# Pro-Palestinian Protests Rock UK Universities Against Israeli Investments



**Pro-Palestinian Protests Erupt at London School of Economics and Across UK Universities**

On May 10, 2024, pro-Palestinian students, equipped with tents and sleeping bags, staged a protest at the London School of Economics' (LSE) Marshall Building. The demonstrators, wearing face masks and waving Palestinian flags, set up an encampment inside the university. They displayed banners urging LSE to divest from companies allegedly involved in actions against Palestinian people.

The protest was part of a larger movement, as similar sit-ins have been organized at universities across the UK over the past three weeks. These demonstrations call for the universities to condemn actions in Gaza and to establish scholarships for Palestinian students. Notable institutions involved include Oxford, Cambridge, and Birmingham.

A detailed report by the LSESU Palestine Society, titled "Assets in Apartheid," accused LSE of investing £48 million in 53 companies linked to crimes against Palestinians, including £5 million in companies profiting from the situation in Gaza.

Outside the LSE, a rally with chants of “Free Palestine” and controversial slogans was held. Jewish and Israeli students have expressed feelings of threat and fear due to the demonstrations, which they claim promote violent ideologies.

In parallel, over 100 pro-Palestinian demonstrators staged a rush-hour protest led by Jewish Voices for Peace in Center City, Philadelphia, on May 14, 2024. The protest aimed to highlight the investment of taxpayer dollars in Israeli bonds, criticized as supporting military actions in Gaza. This action followed a similar demonstration in Harrisburg earlier in the year.

At the heart of these protests is a call to cease financial support for the Israeli military through Israeli Bonds, with activists sharing personal stories of withdrawing past investments.

University authorities and various stakeholders continue to navigate the complexities and sensitivities surrounding these protests and the broader geopolitical issues they reflect.