# Campus Protests Disrupt Graduation Ceremonies at U.S. Universities



**Campus Protests Mark Graduation Ceremonies Across the U.S.**

**May 23, 2024** — Graduation ceremonies at several U.S. universities have been marked by student protests related to ongoing conflicts and political issues.

At Harvard University, hundreds of students walked out of the commencement ceremony chanting “Free, Free Palestine” in response to the university’s decision not to allow 13 students who protested in a pro-Palestinian encampment to graduate. These students had called for a ceasefire in Gaza and for the university to divest from companies supporting the war. Harvard’s governing board cited policy violations as the reason for the decision, though graduates and faculty had shown widespread support for the protesters.

The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) saw the formation of a new pro-Palestinian encampment while its chancellor testified before lawmakers in Washington, D.C., regarding the university's handling of protests and related allegations of antisemitism.

At the University of Massachusetts Boston, the commencement proceeded without major disruptions. Still, several graduates sported keffiyeh scarves and Palestinian flags.

Drexel University in Philadelphia ended a pro-Palestinian encampment, with protesters vacating peacefully following the administration’s decision to involve the police.

These events contribute to a broader wave of campus activism as students confront universities on their stances and actions concerning international political conflicts.