

Mass arrests as New York City police break up protest camp at Columbia University



Police move to make mass arrests on the campus of Columbia University in New York City
[Caitlin Ochs/Reuters]

New York, April 18 (RHC)-- New York City police have forcibly removed a protest encampment at Columbia University and arrested more than 100 demonstrators, including Isra Hirsi, the daughter of prominent U.S. congresswoman Ilhan Omar.

Police said 108 people, including Hirsi, were charged with trespassing at the university. Two people were charged with obstructing government administration, according to a report filed by the Associated Press.

Students involved in the protest said they also were suspended from Columbia and Barnard College.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams said the city was asked in writing by university officials to remove the encampment.

Omar, a Democratic Party representative for Minnesota, had questioned Columbia's president Nemat Shafik at a hearing on Wednesday in the U.S. Congress about the school's targeting of pro-Palestinian protesters.

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