

Rally Happening Now in New Haven

This rally is **happening now** (Sunday, March 16, 2025, at Bayview Park at the corner of Howard Avenue and 5th Streets here in New Haven.)



Mahmoud Khalil, a Palestinian activist who recently completed his graduate studies at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, was a leader in campus protests against the war on Gaza. A citizen of Algeria, he is married to a U.S. citizen and the holder of a "green card," **making him a permanent, legal U.S. resident.**

Nevertheless, he was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials on Saturday, March 8th and is now facing deportation while sitting in a detention cell in Jena, Louisiana. The reason for his arrest is that the secretary of state, Marco Rubio, "determined" that Khalil's "presence or activities in the United States would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States."

What about Freedom of Speech?

The implications of Khalil's unjust arrest, detention, and potential deportation obviously extend far beyond this individual case. The Trump administration has promised that this will be the first of many such arrests and deportations of international students who participated in pro-Palestinian protests. This is a serious escalation of the administration's goal to silence any non-citizen whose viewpoint they decide may have "adverse foreign policy consequences," however Trump and his henchmen interpret that phrase for their own convenience.

This is also another step towards the intimidation and silencing of U.S.-born or naturalized citizens, as well as any groups who challenge the conduct of the oligarchs now controlling the federal government. We are already seeing this happen, as they cut off funding for non-profits; target organizations and individuals who question or protest *any* administration policies; fire vast numbers of employees from federal agencies (focusing especially on those who work for diversity, equity, and inclusion); dictate how history is taught in the schools; ban books that cover subjects they don't like; and target (or cancel) specific populations (gay, transgender, people of color, women.) The list of first amendment and human rights violations is endless.

This is authoritarianism. This is fascism. This is the rule of the billionaires, by the billionaires, for the billionaires.

Did you vote for this? Probably not.

Everything that the Trump administration has done in its 53 days in office is unconstitutional, illegal, and immoral. This is our moment. Resistance begins here, it begins now, and it must continue to grow.

***SILENCE IS NOT AN OPTION.
RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR.***

<https://newhavensundayvigil.wordpress.com>

March 16, 2025