

## US Secretary of State defends Visa revocations after activist's arrest



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US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has defended the administration's decision to revoke visas and green cards for individuals linked to Hamas following the arrest of activist Mahmoud Khalil.

During an appearance on CBS News' Face the Nation, Rubio stated that anyone involved in activities contrary to US foreign policy, particularly "pro-Hamas events," would be denied entry or residency in the country.

Khalil, a Columbia University graduate and prominent pro-Palestinian activist, was arrested on March 8 by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents at his university-owned apartment. The arrest followed an order to revoke Khalil's student visa and green card due to his involvement in campus protests supporting Palestinian rights and opposition to Israel's actions in Gaza. The Trump administration has accused Khalil of aligning with Hamas, although no evidence has been presented.

Rubio defended the actions, claiming that had Khalil declared his intent to use his visa for promoting such activities, he would never have been allowed entry. He emphasized Khalil's involvement in campus protests, which Rubio described as "vandalizing buildings," and argued that these actions amounted to a crime.

President Donald Trump also supported the detention, calling it the "first of many" actions as the administration cracks down on activists involved in pro-Palestinian demonstrations. Rubio further emphasized the US's efforts to target individuals associated with terrorist organizations, such as the Venezuelan Tren de Aragua gang, stressing the administration's commitment to preventing terrorists from entering the country.

Rubio concluded by asserting that the US does not want individuals who undermine national security or public safety, underscoring the administration's determination to protect the nation.

