

BREAKING: OXFORD STUDENTS ESTABLISH SECOND GAZA SOLIDARITY ENCAMPMENT AT RADCLIFFE CAMERA

Students pitch tents on the lawn of the iconic Oxford library, promising withdrawal when the Uni agrees to negotiate

18 May 2024; Oxford, UK -- Nearly two weeks after Oxford Action for Palestine began its encampment in front of the Pitt Rivers Museum, students from the coalition have now founded a second encampment in front of the University's famous Radcliffe Camera. Announced by OA4P on Sunday morning, the encampment expansion specifically requests that the Administration agree to meet with the coalition to discuss demands. **Should the University respond to requests for negotiation, the Radcliffe Camera encampment would be taken down immediately.**

The action follows an astounding week of support from the University community. **Yesterday**, dozens of students staged a die-in outside Sheldonian theatre, successfully disrupting entry to graduation ceremonies. **On Thursday**, over 450 rallied on Board Street in support of OA4P's demands – including Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sittah, prominent physician and Rector of the University of Glasgow. **On Wednesday**, Oxford students released a student-only signature drive that has already collected nearly 2,000 signatures. **Throughout the week**, over 550 faculty and staff, 14 broader campus unions, and over two hundred Oxford healthcare workers grew in its support of the encampment. Given the depth and breadth of this coalition, OA4P remains perplexed by the Vice-Chancellor's nonresponse to requests for negotiation.

In a statement issued this morning, OA4P highlighted the significance of setting up in front of the Radcliffe Camera and reiterated the urgency of its demands:

"Our encampment's expansion sits on the lawn of the Radcliffe Camera, where men such as Alfred Milner, chief architect of the 1917 Balfour Declaration, sat and studied more than 100 years ago. Today, it remains an undying symbol of Oxford's legacy.

We reiterate that the situation in Gaza is dire, as Israel continues their genocidal campaign intent on destroying every feature of Palestinian life before our very eyes. **We will remain at the Radcliffe Camera until the University formally enters negotiations with OA4P with intent to meet our demands**, and the negotiation process must be based on the preconditions that have been communicated to the Vice Chancellor via email this morning. **We urge the Administration** to heed the requests of countless students, faculty, staff, and community members – and we urge it to do so immediately.

The Radcliffe Camera is the most recognisable building at Oxford. For photos and videos of today's action, visit our Press Kit at linktr.ee/OxAct4Pal. **For live updates**, visit our social media @OxAct4Pal on X, Instagram, and TikTok. **For interviews and other enquiries, contact:** m: 07341377729; e: oxpalpress@proton.me.

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 and find us on Instagram, X, and TikTok on @OxAct4Pal.

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