

April 9, 2025
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about free speech.

The right to dissent is key to democracy. Mr Khalil remains jailed apparently for organizing protests but without charge or any way to challenge his accusers. Ms Ozturk remains jailed and facing deportation apparently for signing a student paper op ed. Hundreds remain jailed in El Salvador apparently for their 'hand gestures and manner of dress' based on an ICE 'validation guide'. Greenpeace has just been handed a bankrupting ruling over peaceful pipeline protests while dozens of bills are being considered to make such protesters liable for Draconian prison terms as well. Law firms are being directly threatened for defending your opponents and Mr Amir was detained this week for representing a protester. My neighbor refrains from signing protest letters to protect her relatives. The fear to speak up is growing.

Please assure me that you will respect dissent.

My pride in the US derives in part from our robust political debate.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson