# University newspapers grapple with takedown requests amid safety fears after student detention



Following the detainment of Rümeysa Öztürk on charges related to an op-ed she co-authored in The Tufts Daily, university newspapers across the United States are confronting a surge of requests from students and alumni who want their names and images removed from online records.

The Boston Globe is reporting that these requests have been driven by concerns over personal safety, especially in light of recent incidents where Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has detained individuals for participating in protests. One student, writing to Boston University's Daily Free Press about a week after the arrest of Öztürk, expressed, "I am genuinely concerned for my safety," and noted they were acting on legal advice in seeking the removal of their name and photograph.

At Northeastern University's Huntington News, six requests have been made for entire op-eds to be removed from the publication’s site, and the newsroom has expanded anonymity protections for international students. Harvard's student newspaper, The Harvard Crimson, has also received 10 requests for anonymity and takedown in just two weeks, highlighting the growing scale of concern among students.

The case of Öztürk, who was taken from the Tufts campus by six plainclothes Department of Homeland Security agents on March 25, has brought these concerns into sharp focus. She currently remains detained in Louisiana and is contesting deportation. Reports indicate that her detainment was tied to her co-authorship of an op-ed critical of Tufts University’s response to student senate resolutions about the Israel-Gaza conflict.

This emerging situation is testing the principles traditionally upheld in journalism, particularly in student-run newsrooms. Typically, anonymity is granted sparingly and only when sources face the risk of retribution or harm. Granting anonymity to authors of entire articles, as opposed to quoted sources, is uncommon, as is the retroactive alteration or removal of published content. Maintaining transparency through public disclosures of any changes has been a key norm to safeguard trustworthiness in journalism.

The Student Press Law Center (SPLC) published updated guidance on April 4, urging student editors to be more flexible with anonymity and takedown requests from international students. The SPLC acknowledged that this guidance "stands in opposition" to usual academic teachings but emphasised the heightened risks students currently face.

The broader implications include potential erasure of important dissenting voices, including critiques of government policies, international conflicts, and student activism. The preservation of this content in archives is viewed by some student journalists as essential to maintaining a record of these historical moments.

Northeastern University's Huntington News has implemented a system to document each article altered or removed, balancing the safety of international students with journalistic integrity by applying consistent rules for each request.

The Boston Globe highlights that protecting international students at this moment remains a priority, but a parallel duty exists for journalists — including student journalists — to ensure vital perspectives and critiques are not permanently erased from the historical record.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://apnews.com/article/11369dd81ec5b95a7ad7c1d2a0c74f2d> - This article reports on the temporary halt of Rümeysa Öztürk's transfer to Vermont, highlighting her detainment by DHS agents on March 25 and the legal proceedings that followed.
2. <https://apnews.com/article/c844570d3e429abd1f37205f7c164133> - This piece discusses the ethical challenges faced by student journalists, including increased requests for anonymity and content removal due to fears of deportation, with specific mention of Tufts University's Daily Free Press.
3. <https://apnews.com/article/d6fbf3793858537373b4d3cb78766e7b> - This article details the denial of bond for Rümeysa Öztürk by an immigration judge, citing her as a flight risk and a danger to the community, and discusses the legal arguments presented by her lawyers.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/tufts-student-detained-by-trump-administration-defends-right-advocate-2025-04-03/> - This report covers Rümeysa Öztürk's arrest by U.S. immigration officials after co-authoring an op-ed advocating for Palestinian rights, and the subsequent legal challenges to her detainment.
5. <https://time.com/7272060/international-students-targeted-trump-ice-detention-deport-campus-palestinian-activism/> - This article examines the broader implications of the Trump administration's immigration enforcement actions targeting international students involved in pro-Palestinian campus activism, including the case of Rümeysa Öztürk.
6. <https://huntnewsnu.com/85385/city/fear-outrage-after-tufts-doctoral-student-detained-by-ice-amid-crackdown-on-student-activists/> - This piece from Northeastern University's Huntington News discusses the detainment of Rümeysa Öztürk, the reactions from the university community, and the broader context of student activism and immigration enforcement.
7. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/04/28/opinion/student-newspapers-anonymity-deportation-trump/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data