# Pro-Palestinian Demonstrations Spark Police Intervention and Administrative Actions in California Universities



**Pro-Palestinian Demonstrations Lead to Police Intervention at UC Irvine and Administrative Actions at Sonoma State University**

On May 15, police detained at least a dozen pro-Palestinian demonstrators at the University of California, Irvine after they surrounded the Physical Sciences Lecture Hall. The encampment, established on April 29, saw protestors demanding university divestment from companies connected to Israel. Local law enforcement, including Irvine Police and Orange County Sheriff’s Department, assisted in clearing the encampment. Protestors had constructed barriers with tents and wood panels, which authorities dismantled. Signs at the scene called for UC to divest from what organizers labeled as genocide.

In related events, Sonoma State University President Mike Lee was placed on leave following a campuswide message endorsing divestment strategies and an academic boycott of Israeli universities. His statement, made without proper approvals, led to immediate administrative actions as outlined by California State University Chancellor Mildred García. The decision came amid heightened campus protests and contrasting responses from various university administrations regarding Israel-Palestine issues.

These events reflect ongoing tensions and divergent campus policies on the matter, with administrative and legislative reactions unfolding in real-time.