# President Biden Addresses Morehouse College Graduates Amid Protests Over U.S. Policy on Gaza



**President Biden Addresses Morehouse College Graduates Amid Protests Over U.S. Policy on Gaza**

President Joe Biden delivered the commencement speech at Morehouse College, a historically Black men’s college in Atlanta, Georgia, on Sunday, May 19, 2024. The ceremony was marked by a blend of traditional celebration and respectful protests over the U.S. government's support for Israel in its ongoing war in Gaza.

During the address, Biden emphasized the principles of manhood, dignity, and respect, drawing on themes from his personal experiences and scripture. He referenced the challenges Black communities face in America and called out extremist ideologies, indirectly referencing his political adversary, Donald Trump. He urged the graduates to reject toxic definitions of manhood and instead embrace strength and dignity.

Noticeable protests ensued as a segment of the graduating class responded to Biden's stance on the Gaza conflict. Some students wore keffiyehs, a traditional Palestinian scarf, and turned their backs on Biden during his speech. In his remarks, Biden acknowledged the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and called for an immediate ceasefire, acknowledging the frustrations of many, including his family members.

The event maintained its decorum, with Biden shaking hands with valedictorian DeAngelo Jeremiah Fletcher, who also called for a ceasefire in Gaza during his speech. Following the ceremony, Biden received an honorary doctorate and was met with chants of "four more years" from the audience as he left the stage.

This appearance is part of Biden's broader effort to reconnect with Black voters, amid declining approval ratings and growing apathy among the electorate. Biden's speech was well-received by some, but the protests highlighted the ongoing divisions and concerns within the community regarding U.S. foreign policy.