# President Biden Calls for Gaza Ceasefire in Morehouse College Commencement Speech



### Biden Addresses Morehouse College, Calls for Gaza Ceasefire

On May 19, 2024, President Joe Biden delivered the keynote address at Morehouse College's commencement in Atlanta, Georgia. During his speech, Biden acknowledged the ongoing conflict between Israel and Gaza, labeling it a "humanitarian crisis" and calling for an "immediate ceasefire" to halt the fighting and secure the release of hostages.

Biden's remarks came amidst visible demonstrations by students, with some turning their chairs away from him and one student unfurling a Palestinian flag. The president emphasized his support for peaceful, non-violent protest and stressed that protesters' voices should be heard.

The event was marked by heightened security and limited guest tickets, which had stirred some discontent among the graduating students. Morehouse College President David A. Thomas had warned ahead of the ceremony that disruptive protests could lead to its cancellation.

In his address, Biden also highlighted his administration's efforts towards achieving a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine, aiming for peace, security, and dignity for both parties. Additionally, he spoke of his commitment to diversity and the inclusion of African Americans in high-ranking positions within his administration. Biden was conferred an honorary degree by Morehouse, making him the third U.S. President to receive such an honor from the institution.

Morehouse valedictorian DeAngelo Fletcher echoed Biden's call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza during his speech. The commencement address was part of Biden's ongoing efforts to engage with key voter groups, including young Americans and the African American community, ahead of the 2024 U.S. presidential election.