# Mayor Eric Adams Defends Police Response to Pro-Palestinian Demonstration in Brooklyn



New York City Mayor Eric Adams defended the police response to a pro-Palestinian demonstration on Saturday in Brooklyn's Bay Ridge, referring to the widely circulated video footage as showing an "isolated incident." The videos depicted officers repeatedly punching protesters who were lying on the ground. Adams emphasized the overall context, citing protesters blocking traffic, spitting at officers, and one individual climbing on a moving bus.

Witnesses and independent journalists captured footage of police intercepting the march, shoving participants, and dragging some to the ground. At least 41 arrests were made. Footage included officers punching pinned protesters, including one incident where an officer in a white shirt was seen punching a protester while holding his throat.

Mayor Adams praised the NYPD's handling of what he described as an "unruly group of people." However, local officials, including City Council member Justin Brannan and State Senator Andrew Gounardes, criticized the police response as excessively aggressive and unwarranted. Brannan noted that the annual protest, held to commemorate Nakba Day, had occurred peacefully in previous years.

The NYPD released videos showing protesters throwing objects and lighting flares, asserting that the event was not peaceful. The legal context highlighted a recent settlement requiring NYPD to modify their protest handling tactics to reduce excessive force unless there was severe and unlawful conduct.

Additional criticism came from the New York Civil Liberties Union, denouncing the police's response as a threat to free expression. This incident adds tension to Mayor Adams's administration, already facing criticism from other prominent New York politicians.