

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: HOSTILE GROUP ATTACKS OXFORD PALESTINE ENCAMPMENT**

### *OA4P Releases Statement Condemning Political Targeting of Campus Protestors*

OXFORD, UK; 12 May 2024 -- In the late hours of Saturday evening, the Oxford Action for Palestine encampment was accosted by a small group of men. The incident comes after a week of baseless defamation of campus protests from Prime Minister Sunak, who last week claimed OA4P and its sister encampments are "incit[ing] violence...and glorif[y]ing terrorism" – comments that have been directly parroted by irresponsible media, and by the perpetrators of Saturday's attack.

### **On Sunday morning, Oxford Action for Palestine issued the following statement in response to the incident:**

"On Saturday evening, we gathered to light candles for our nightly Gaza vigil. Before we even began reciting the names of the dead, six men leapt out of a van nearby and accosted us with xenophobic and transphobic slurs, among a litany of other vitriolic insults. They ripped down our art, physically assaulted nearby members of the community, and particularly targeted Jewish students trying to deescalate the situation, using unacceptable antisemitic language. We are thankful no one was hurt, but we remain enraged at the politically-motivated fearmongering that jeopardised the safety of our campers.

Last night, our camp was threatened – and the incident falls squarely on the shoulders of Prime Minister Sunak, University Administrators, and irresponsible media, who all spent the week weaponising antisemitism to demonise campus protestors. In a shallow act of desperation, they've placed us in danger to distract from the fact that they are aiding and abetting israel's genocidal assault on Gaza.

This country's leaders – Conservative and Labour alike – would rather spew lies than reckon with the millions across the country calling for the UK to end its support for israel.

We will not be deterred by this government's spinelessness. Our encampment grows by the day. All eyes on Gaza."

### ***For interviews and other enquiries, contact:*** m:

07341377729; e: [oxpalpress@proton.me](mailto:oxpalpress@proton.me); @OxAct4Pal on X, Instagram, and TikTok. For a Press Kit and other resources, visit [linktr.ee/OxAct4Pal](https://linktr.ee/OxAct4Pal).

*Oxford Action for Palestine (OA4P) is a coalition of students, faculty, staff, and other members of the University of Oxford community who are dedicated to the liberation of Palestine. On May 6, OA4P established a Liberated Zone encampment in solidarity with Gaza, calling on the University to cut financial and institutional ties with Israeli genocide, occupation, and apartheid. For updates, visit the OA4P linktree at [linktr.ee/OxAct4Pal](https://linktr.ee/OxAct4Pal) and find us on Instagram, X, and TikTok on @OxAct4Pal.*

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