

# News and Views 25

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**"Be Careful What You Say"**

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## **Topic - Suppression of free speech.**

Our letter today deals with the arrest of Mahmoud Khalil, a palestinian graduate student at Columbia University in the US legally with a green card, married to a pregnant American citizen. President [Donald Trump](#) Monday [cheered the arrest of](#) a leader of the pro-Palestinian student protest movement, saying the man's activism was anti-American, and promised more detentions to come.

**Britannica** *"Authoritarianism, in politics and government, the blind submission to authority and the repression of individual freedom of thought and action. Authoritarian regimes are systems of government that have no established mechanism for the transfer of executive power and do not afford their citizens civil liberties or political rights."*

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## **In the News**

**Ben Burgis**, political commentator and author - 3/10/25

Trump stated: *"This is the first arrest of many to come. We know there are more students at Columbia and other Universities across the Country who have engaged in pro-terrorist, anti-Semitic, anti-American activity, and the Trump Administration will not tolerate it. ... If you support terrorism, including the slaughtering of innocent men, women, and children ... you are not welcome here. We expect every one of America's Colleges and Universities to comply."*

[Read more](#)

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**Chelsea Bailey**, CNN 3/11/25

*"He was chosen as an example to stifle entirely lawful dissent, in violation of the First Amendment," she said in a statement. "The government's objective is as transparent as it is unlawful."* [Read more](#)

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**Nadine El-Bawab** March 11, 2025

*"Khalil has not been charged or convicted of any crime. As the Trump Administration proudly admits, he was targeted solely for his activism and organizing as a student leader and negotiator for the Gaza Solidarity Encampment on Columbia University's campus,"* [Read more](#)