



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

### An Urgent Know Your Rights Message to Our Students:

Recent events, such as the arrest of Mahmoud Khalil and Columbia University's decision to suspend, expel, and revoke diplomas of nearly two dozen students highlight the growing risk for students on the frontlines of activism and organizing. These administrative measures—promoted by the Trump administration's threat to withdraw university funding—has made campuses increasingly volatile and dangerous. In light of this, Manara West has compiled a short list of legal know-your-rights recommendations for all students:

1. **Prioritize the Safety of Noncitizens:** Noncitizen students, including visa holders and undocumented individuals, face the highest risk of surveillance, arrest, and deportation. Be mindful of their vulnerability when organizing, sharing information, or engaging in activism, and take extra precautions to protect their safety.
2. **Visa Holders Should Not Travel Abroad:** If you are on a visa, avoid traveling outside the U.S. for the next few months, as re-entry is becoming increasingly difficult for those engaged in Palestine solidarity activism.
3. **Social Media and AI Are Being Used to Revoke Visas:** Officials are monitoring social media for activism, especially pro-Palestine support. Automated systems are also flagging individuals for visa cancellations based on online activity. Be mindful of what you post.
4. **Be Mindful of Online Speech:** While you have the right to free expression, be aware that law enforcement and immigration officials may monitor social media and group chats. Consider the potential risks before sharing details about your political activities, affiliations, or immigration status.
5. **Stay Informed on University Policies:** Check your school's website for recent policy updates. Some universities offer protections for immigrant students that may be helpful.
6. **Seek Legal Counsel Before Signing Anything:** Do not sign any documents given to you by law enforcement, school administrators, or immigration officers without first consulting a lawyer.
7. **Do Not Open the Door Without a Warrant:** If FBI or law enforcement agents come to your home, you do not have to let them in unless they present a valid, signed search warrant. A real warrant will have a judge's signature and clearly specify the area to be searched.



8. **Ask for a Lawyer Immediately:** If detained or arrested, clearly state, "I am invoking my right to remain silent and I want a lawyer." Do not answer any questions beyond providing your basic identifying information.
9. **Remain Silent:** If questioned by law enforcement or campus administration about your activism, you have the right to remain silent. Do not answer questions without a lawyer present.
10. **Be Cautious of Informants:** Do not discuss protest plans, political views, or immigration status with new or untrusted individuals. Law enforcement has a history of using informants in activist spaces.
11. **Get Legal Support:** If you need legal assistance, contact Manara West to get connected with an attorney. You can also reach out to the National Lawyers Guild (NLG), the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), or the Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA) for support.

**Manara West (general):** Email our team to get connected to support at [Info@manarawest.org](mailto:Info@manarawest.org)

#### **LEGAL SUPPORT**

**CAIR LA :** 714.613.0633 | ext 257

**CAIR SFBA:** 408) 986-9874

**CAIR SVCC:** (916) 441-6269 or email [info@sacval.cair.com](mailto:info@sacval.cair.com)

**National Lawyers Guild (NLG):** Call (310) 313-3700

**Muslim Legal Fund of American (MLFA):** Email [info@mlfa.org](mailto:info@mlfa.org) or call (972) 331-9021

**American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC):** Email [legal@adc.org](mailto:legal@adc.org) or call 202.244. 2990

Stay informed, stay safe, and know your rights.

(بَلِّ اللَّهَ مَوْلَاكُمْ<sup>ط</sup> وَهُوَ خَيْرُ النَّاصِرِينَ) [آل عمران: 150]

*But Allah is your protector, and He is the best of helpers. [3:150]*

Sincerely,

