



Resolution on repression of free speech and MIT responsibilities to support graduate students

WHEREAS student organizer at Columbia University Mahmoud Khalil was arrested at his residence by federal agents in retaliation for his solidarity with the Palestinian people¹;

WHEREAS the White House Press Secretary said the federal government has the right to revoke Khalil's green card for being "adversarial" to US foreign policy²;

WHEREAS Canary Mission is a website that targets academics critical of Israel by posting libel and personal information in order to incite harassment and reputational damage³;

WHEREAS Rümeysa Öztürk, PhD student at Tufts, was arrested and her student visa revoked after being doxxed by Canary Mission for writing an op-ed critical of Israel's attacks on Gaza;

WHEREAS at least seven MIT students have been targeted in the past year and a half by Canary Mission for their activism on MIT's campus;

WHEREAS these arrests constitute a violation of constitutional rights and due process, including the First Amendment right to free speech;

WHEREAS US President Donald Trump has stated that Mahmoud Khalil's arrest is "the first arrest of many to come";

WHEREAS many graduate students in the US have faced arrest and deportation, including Momodou Taal, Yunseo Chung, Ranjani Srinivasan, Leqaa Kordia, and Badar Khan Suri;

WHEREAS Secretary of State Marco Rubio has claimed to have revoked at least 300 visas for students participating in political speech and activism in support of Palestine;

WHEREAS institutions of higher learning have a responsibility to protect their students and community members from unjust state repression;

WHEREAS the GSC policy platform states that the GSC "firmly opposes any actions that would result in the deportation or detention of students enrolled at MIT";

¹Khalil, Mahmoud. 2025. "A Letter From Palestinian Activist Mahmoud Khalil." *American Civil Liberties Union*.

²"Trump Takes Aim at Foreign-Born College Students, with 300 Visas Revoked." March 27, 2025. [NBC News](#).

³Kulwin, Noah. 2018. "The American Jewish Establishment's Sinister Turn." [Jewish Currents](#).



WHEREAS the GSC policy platform states that the GSC firmly supports “protecting the rights of students to engage in advocacy, lobbying, [and] debate”;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MIT Graduate Student Council (GSC) calls on the MIT administration to formally condemn the arrest of Mahmoud Khalil, Rümeysa Öztürk, and all other students detained and targeted by federal agents for political speech;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MIT GSC calls on the MIT administration to not comply with Section 3 of the expanded Executive Order 13899, which calls for universities to “monitor for and report activities by alien students and staff relevant to those grounds and for ensuring that such reports about aliens lead, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to investigations and, if warranted, actions to remove such aliens”;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MIT GSC calls on MIT to continue to keep international students enrolled in the event of visa revocation, SEVIS withdrawal, legal status termination, detention, and/or deportation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MIT GSC calls on the MIT administration to commit to financial support for graduate students whose visas have been revoked or who are arrested by ICE in retaliation for political speech;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MIT GSC calls on MIT to facilitate the continuation of studies and research remotely for affected international students and scholars or otherwise provide flexible planning to complete their studies and guarantee re-entry into their program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MIT GSC calls on MIT to work swiftly and affirmatively—through lawsuits, if necessary—to stop the termination of the legal status of students and scholars without any due process;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MIT GSC calls on the MIT administration to make all practical efforts to restrict ICE agents from entering campus facilities and housing;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the MIT GSC calls on the MIT administration to publicly affirm its support for freedom of speech on campus.

—

Approved by vote of the General Council on April 16, 2025.