnesota. Some Republicans want to see even more: Sens. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) and Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) this week called on President Joe Biden to send in the National Guard.

What did the commentators say?

"Anti-Israel, antisemitic protests at Columbia, Yale and elsewhere are getting uglier," The Wall Street Journal said in an editorial. Protesters have carried signs honoring the "martyrs of Palestine" and suggesting pro-Israel demonstrators are the "next target" of Hamas military wing. Columbias move to remote classes doesnt help: "Protesters are winning if theyre allowed to shut down classroom instruction." Administrators seem afraid to put an end to all this. "College presidents have to take charge, restore order and protect Jewish students" — or they should lose their jobs.

The crackdowns reveal that universities like Columbia "dont value critical thought as much as they value business as usual," Sarah Jones said at New York. Its true that protests can sometimes attract "bad actors," but its unreasonable to suggest all the anti-war activity is anti-semitic "when many of the demonstrators are Jewish

Is the Gaza war tearing U.S. campuses apart?

themselves." The protests have been largely peaceful, which means the students are guilty only of "embarrassing their universities by applying their education to the real world." "Tom Cotton has never seen a left-wing protest he didn't want crushed at gunpoint," Adam Serwer said at The Atlantic. Cotton, remember, was the author of the infamous 2020 New York Times op-ed that called on then-President Donald Trump to send U.S. troops to bring order to cities shaken by Black Lives Matter protests. Campus leaders should protect the safety of their students. But the "kinds of mass violence and unrest" that justify a National Guard intervention are absent, with troops more "likely to escalate tensions rather than quell them." This suggests the real reason for intervention is because "powerful figures find the protesters and their demands offensive."

What next?

It's an election year, so the protests will have political ramifications. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) will visit the Columbia campus this week, The Hill said, to highlight the "troubling rise of virulent antisemitism on America's college campuses." He called on Columbia University President Minouche Shafik to resign, while Republicans in Congress are vowing to withdraw federal funds from institutions that fail to protect Jewish students. Biden, meanwhile, is treading carefully: The Washington Post said he is trying to "strike a careful balance between condemning antisemitism on college campuses and supporting students' right to protest."

Columbia officials are trying to pull back from the brink of further confrontation. Administrators had warned protesters to clear their encampment by end of day Tuesday, The New York Times said, but later issued a statement that protesters had agreed to clear most of their tents and to "bar discriminatory or harassing language among the protesters." But the peace may be short-lived: The university senate is expected to vote Friday on a resolution censuring Shafik for calling police in to break up the protests.

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Company: WALL STREET JOURNAL (54%)

Organization: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY (94%); YALE UNIVERSITY (84%); HAMAS (56%); UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA (55%)

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Is the Gaza war tearing U.S. campuses apart?

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SUB: PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS

SUB: SCHOOL SUSPENSION & EXPULSION

SUB: EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

SUB: US REPUBLICAN PARTY

SUB: NEGATIVE MISC NEWS

SUB: UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

SUB: EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION EMPLOYEES

SUB: ARRESTS

SUB: CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS

GEO: ISRAEL

SUB: MIDDLE EAST PROTESTS & UPRISINGS

SUB: JEWS & JUDAISM

PEO: TOM COTTON

GEO: UNITED STATES

PEO: JOSH HAWLEY

SUB: LAW ENFORCEMENT

GEO: UNITED STATES; MINNESOTA, USA

SUB: FREEDOM OF SPEECH

GEO: STATE OF PALESTINE

SUB: HAMAS

SUB: STUDENTS & STUDENT LIFE

PEO: JOE BIDEN

SUB: CLERGY & RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

SUB: TRENDS & EVENTS

SUB: NEGATIVE NEWS

SUB: RACISM & XENOPHOBIA

SUB: ANTISEMITISM

SUB: ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICTS

GEO: UNITED STATES; NEW YORK, USA

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