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## Student protester released after year



Leqaa Kordia, of New Jersey, was released from immigration detention on March 16, after a year of confinement in Texas. PROVIDED BY TEXAS CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECT

### Kordia had not been charged with a crime

**Hannan Adely**  
NorthJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Leqaa Kordia of Paterson, New Jersey, a protester who demonstrated against the war in Gaza at Columbia University in 2024, was released from immigration de-

tention on March 16 after a judge set bond and federal authorities declined to block the order, ending a yearlong legal case over her confinement.

An immigration judge set bond at \$100,000 during a hearing March 13 in Dallas Immigration Court. It was the third time an immigration judge had ordered

Kordia's release. Twice previously, the Department of Homeland Security filed a rarely used "automatic stay" to keep her detained.

Immigration authorities took Kordia into custody on March 13, 2025, saying she had violated her student visa. But Kordia, 33, and her attorneys maintain that she was targeted because of her

See **PROTESTER**, Page 5A

## Employee wins case after pregnancy loss

### Doctor ordered modified bed rest, work from home

**Kevin Grasha**  
Cincinnati Enquirer  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A jury in Ohio said a firm must pay \$22.5 million after an employee who was having complications with her pregnancy was not allowed to work from home – despite her doctors' orders – and prematurely gave birth to a baby who died.

The Cincinnati-area jury found that Total Quality Logistics was negligent for the 2021 death of Magnolia Walsh. She was delivered after 20 weeks and died after only a few hours of life.

The jury's verdict was announced March 18 after a seven-day trial before Common Pleas Judge Chris Wagner.

Magnolia's mother, Chelsea Walsh, had a pregnancy complication that led her doctor to perform an emergency procedure intended to maintain the pregnancy.

To help protect the pregnancy, Walsh's doctor instructed her to be on modified bed rest, work from home and limit her activity.

Four days after the procedure, which took place on Feb. 11, 2021, Walsh went to TQL's offices and asked to work from home, so she could follow her doctor's instructions.

But Walsh's request to work remotely was not granted. Instead, she was required to return to the office and, at one point, was placed on unpaid leave against her wishes.

During closing arguments, one of

See **EMPLOYEE**, Page 5A

## Is the West's drought still a drought?

**Hayleigh Evans**  
Arizona Republic  
USA TODAY NETWORK

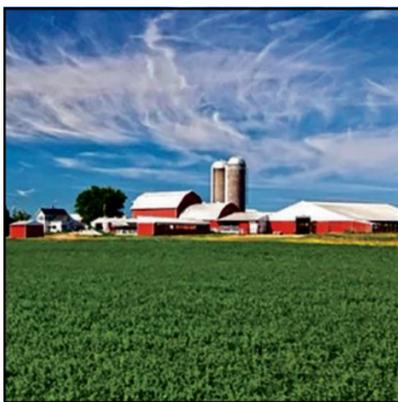
PHOENIX – For thousands of years, drought in Arizona has followed a familiar arc: Dry years stacked up, water

supplies dwindled and snowpack lacked its usual depth. Then, eventually, the pattern broke with a run of snowy winters, dramatic monsoons and a sense that balance had been restored in an ecosystem that had adapted for survival.

This cyclical pattern is baked into life in the Southwest. Drought is painful, but temporary. Until it's not.

Arizona has recorded about 11 inches of rain statewide – less in Phoenix,

See **DROUGHT**, Page 2A



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