# University of Cambridge's legal bid to curb Israel-Palestine protests faces setback



The University of Cambridge has experienced a setback in its legal efforts to prevent protests related to the Israel-Palestine conflict at its sites for a five-year period. The High Court in London heard the university's request for an injunction that would prohibit any direct action associated with the conflict without the university's consent at four specific locations, running until February 2030.

During the court hearing on Thursday, lawyers representing the university argued that the injunction was “urgently” needed in light of an upcoming graduation ceremony scheduled for this Saturday. However, Mr Justice Fordham, presiding over the case, dismissed the university’s request for an extensive five-year injunction, stating it raised “significant concern” due to the short timeline for affected parties to respond.

Despite rejecting the long-term application, Mr Justice Fordham agreed to issue a narrow temporary order that would prohibit direct action specifically at Senate House and the adjacent lawn in Senate House Yard, where the graduation ceremony is set to take place. The judge indicated that the interim injunction was necessary to safeguard the ceremony against potential disruptions highlighted by the university’s concerns.

In presenting their case, university officials cited previous encampments associated with “Cambridge for Palestine” that had taken place on Senate House Yard in May and November 2024, as well as another protest at their Greenwich House site in the same month. Evidence was also brought forth regarding two graduation ceremonies that had been disrupted, along with three more that were anticipated to face similar challenges.

Mr Justice Fordham pointed out that the university had not provided a complete overview of the graduation ceremonies, noting that ten ceremonies had been conducted without interference during the relevant May to December 2024 period. He remarked on the importance of having a comprehensive factual picture for the court’s consideration, rather than focusing solely on instances of disruption.

Further details regarding the interim injunction are expected to be clarified in the near future, and a subsequent hearing will be scheduled to address additional aspects of the case. This decision marks a significant moment in the ongoing discussions regarding protests and institutional responses in academic settings relating to broader geopolitical issues.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/13928/Union-and-leading-campaigners-condemn-Cambridge-Uni-attempt-to-quash-peaceful-protest-through-the-High-Court> - This URL supports the claim that the University of Cambridge attempted to restrict protests related to the Israel-Palestine conflict through a High Court injunction, which was met with criticism from various groups. It highlights the broader context of university responses to protests.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/university-of-cambridge-cambridge-university-palestine-israel-high-court-b2706220.html> - This URL corroborates the information about the University of Cambridge losing its bid for a long-term injunction to block protests related to the Israel-Palestine conflict at its sites.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is the source of the original article detailing the University of Cambridge's legal efforts and the High Court's decision regarding protests related to the Israel-Palestine conflict.
* <https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/court-lists/list-high-court-justice> - This URL provides general information about the High Court of Justice in England and Wales, which is relevant to understanding the legal context of the University of Cambridge's case.
* <https://www.cam.ac.uk/about-the-university/how-the-university-and-colleges-work/organisation-and-structure> - This URL offers insight into the organizational structure of the University of Cambridge, which is important for understanding how decisions like seeking an injunction are made.