AS a youth organisation that is committed to justice and academic freedom, Gerakan Mahasiswa Maju Universiti Putra Malaysia stands in solidarity with students across the United States who are currently engaging in campus protests advocating for the "Free Palestine" movement.

On May 1, police arrested 282 students protesting against Israel's war on Gaza at Columbia University and the City College of New York.

This incident highlights the importance of student activism

In solidarity with US campus protests

and the right to express opinions on critical global issues within university settings.

The actions taken against the protesting students, particularly those expressing solidarity with Palestine, raise significant concerns about freedom of speech, a fundamental right essential for the vitality of a democratic society.

Therefore we strongly condemn any actions that suppress the exercise of free speech and peaceful assembly on any campus. We urge university administrations to uphold their commitment to fostering an inclusive academic community where diverse perspectives are welcomed and respected.

We support all students who courageously speak out for what they believe in. We call on university authorities to choose dialogue and understanding over punishment. This approach is vital for preserving the essence of higher education and ensuring that every student's voice is valued and heard.

"From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." – In solidarity, Gerakan Mahasiswa Maju Universiti Putra Malaysia.

> TAN KENG JUN President Gerakan Mahasiswa Maju