

**BANNED BOOKS  
WEEK**

**DEFENDING THE HUMAN RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL** 



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**USA**

# **PROTECT STUDENTS' RIGHTS**



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## **STOP THE CRACKDOWN: PROTECT STUDENT RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND STOP REVOKING VISAS OF FOREIGN STUDENTS**

No one should be ripped away from their family and sent to detention just for exercising their right to freedom of expression or be punished for peacefully protesting. No one should be threatened for exercising free speech by speaking at a protest or for publishing an op-ed, and no one should be deported for speaking out for human rights. All students should feel like they belong on their campuses and are free to be themselves without being harassed or singled out. Universities must fight to protect students' rights and refuse to collaborate in the government's attacks on campuses.

## SEND A MESSAGE TO THE U.S. AUTHORITIES

**WRITE****Address to send letter:**

Secretary Kristi Noem  
Department of Homeland Security  
300 7th St, SW,  
Washington, DC 20024  
USA

**Dear Secretary Kristi Noem,**

I am writing regarding the recent trend of targeting foreign students with repression, detention, and potential deportation for either their activities in protests, speaking out in support of Palestinian rights and against the ongoing war crimes and genocide in the occupied Gaza Strip, or due to their backgrounds.

Following the detention of Mahmoud Khalil on March 8 and the revocation of his residency status, the US government revoked the student visas of seven identified individuals and is seeking to revoke the residency status of at least two other students who protested or spoke up about the conflict in the occupied Gaza Strip under an obscure and rarely used provision of immigration law. At least 1300 additional students are known to have had their visas revoked. However, many of these students never received notice of the revocation, nor did they participate in any protest or expressive activity on campus. Some students may have been targeted due to having committed minor crimes such as traffic violations. According to a lawsuit filed on behalf of students, many were targeted because of their country of origin, particularly those from African, Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and Asian backgrounds.

These repressive tactics and the summary revocation of people's immigration status demonstrate an utter lack of respect for their human rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, due process, and to be free from discrimination.

I urge you to restore the visas and immigration status of these students and visitors, release all students from immigration detention, refrain from deporting any of them, and end the targeting of students based on their immigration statuses and for exercising their human rights.

Yours sincerely,

[Insert your name]

**EMAIL**

Send email appeal to: [dhssecretary@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:dhssecretary@hq.dhs.gov)

## SEND A SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO STUDENTS ACROSS THE U.S.

**SEND**

We are requesting people to write a solidarity message that will be shared with students across the country. It is important for individuals not to feel alone and to show the power of our collective movement. Everyone is encouraged to participate. We must stand in solidarity and claim our human rights to freedom of expression!

### HERE IS HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTION

1. Create a placard with a message or an artistic image showing solidarity for students rights to freedom of expression. Especially to students who come to the U.S. to pursue their studies.
2. Take a photo of yourself and/or your group holding the image. If you are not comfortable with being in the photo, no worries, just take the photo of the image or place the image against a known landmark in your community and send to [iar@aiusa.org](mailto:iar@aiusa.org)
3. Please post your solidarity message on your social media, tagging Amnesty International USA's X and Instagram accounts @AmnestyUSA and @AIUSAYouth so that we can retweet and share your messages!

Amnesty International USA will create a collage to share with students across the country.

**SUPPORT OUR  
DIGITAL ACTION  
FOR STUDENTS**

