# Harvard and UC Santa Cruz: Labour Rights and Pro-Palestinian Protests Clash



### Harvard Workers and Pro-Palestinian Protests

**Location:** Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
**Date of Events:** April to May 2024
**Individuals Involved:** Julia Kedge, Harvard's HR, Union of Clerical and Technical Workers (HUCTW), Harvard Graduate Student Union (HGSU), pro-Palestinian protesters
**Key Events:**
- Julia Kedge, an Assistive Technology Coordinator at Harvard and HUCTW member, received a sudden HR meeting request shortly after her performance review, suspected due to her presence at a pro-Palestinian encampment at Harvard Yard.
- Protests centered on opposing Israel’s military actions in Gaza and universities' financial ties to Israeli companies.
- Encampment erected on April 24 and ended on May 14 after Harvard agreed to dialogue and expedite reinstatement processes for 20 suspended students.
- Kedge and others claim ongoing retaliation, including bans from campus and threats of termination.
- Around 70 people rallied on May 2, highlighting surveillance and alleged unfair disciplinary actions by Harvard administration.

### UC Santa Cruz Academic Workers Strike

**Location:** University of California, Santa Cruz, CA
**Date of Events:** May 2024
**Individuals Involved:** United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 4811, UC officials, pro-Palestinian demonstrators
**Key Events:**
- UAW 4811 initiated a strike on May 19, citing unfair labor practices related to actions against pro-Palestinian protests.
- UC requested immediate injunctive relief to end the strike, arguing it causes irreparable harm to university operations.
- Strikers demand protection of free speech, amnesty for protestors, and divestment from companies profiting from military actions in Gaza.
- Actions against pro-Palestinian encampments have included forceful removals and arrests at multiple UC campuses.

Both events underscore the intersection of labor rights and political activism, with ongoing disputes over free speech and institutional responses.