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AAU STATEMENT ON ATTACK ON CHANCELLOR’S HOME  
AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Following is a statement by Robert M. Berdahl, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU).

The Association of American Universities strongly condemns the violent attack on the Chancellor’s home that took place at the University of California, Berkeley, on December 11. This outrageous behavior has nothing to do with legitimate dissent. These are criminal activities intended to intimidate and terrorize, not to protest, and law enforcement needs to treat them as such.

Our universities are havens for civil discourse and debate. Dissent and protest are expected, even welcome, as signs of thriving democracy. However, when dissent turns violent, it undermines the foundation of a university and the democratic values of our society.

Most of the nation’s colleges and universities are facing their worst financial challenges in decades, none more serious than those besetting the University of California. There is plenty of room for reasoned debate over the difficult steps that institutions must take to respond to these challenges. We call on all parties to the debate to insist on civility and the principles of rational discourse.

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The Association of American Universities (www.aau.edu) is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering.