# Violent Protests at UCLA and Oxford over Middle East Conflict Lead to Arrests and Tensions



**Violent Protests Erupt at UCLA and Oxford Over Middle East Conflict**

On April 30, a violent incident took place at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) during a pro-Palestinian protest. A pro-Israeli counterprotester, identified as 18-year-old Edan On, allegedly assaulted individuals at the encampment using a wooden pole. On was subsequently arrested on May 23 in Beverly Hills and charged with felony assault with a deadly weapon. He is being held in Los Angeles County jail on $30,000 bail.

The incident on April 30 involved multiple attacks on students, faculty, and staff, prompting an independent review of UCLA's response to the campus unrest. Amid ongoing protests between April 25 and May 2, UCLA authorities reported high tensions and numerous arrests, and Police Chief John Thomas was reassigned following criticisms of his handling of the situation.

In the UK, tensions over the Israel-Hamas war also flared at Oxford University. On May 22, sixteen students involved in a pro-Palestinian demonstration were arrested after attempting to occupy a university building. Anti-Semitic graffiti depicting swastikas was found at Regent's Park College, deeply upsetting Jewish students and sparking outrage. The college is investigating the incident, and senior figures suggest it may be linked to the ongoing conflict debates.

Oxford Action for Palestine continues to protest, demanding the university distance itself from Israel and address what they describe as "scholasticide." University officials have been called to address the rise in antisemitism, ensuring campuses are safe for all students.