# Pro-Palestinian Protests Spark Campus Debate on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict



**Pro-Palestinian Protests at US and UK Universities**

During the 2024 graduation ceremony at Columbia University, students staged a pro-Palestinian protest, reflecting broader campus activism concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Similar demonstrations have occurred at other institutions, including New York University (NYU) and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where students have been divided on support for Palestinian and Israeli causes.

In the UK, pro-Palestinian protesters occupied the London School of Economics (LSE) Marshall Building, demanding the university divest from companies linked to the arms trade and fossil fuels. Ethan Chua, a member of the LSE Student’s Union Palestine Society, emphasized their call for the university to address its alleged complicity in Palestinian and environmental harms.

Additionally, students at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) occupied campus spaces with similar demands, advocating for severing ties with entities financially connected to Israeli institutions. The SOAS Jewish Society expressed solidarity with the broader student protest.

These protests have sparked debate over the nature of slogans used, with some participants accused of antisemitism for chants like “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.” Jewish students and faculty have reported feeling targeted by such rhetoric, emphasizing the need for respectful and factual dialogue.

This wave of campus activism underscores the ongoing tensions and diverse perspectives surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, highlighting issues of free speech and the importance of inclusive and informed debate within educational institutions.

**Sources:**
- Columbia University protest image by Anadolu/Getty Images.
- Student protests at LSE, SOAS, and across the US reflecting on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.