

Figure S1. Polyubiquitin chains induce phase separation of NEMO, related to Figure 1

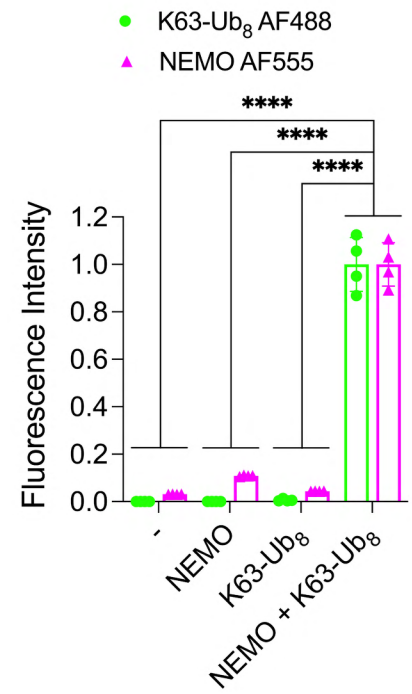
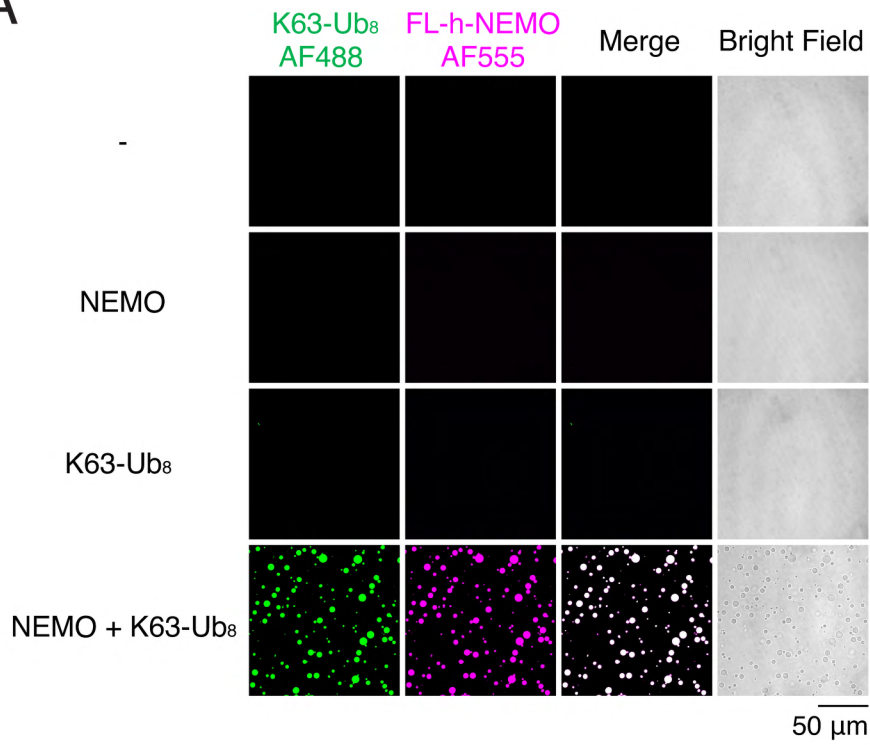
(A) Coomassie blue staining of purified recombinant E1 (118 KDa), E2 (His₆-UBC13, 17 KDa; GST-UEV1A, 43 KDa), and E3 (mCherry-TRAF6[aa1-358], 64 KDa). Arrows indicate the proteins of interest. The band marked by an asterisk is Glutathione S-transferase (GST). mCherry-TRAF6 was partially purified.

(B) Coomassie blue staining of purified recombinant proteins as indicated.

(C) Immunoblotting (IB) of enzymatically synthesized K63-polyUb and NEMO in the presence or absence of E1, E2 (UBC13/UEV1A), E3 (TRAF6) or NEMO as indicated. FL-h-NEMO: full-length human NEMO.

(D) Representative bright field images of NEMO liquid droplets induced by enzymatically synthesized K63-polyUb. Liquid droplets were imaged after mixing of human FL-NEMO with ubiquitin at indicated concentrations in a reaction containing E1, E2 (UBC13/UEV1A) and E3 (TRAF6). These images correspond to the phase separation diagram in Figure 1C.

A



B

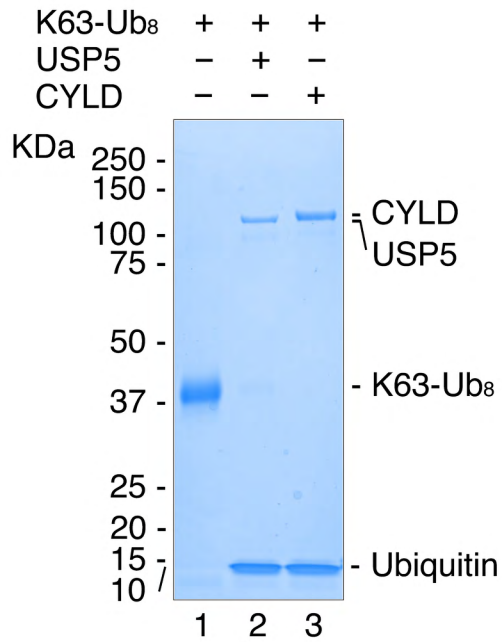


Figure S2. K63-Ub₈ binding to NEMO induces their phase separation, related to Figure 1

(A) Left panel: representative fluorescent images of NEMO liquid droplets induced by K63-Ub₈ in the presence or absence of K63-Ub₈ or NEMO. Liquid droplets formed after mixing of 6 μM human FL-NEMO (3% was labeled with Alexa 555) with 2.25 μM K63-Ub₈ (3% was labeled with Alexa 488) for an hour at 37°C. Right panel: quantification of fluorescence intensity of liquid droplets. Shown are means ± SD. n = 4 areas. Two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). ****P < 0.0001. These images are from the same experiment as in Figure 1D.

(B) Coomassie blue staining of K63-Ub₈ (theoretical molecular weight at 68 KDa) cleaved by USP5 (96 KDa) or CYLD (107 KDa).

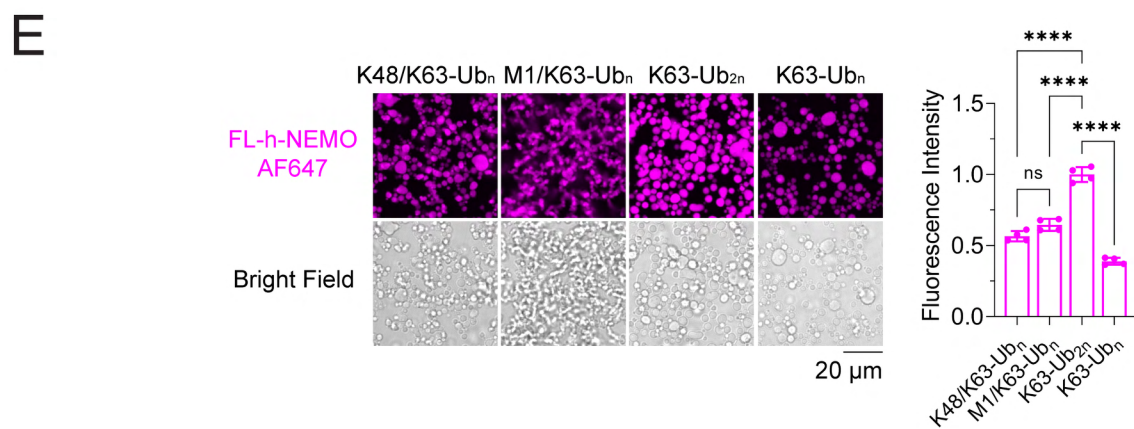
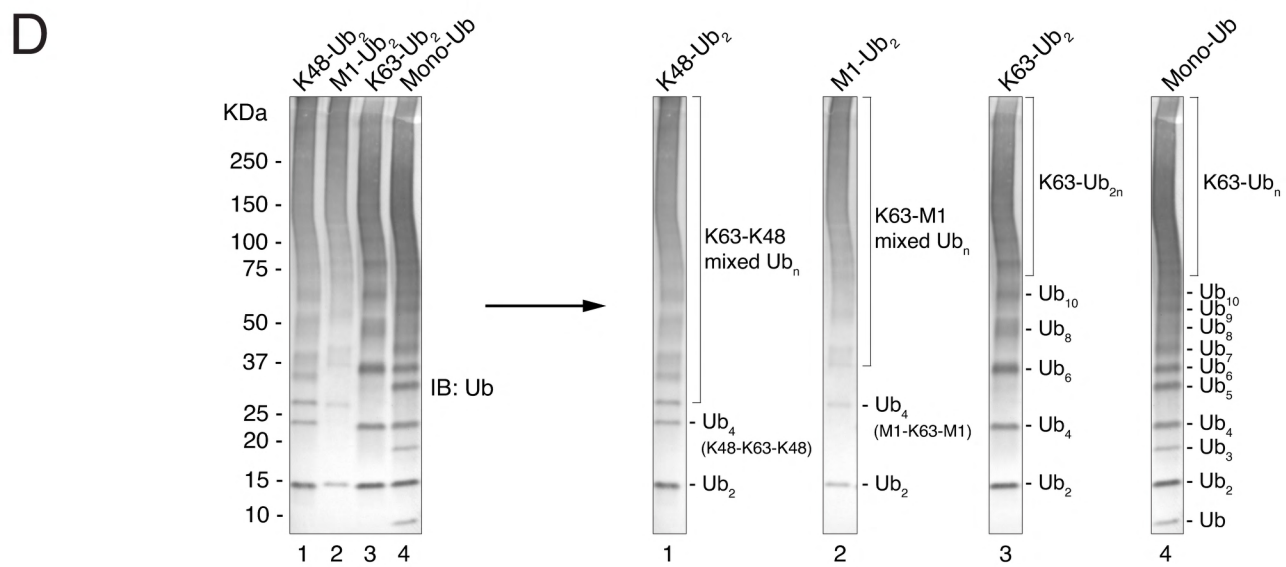
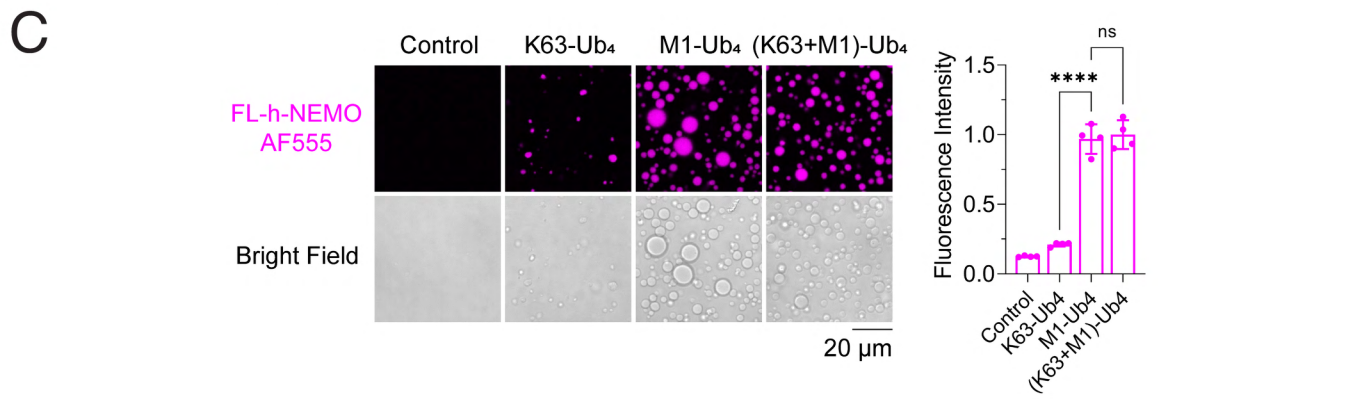
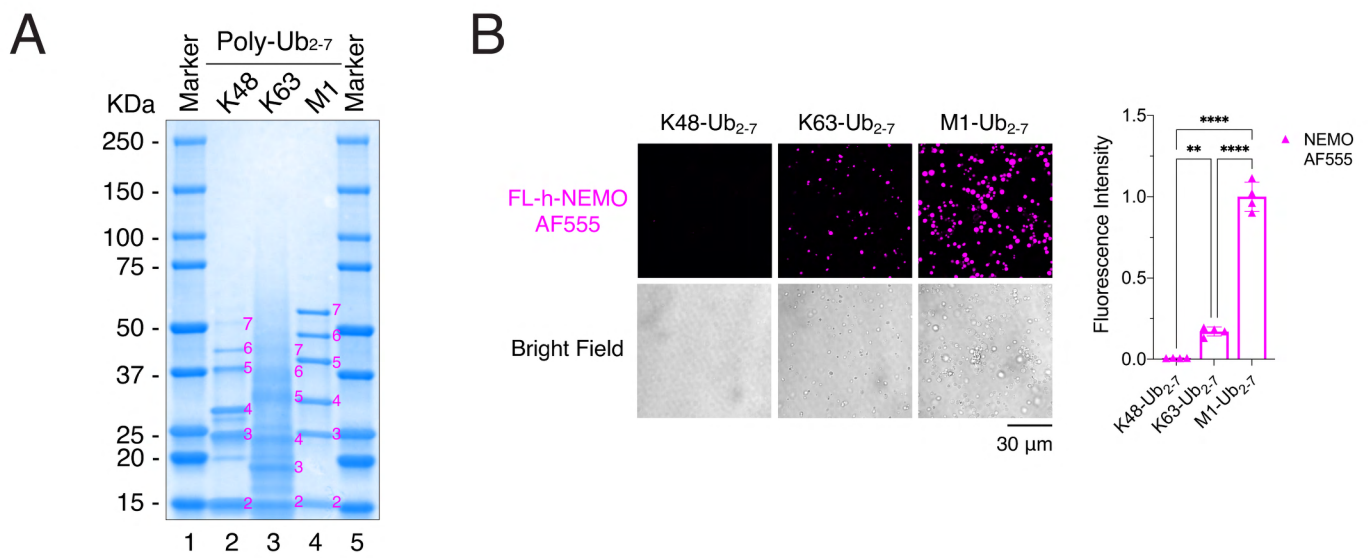


Figure S3. NEMO phase separation is specifically induced by K63- and M1-linked polyUb, related to Figure 2

(A) Coomassie blue staining of Ub₂₋₇ linked through K48, K63 or M1. Numbers (magenta color) indicate the bands of Ub₂ to Ub₇. K63-linked Ub₂₋₇ appeared to have some minor smears that may represent impurity.

(B) Left panel: representative fluorescent images of NEMO liquid droplets induced by Ub₂₋₇ linked through K48, K63, and M1. Right panel: quantification of fluorescence intensity of liquid droplets.

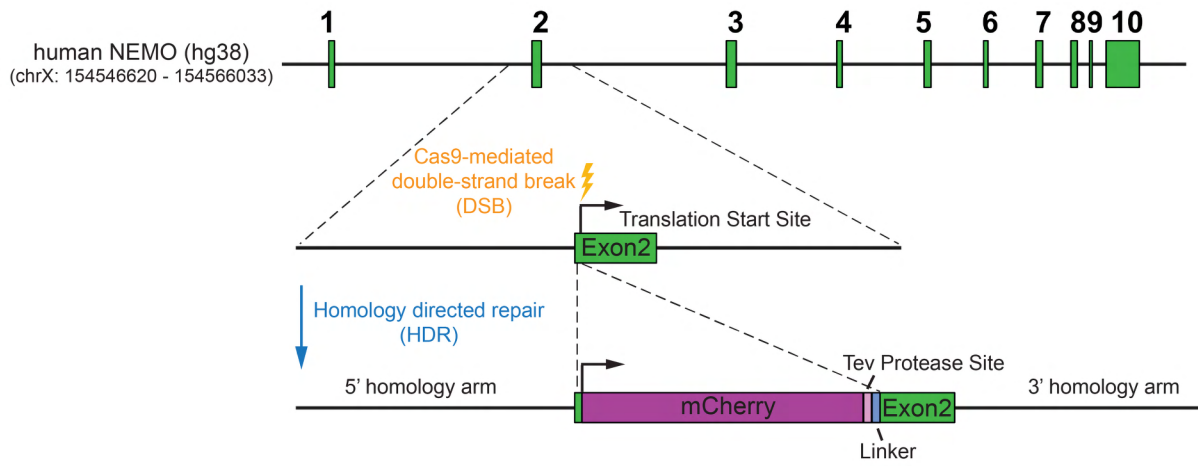
(C) Left panel: representative fluorescent images of NEMO liquid droplets induced by K63- (4.5 μM) or M1- Ub₄ (4.5 μM), or a mixture of both (2.25 μM + 2.25 μM). Liquid droplets formed after mixing of 6 μM human FL-NEMO (3% was labeled with Alexa 555) with 4.5 μM Ub₄ of different linkages for 1 hour at 37°C. Right panel: quantification of fluorescence intensity of liquid droplets.

(D) Immunoblotting (IB) of enzymatically synthesized hybrid K48/K63- and M1/K63- polyUb after mixing of 7.25 μM K48-Di-Ub, M1-Di-Ub, K63-Di-Ub or 14.5 μM ubiquitin in a reaction mixture containing E1, UBC13–UEV1A (E2), and TRAF6 (E3) for an hour at 37°C.

(E) Left panel: representative fluorescent images of NEMO liquid droplets induced by enzymatically synthesized hybrid K48/K63- or M1/K63- polyUb. Liquid droplets formed after mixing of 6 μM human FL-NEMO (3% was labeled with Alexa Fluor 555) with 7.25 μM K48-Di-Ub, M1-Di-Ub, K63-Di-Ub or 14.5 μM ubiquitin in a reaction mixture containing E1, UBC13–UEV1A (E2), and TRAF6 (E3) for an hour at 37°C. Right panel: quantification of fluorescence intensity of liquid droplets.

Data shown in (B), (C) and (E) are means ± SD. n = 4 areas. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). n.s., P > 0.0332; **P < 0.0021; ****P < 0.0001.

A



B

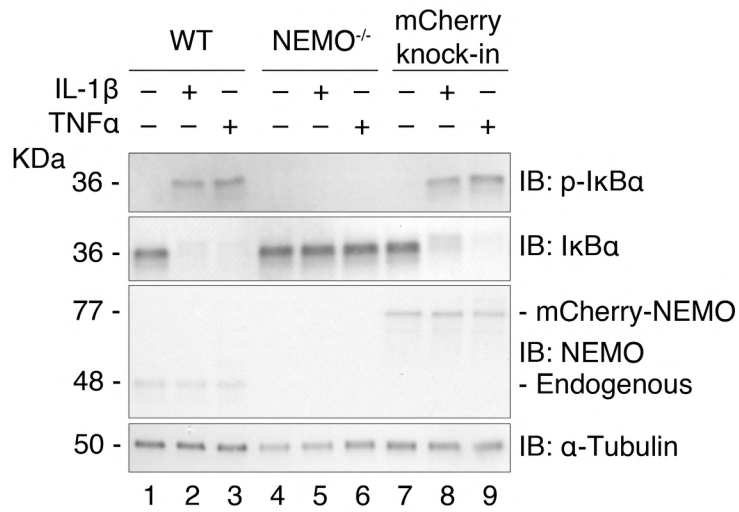


Figure S4. U2OS^{mCherry-NEMO Knock-in} cells exhibited robust I κ B α phosphorylation and degradation in response to stimulation with IL-1 β or TNF α , related to Figure 3

(A) Schematic of knocking in a mCherry tag at the N-terminus of NEMO at the endogenous gene locus in U2OS cells using CRISPR.

(B) Immunoblotting of lysates from U2OS, U2OS^{NEMO KO}, and U2OS^{mCherry-NEMO Knock-in} cells treated with IL-1 β or TNF α . Cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies. For immunoblotting of p-I κ B α and I κ B α , cells were stimulated with IL-1 β or TNF α for 10 min and 20 min respectively.

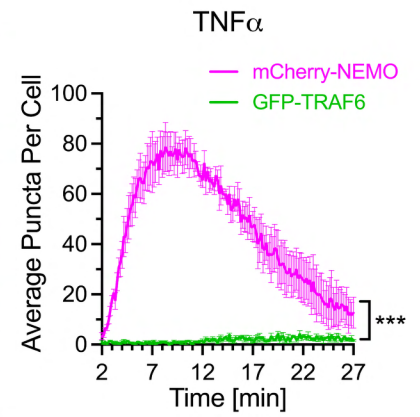
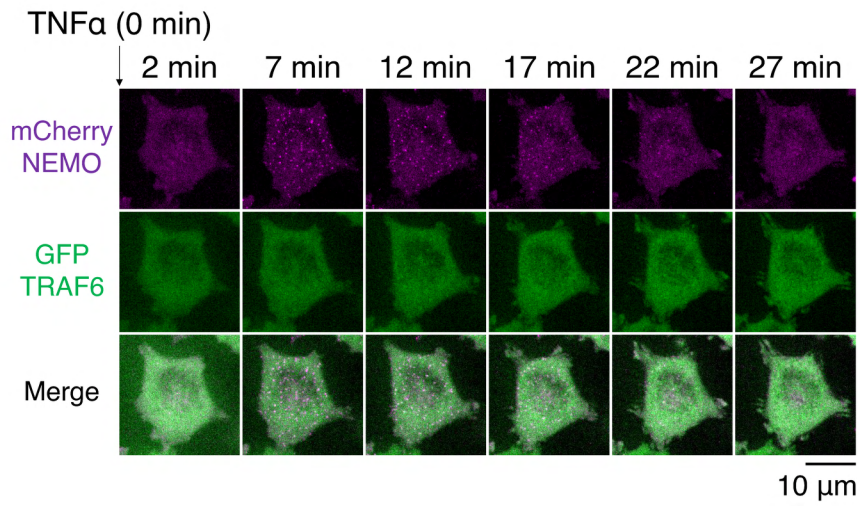
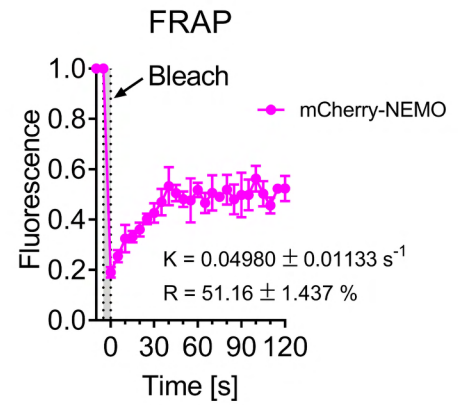
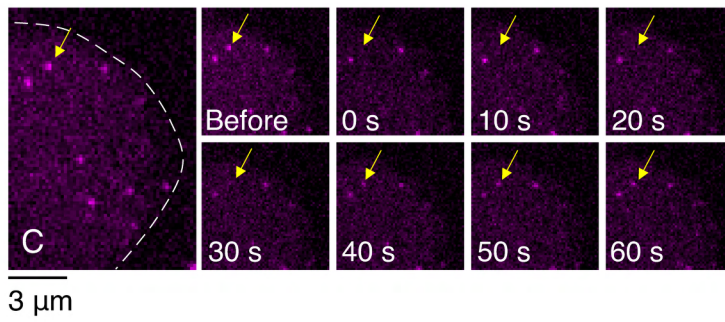
A**B**

Figure S5. NEMO formed liquid-like condensates in cells stimulated with TNF α , related to Figure 3

(A) Left panel: representative live cell images of NEMO condensates formation in HCT116^{NEMO KO}-mCherry-NEMO/GFP-TRAF6 cells stimulated by TNF α . Right panel: quantification of average numbers of condensates containing NEMO or TRAF6 per cell against time. Shown are means \pm SEM. n = 3 cells. ***P < 0.0002, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). Results are from the same experiment as in Figure 6E-F.

(B) Left panel: representative micrographs of NEMO condensates before and after photobleaching (arrow, bleach site). NEMO condensates formed in HCT116^{NEMO KO}-mCherry-NEMO/GFP-TRAF6 cells stimulated by TNF α . Right panel: quantification of FRAP of NEMO puncta over a 120-s time course. K, exponential constant; R, normalized plateau after fluorescence recovery. C: cytoplasm. Shown are means \pm SEM. n = 3 NEMO condensates.

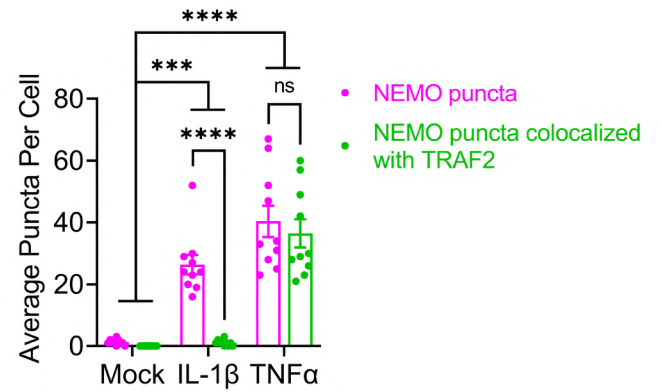
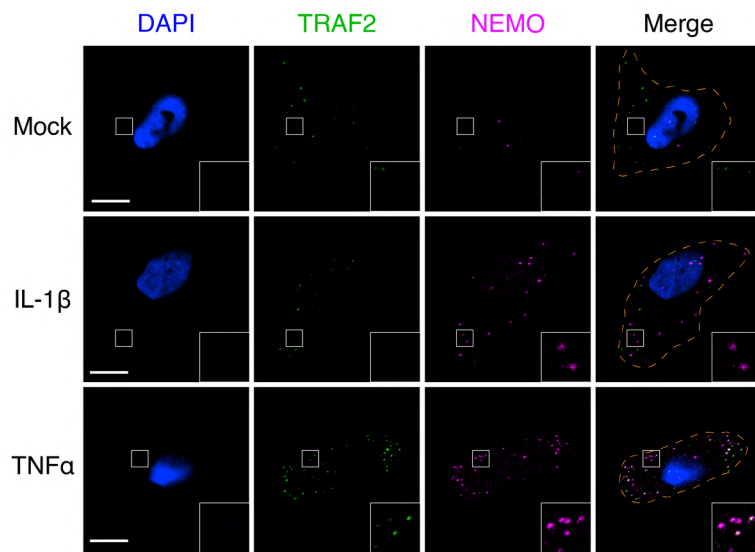
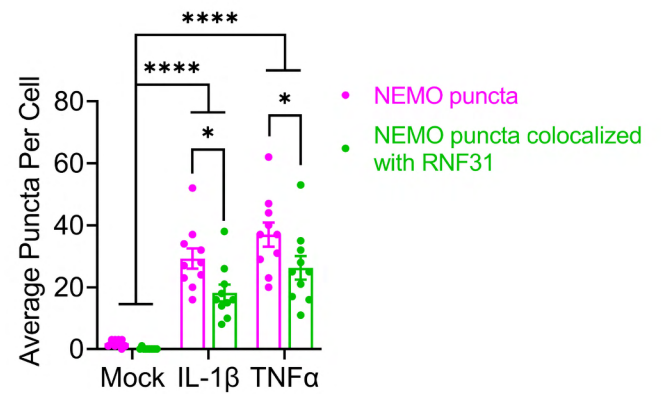
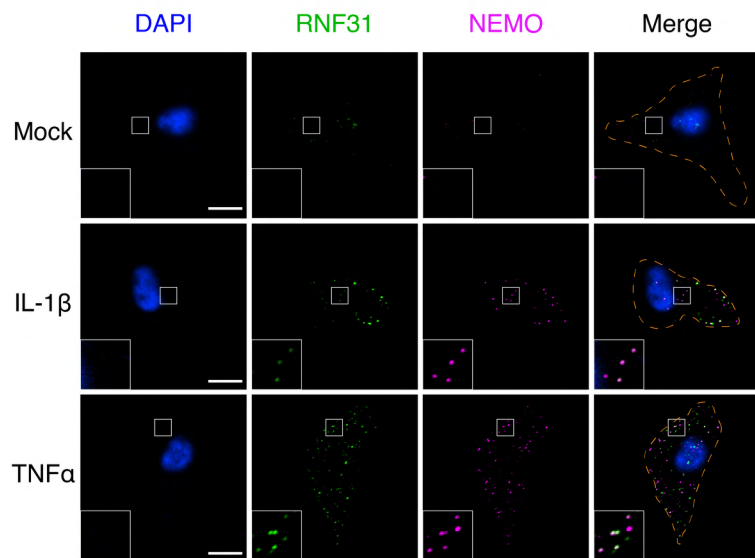
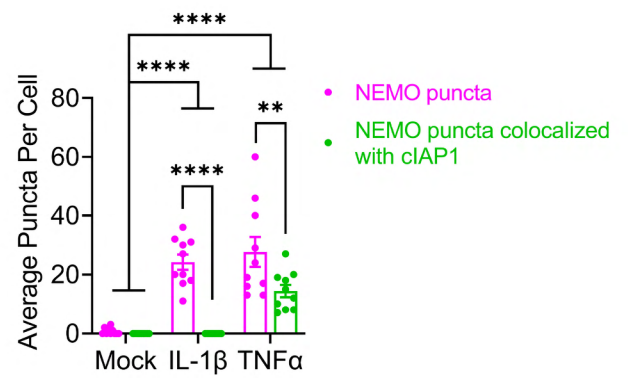
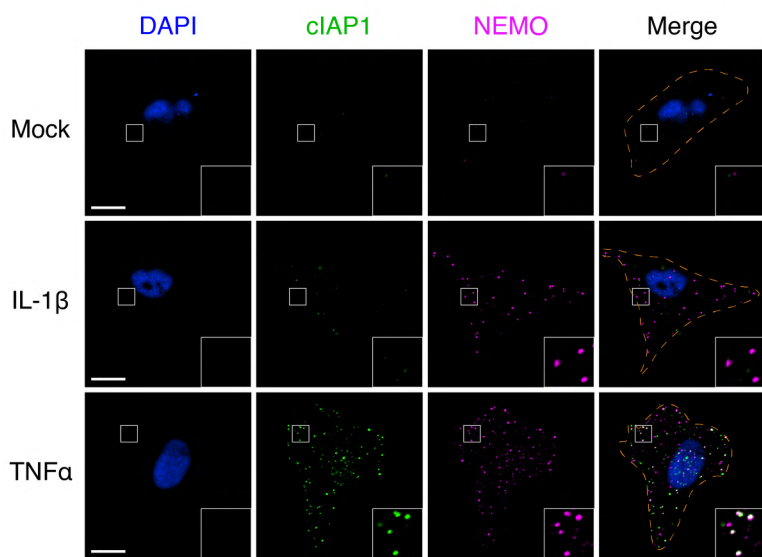
A**B****C**

Figure S6. NEMO condensates contain the E3 ligases TRAF2, RNF31 (HOIP), cIAP1 in cells stimulated with TNF α , related to Figure 3

(A) Left panel: immunofluorescence staining of TRAF2 in U2OS^{mCherry-NEMO} Knock-in cells stimulated with either IL-1 β or TNF α . Scale bars, 10 μ m. Right panel: quantification of average numbers of NEMO puncta and those containing both NEMO and TRAF2 per cell.

(B) Left panel: immunofluorescence staining of endogenous NEMO and RNF31 (HOIP) in U2OS cells stimulated with either IL-1 β or TNF α . Scale bars, 10 μ m. Right panel: quantification of average numbers of NEMO puncta and those containing both NEMO and RNF31 (HOIP) per cell.

(C) Left panel: immunofluorescence staining of endogenous NEMO and cIAP1 in U2OS cells stimulated with either IL-1 β or TNF α . Scale bars, 10 μ m. Right panel: quantification of average numbers of NEMO puncta and those containing NEMO and cIAP1 per cell.

Data shown in (A), (B) and (C) are the means \pm SEM. n = 10 cells. Two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). n.s., P > 0.0332; *P < 0.0332; **P < 0.0021; ***, P < 0.0002; ****, P < 0.0001.

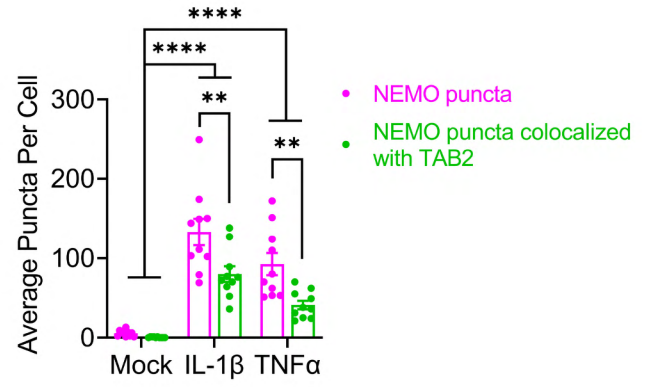
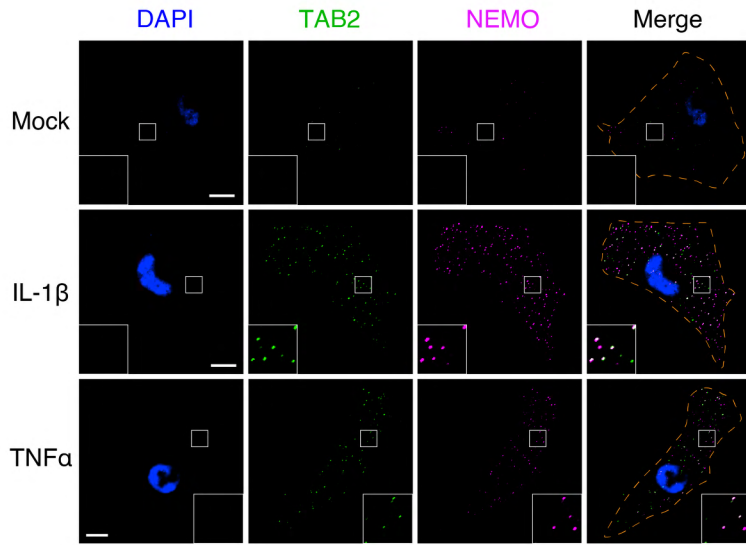
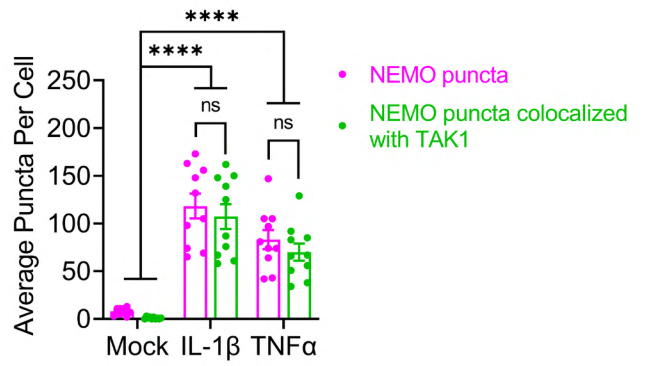
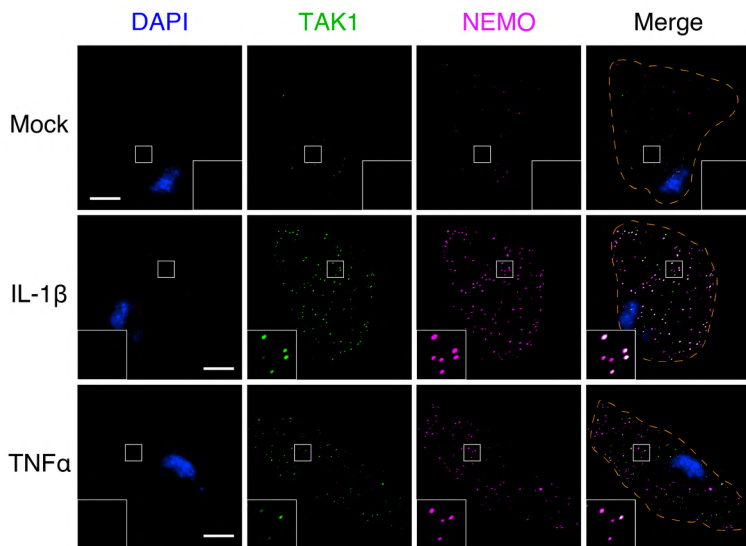
A**B**

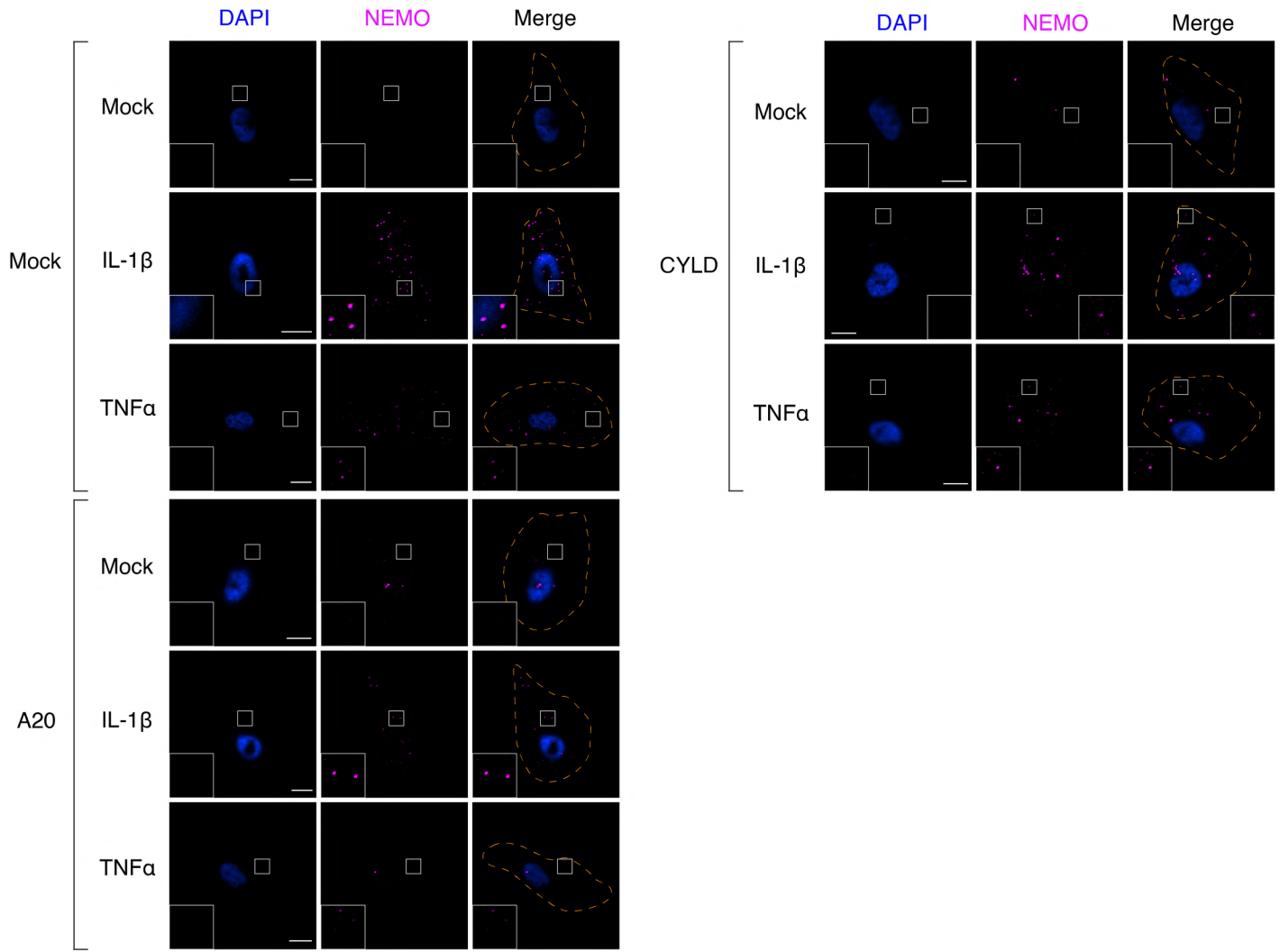
Figure S7. NEMO condensates contain TAB2 and TAK1 in cells stimulated with IL-1 β or TNF α , related to Figure 4

(A) Left panel: immunofluorescence staining of endogenous NEMO and TAB2 in BJ-5ta cells stimulated with either IL-1 β or TNF α . Scale bars, 10 μ m. Right panel: quantification of average numbers of NEMO puncta and those containing both NEMO and TAB2 per cell.

(B) Left panel: immunofluorescence staining of endogenous NEMO and TAK1 in BJ-5ta cells stimulated with either IL-1 β or TNF α . Scale bars, 10 μ m. Right panel: quantification of average numbers of NEMO puncta and those containing both NEMO and TAK1 per cell.

Data shown in (A) and (B) are means \pm SEM. n = 10 cells. Two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). n.s., P > 0.0332; **P < 0.0021; ****, P < 0.0001.

A



B

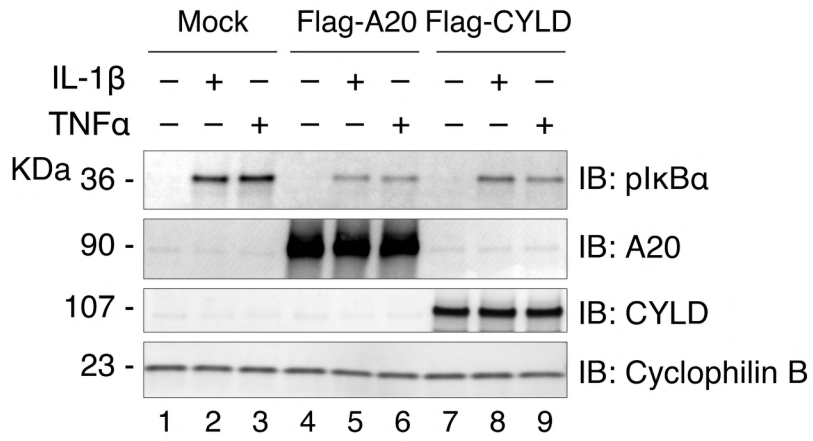


Figure S8. Overexpression of A20 and CYLD reduces the numbers of NEMO condensates, related to Figure 4

(A) Fluorescent images of mCherry-NEMO condensates in U2OS^{mCherry-NEMO Knock-in} cells stimulated with either IL-1 β or TNF α . Prior to stimulation, cells were transfected with expression plasmids encoding Flag-A20 or Flag-CYLD as indicated. Scale bars, 10 μ m.

(B) Immunoblotting of lysates from U2OS^{mCherry-NEMO Knock-in} cells transiently overexpressing Flag-A20 or Flag-CYLD, which were stimulated with IL-1 β or TNF α .

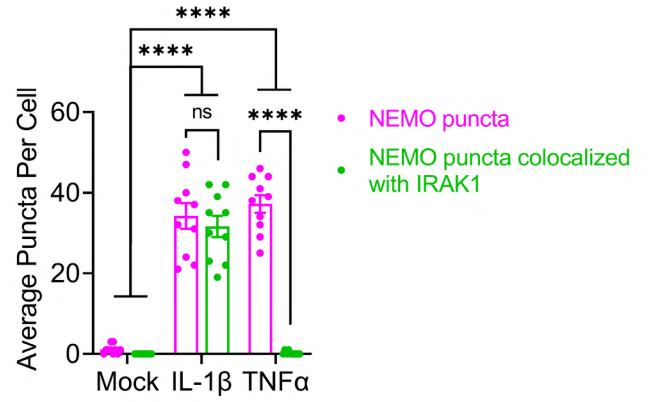
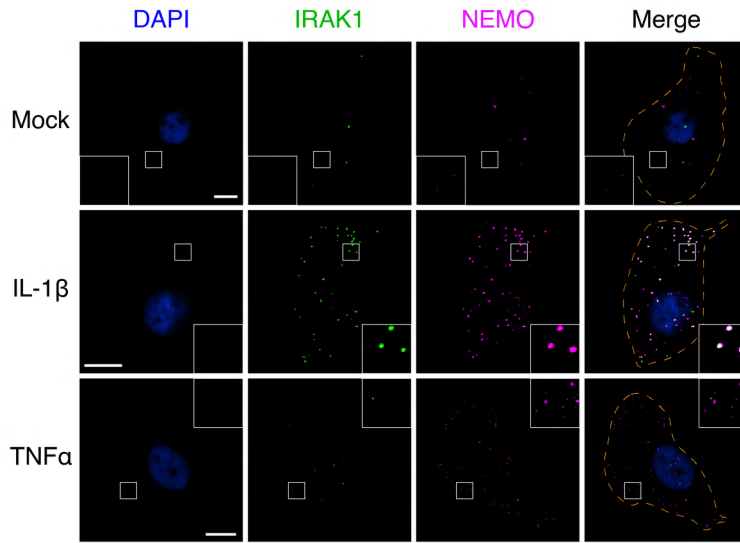
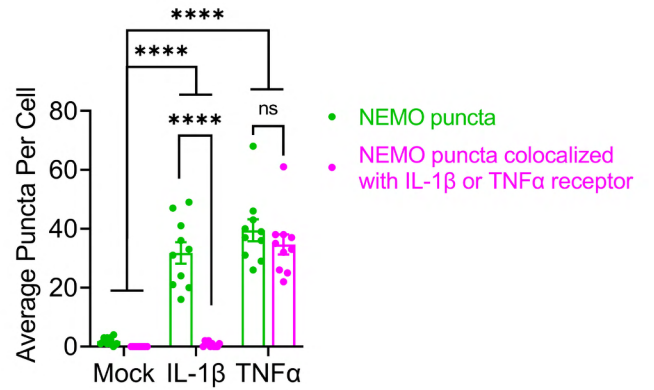
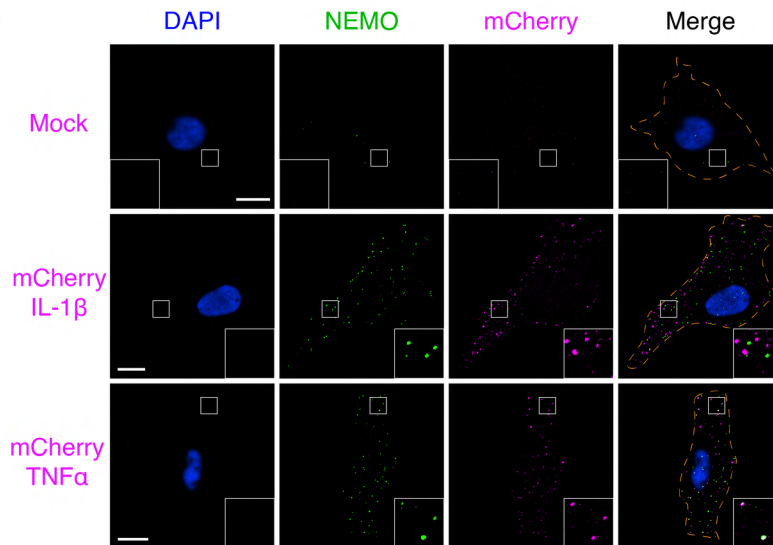
A**B**

Figure S9. NEMO condensates co-localized with TNF α receptors but not IL-1 β receptor in response to stimulation, related to Figure 4

(A) Left panel: immunofluorescence staining of IRAK1 in U2OS^{mCherry-NEMO knock-in} cells stimulated with either IL-1 β or TNF α . Scale bars, 10 μ m. Right panel: quantification of average numbers of NEMO puncta and those containing both NEMO and IRAK1 per cell.

(B) Left panel: immunofluorescence staining of endogenous NEMO in U2OS cells stimulated with either mCherry-IL-1 β or mCherry-TNF α . Scale bars, 10 μ m. Right panel: quantification of average numbers of NEMO puncta and those containing both NEMO and mCherry-IL-1 β or mCherry-TNF α per cell.

Data shown in (A) and (B) are the means \pm SEM. n = 10 cells. Two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). n.s., P > 0.0332; ****, P < 0.0001.

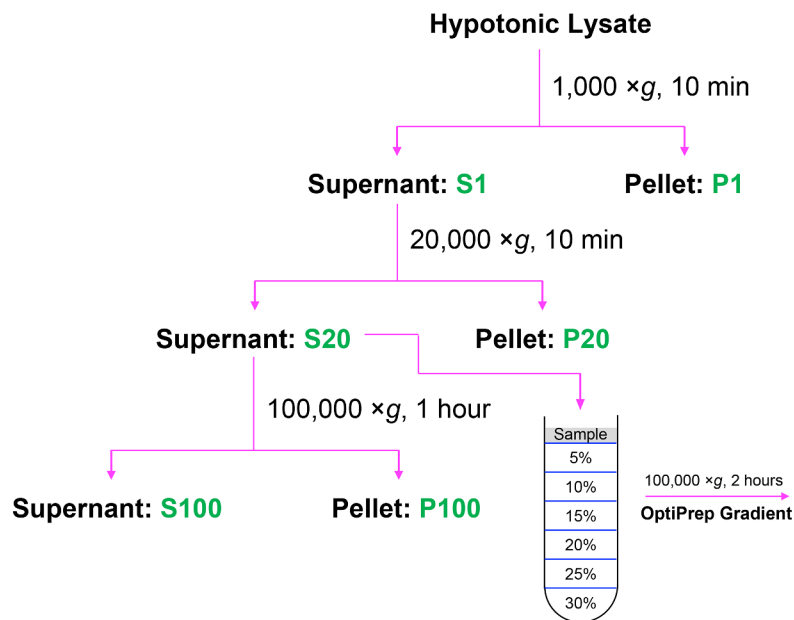
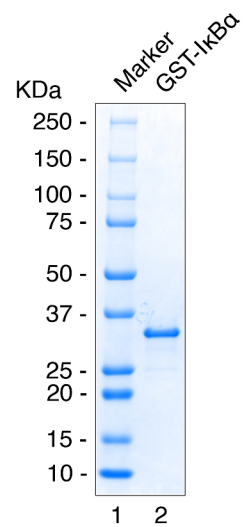
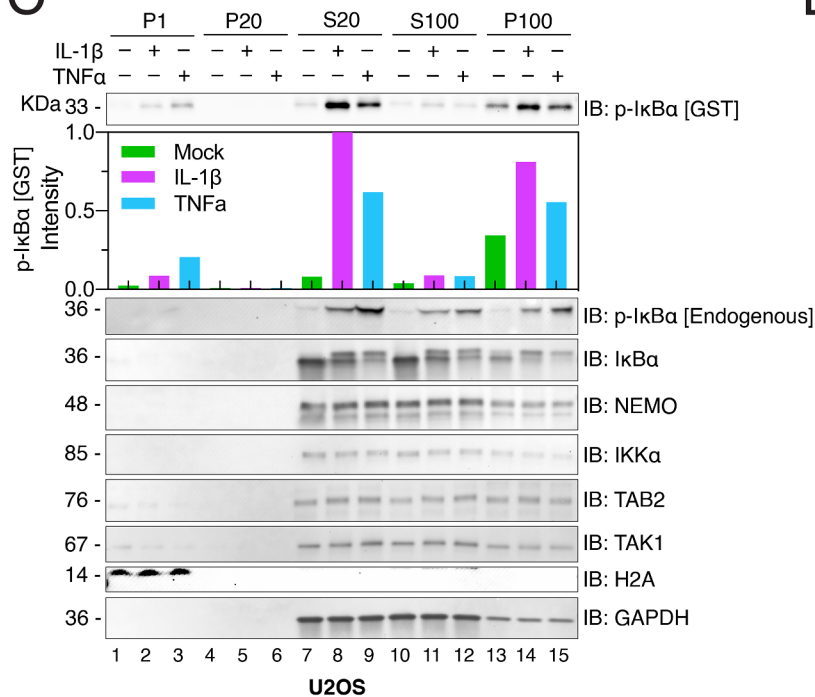
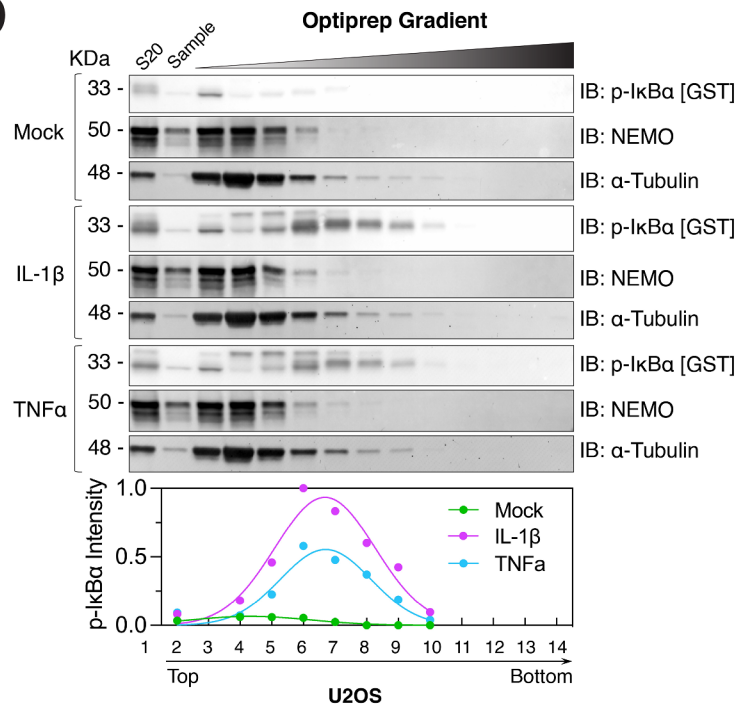
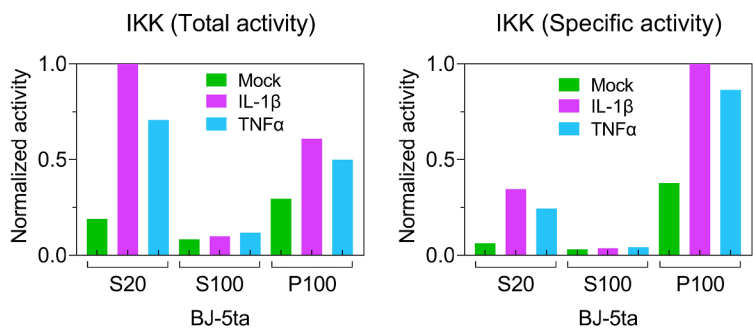
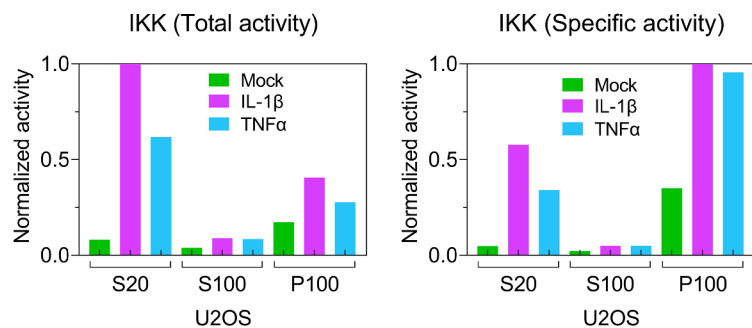
A**B****C****D****E****F**

Figure S10. IKK activities were enriched in subcellular fractions containing NEMO condensates after cells were stimulated with IL-1 β or TNF α , related to Figure 4

(A) Schematic of subcellular fractionation procedures.

(B) Coomassie blue staining of purified recombinant GST-I κ B α (amino acids 1-62, 33 KDa).

(C) Subcellular fractionation of IKK activity in cells stimulated with IL-1 β or TNF α . U2OS cells stimulated with IL-1 β or TNF α were fractionated by differential centrifugation as depicted in (A). Fractions were incubated with recombinant GST-I κ B α in a kinase reaction buffer, followed by immunoblotting with an antibody against p-I κ B α . Bar plot represents the quantification of p-GST-I κ B α . Fractions were also analyzed by immunoblotting (IB) with the indicated antibodies.

(D) The S20 fractions from (C) were further separated by OptiPrep gradient ultracentrifugation, and IKK activity in different fractions was measured as in (C). The 36 kDa upper band detected by p-I κ B α is endogenous p-I κ B α , whereas the lower band is p-GST-I κ B α , which reports the IKK activity in the in vitro kinase assay. Plot shows quantification of IKK activity after OptiPrep gradient ultracentrifugation. Curves represent dots fitting by a gaussian distribution model (Least square fit).

(E) Left panel: quantification of IKK total activity in subcellular fractions as shown in Figure 4F. The total volume of P100 was half of S100 volume. Right panel: quantification of IKK specific activity (dividing level of p-GST-I κ B α by that of NEMO) in subcellular fractions as shown in Figure 4F.

(F) Quantification of IKK total activity and specific activity was similar to (E) except that subcellular fractions were from U2OS cells as shown in panel (C) of this figure.

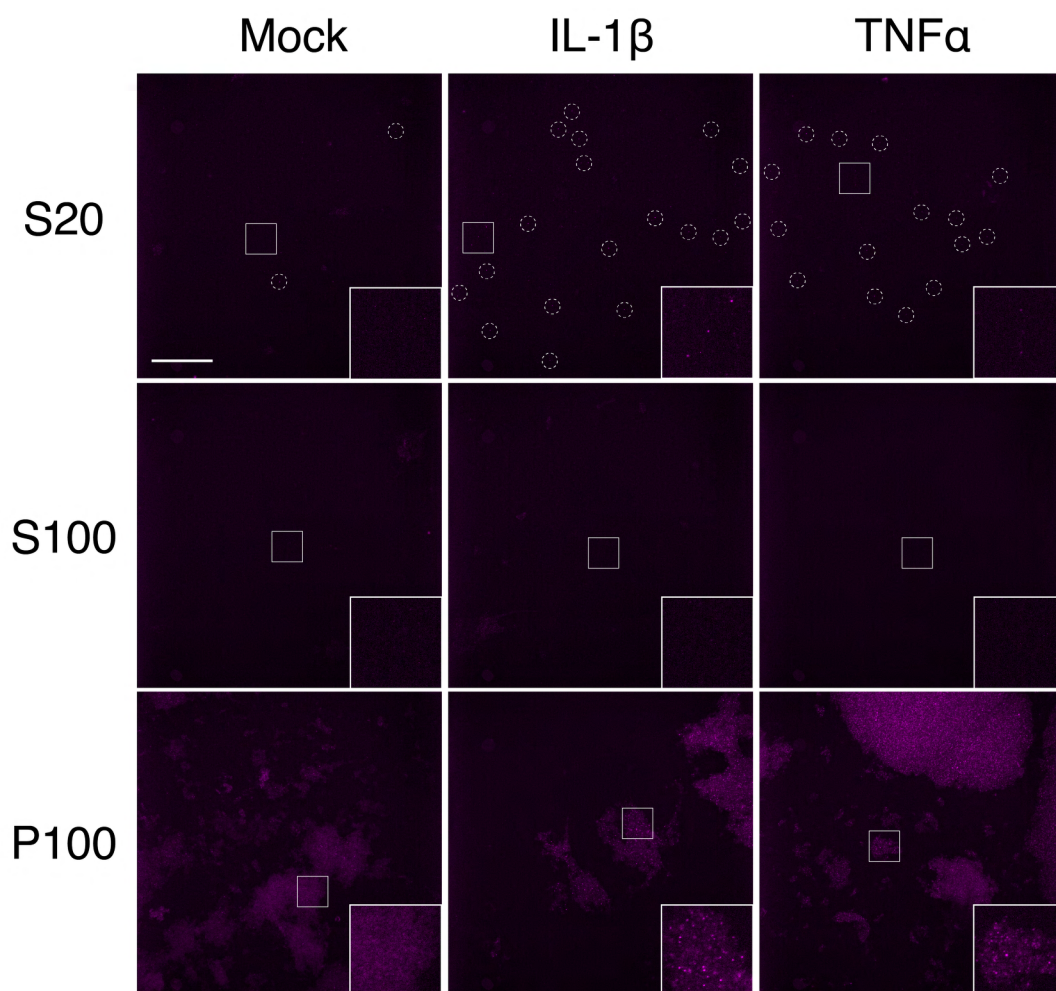
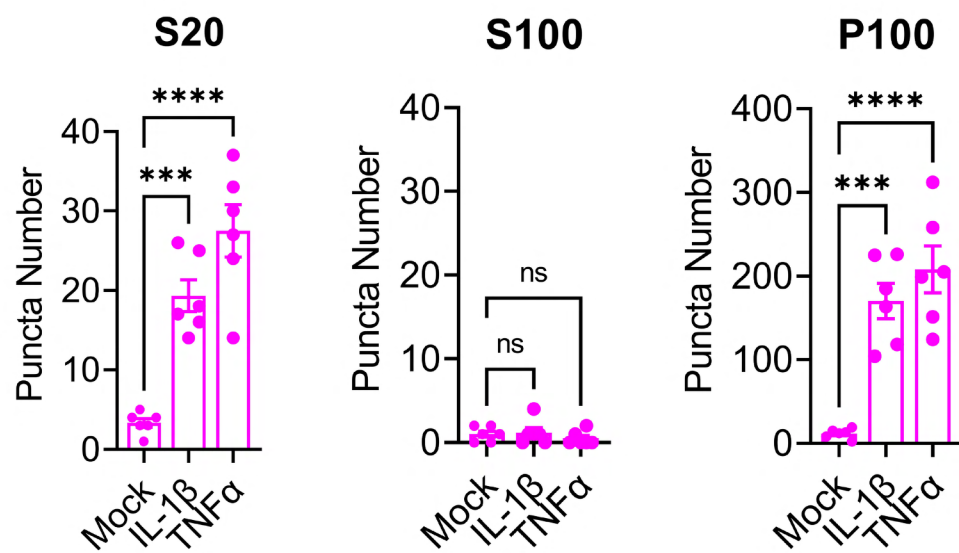
A**B**

Figure S11. NEMO condensates were enriched in the pellet (P100) after centrifugation, related to Figure 4

(A) Representative fluorescent images of NEMO condensates in each subcellular fraction. U2OS^{mCherry-NEMO knock-in} cells stimulated with IL-1 β or TNF α were fractionated by differential centrifugation as depicted in Figure S10A. mCherry-NEMO condensates in each fraction were examined under a confocal fluorescent microscope.

(B) Quantification of mCherry-NEMO condensates in each fraction shown in (A). Scale bars, 50 μ m. Data are means \pm SEM. n = 6 areas. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). n.s., P > 0.0332; ***, P < 0.0002; ****, P < 0.0001.

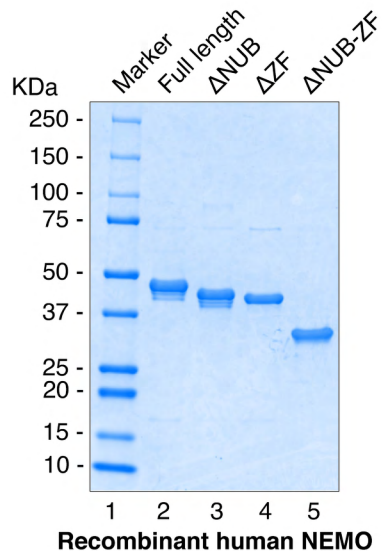
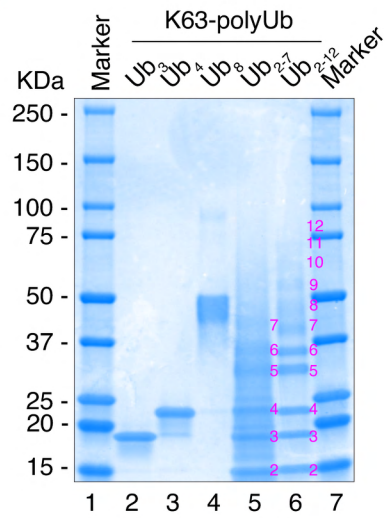
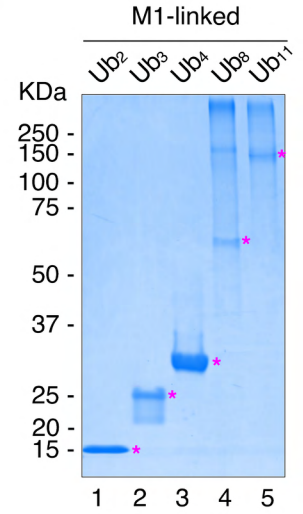
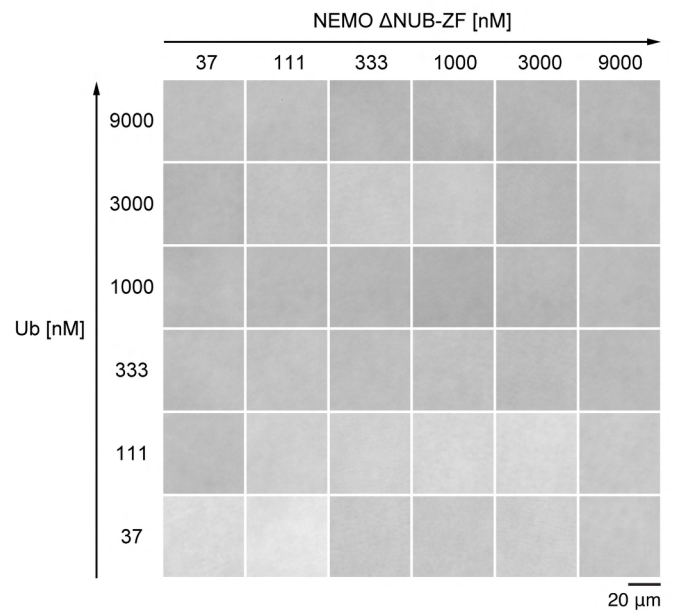
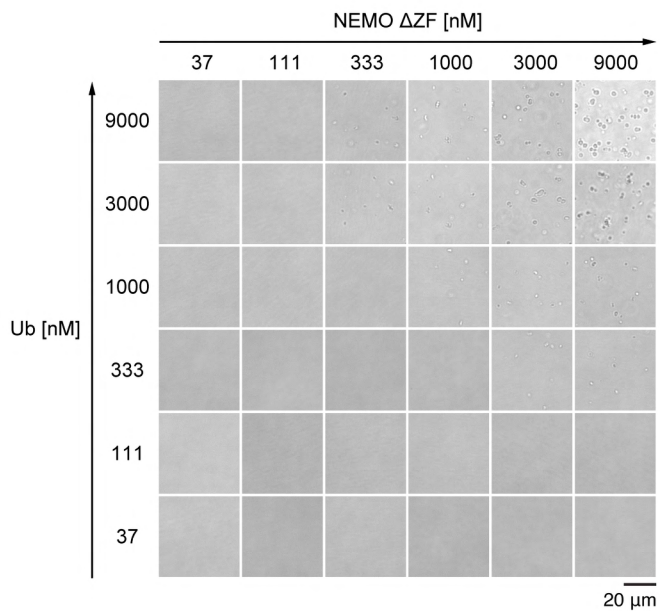
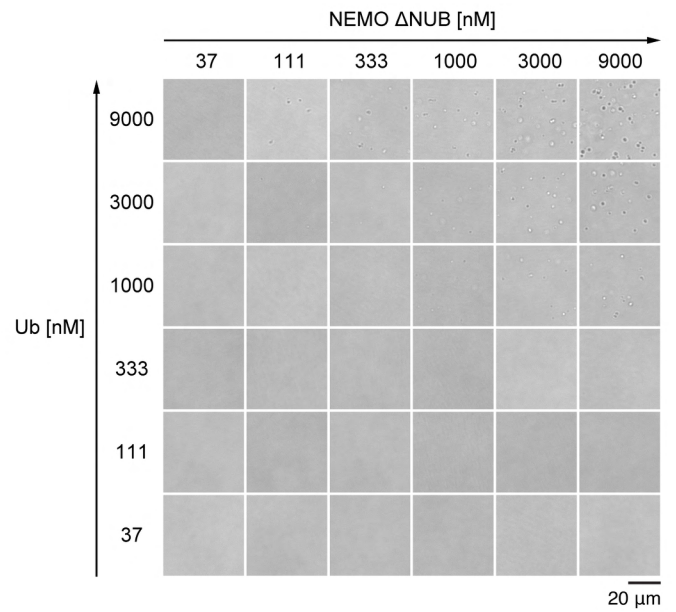
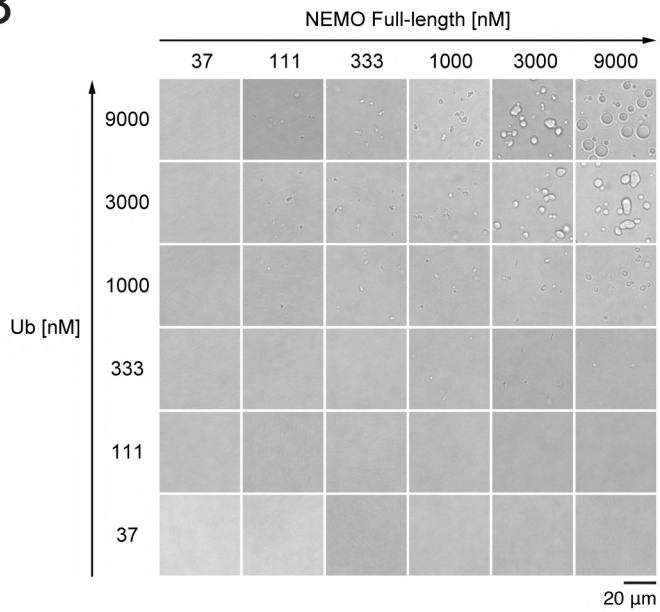
A**C****D****B**

Figure S12. Multivalent interactions between NEMO and polyUb drive their phase separation, related to Figure 5

(A) Coomassie blue staining of purified full-length human NEMO (48 KDa), Δ NUB (45 KDa), Δ ZF (45 KDa), and Δ NUB-ZF (34 KDa).

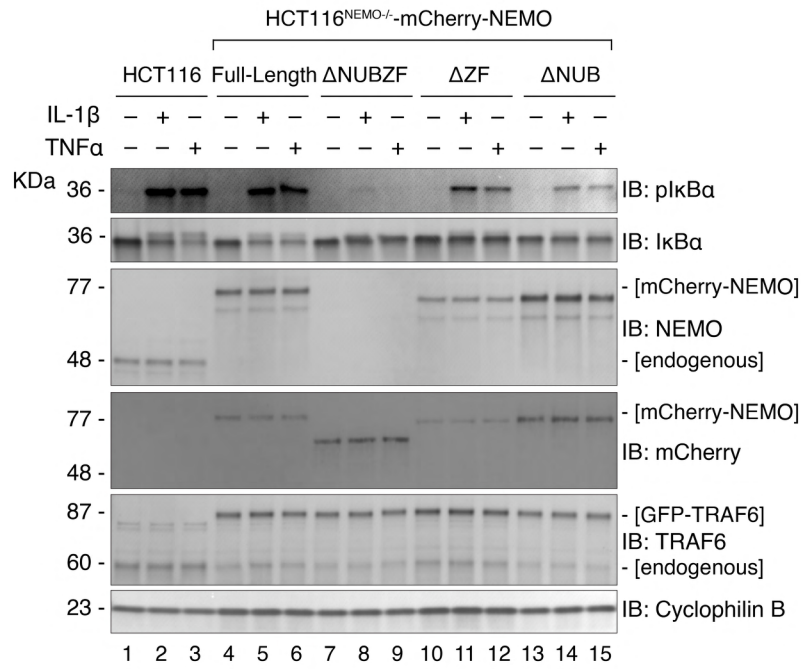
(B) Representative bright field images of NEMO liquid droplets induced by K63-polyUb chains. Liquid droplets were imaged after mixing of human FL-NEMO or its mutants with polyubiquitin chains synthesized in a reaction mixture containing E1, E2

(UBC13/UEV1A), E3 (TRAF6) and the indicated concentrations of ubiquitin. These images correspond to the phase separation diagram in Figure 5C.

(C) Coomassie blue staining of K63-linked Ub₃, Ub₄, Ub₈, Ub₂₋₇ and Ub₂₋₁₂. Numbers (magenta color) indicate the bands of Ub₂ to Ub₇ or Ub₂ to Ub₁₂. K63-linked Ub₂₋₇ appeared to have some minor smears that may represent impurity.

(D) Coomassie blue staining of linear Ub₂, Ub₃, Ub₄, Ub₈, and Ub₁₁. Asterisks (magenta color) indicate the proteins of interest.

A



B

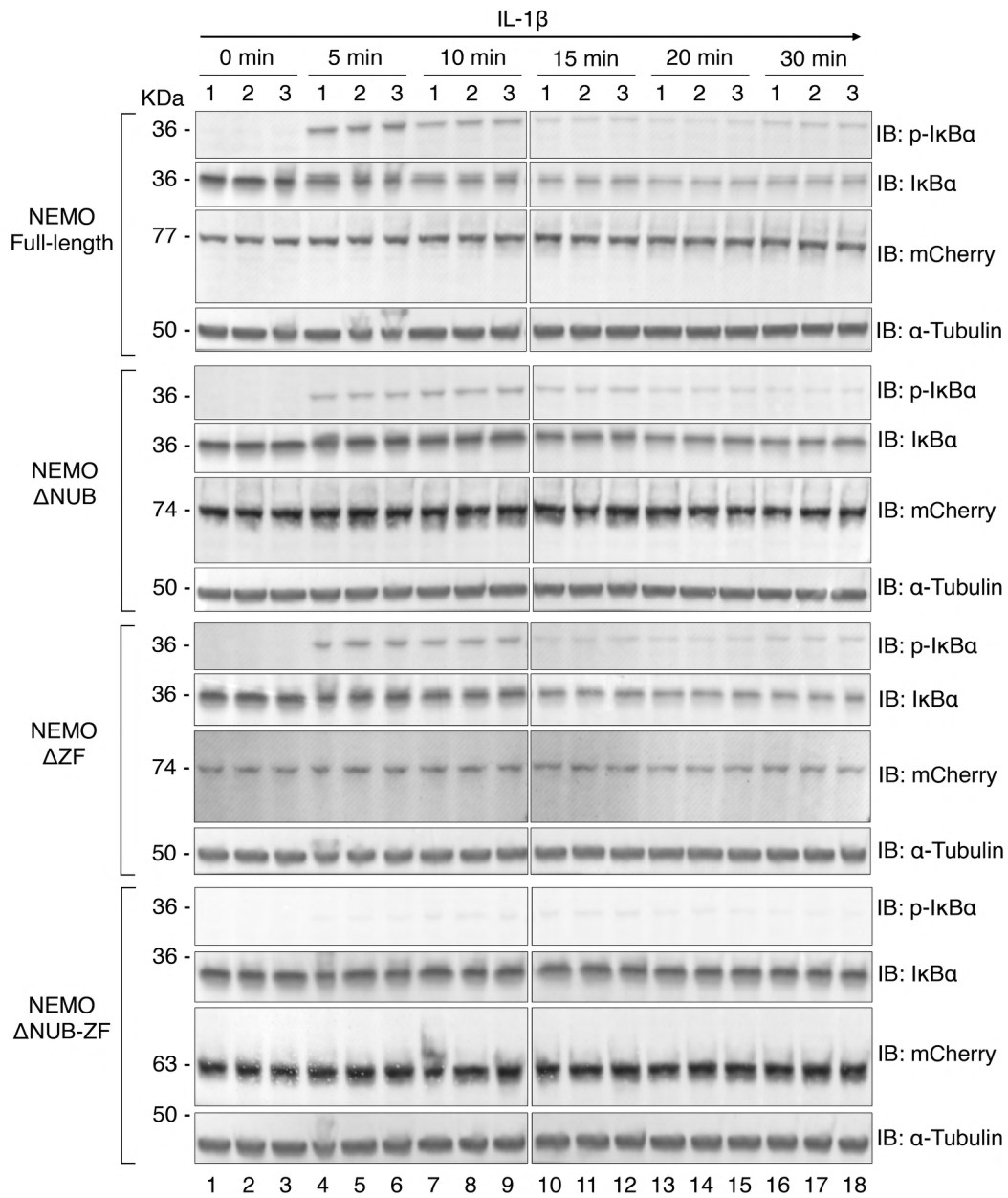


Figure S13. Multivalent interactions between NEMO and polyUb lead to NEMO phase separation and IKK activation in cells, related to Figure 6

(A) Immunoblotting of lysates from HCT116^{NEMO KO}-GFP-TRAF6 cells reconstituted with mCherry-tagged human NEMO or indicated mutants. Cells were stimulated with IL-1 β or TNF α for 10 min.

(B) Similar to (A) except that cells were stimulated with IL-1 β for indicated time, with each time point analyzed in triplicate. Data were used to plot the graphs shown in Figure 6C-D.

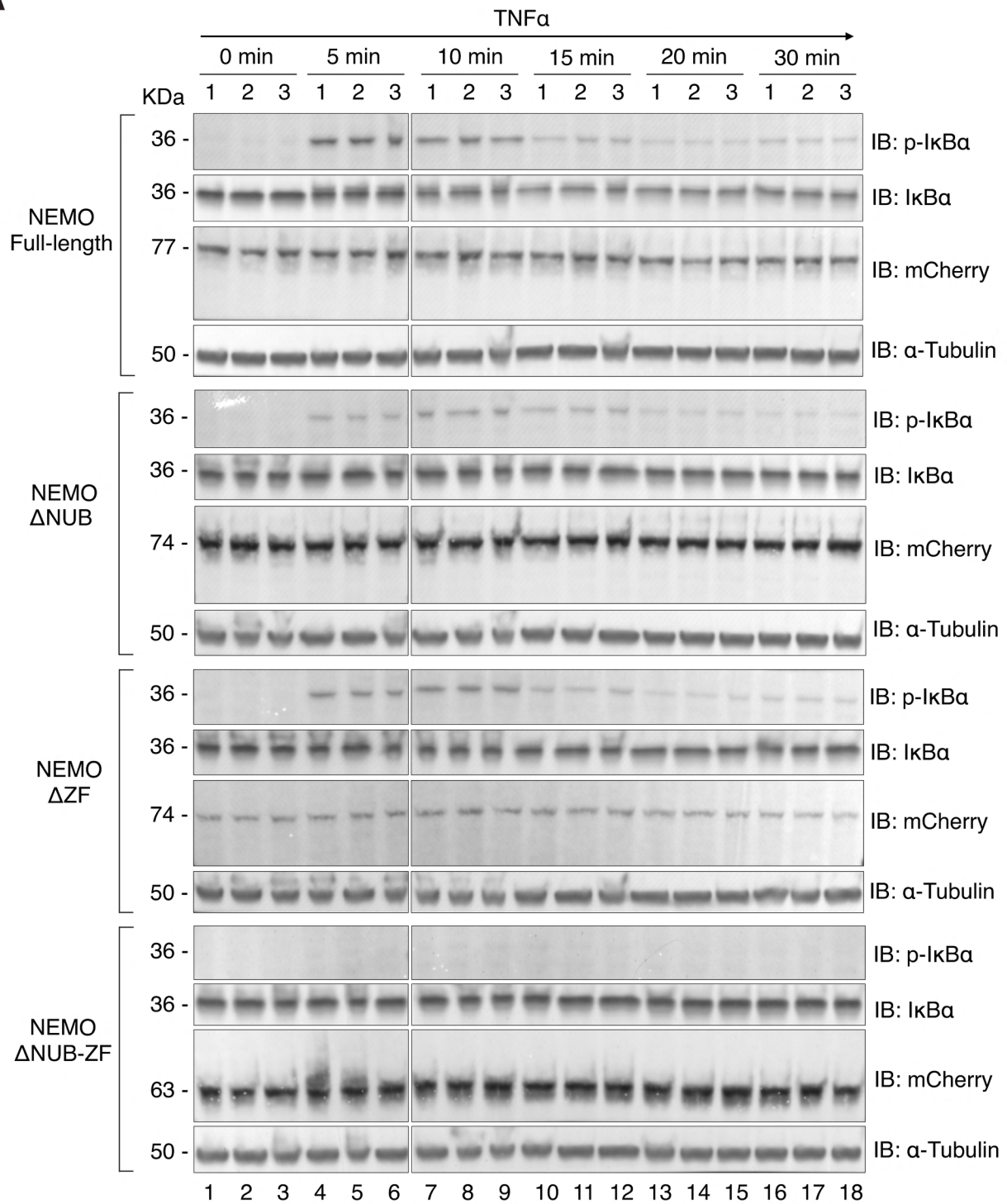
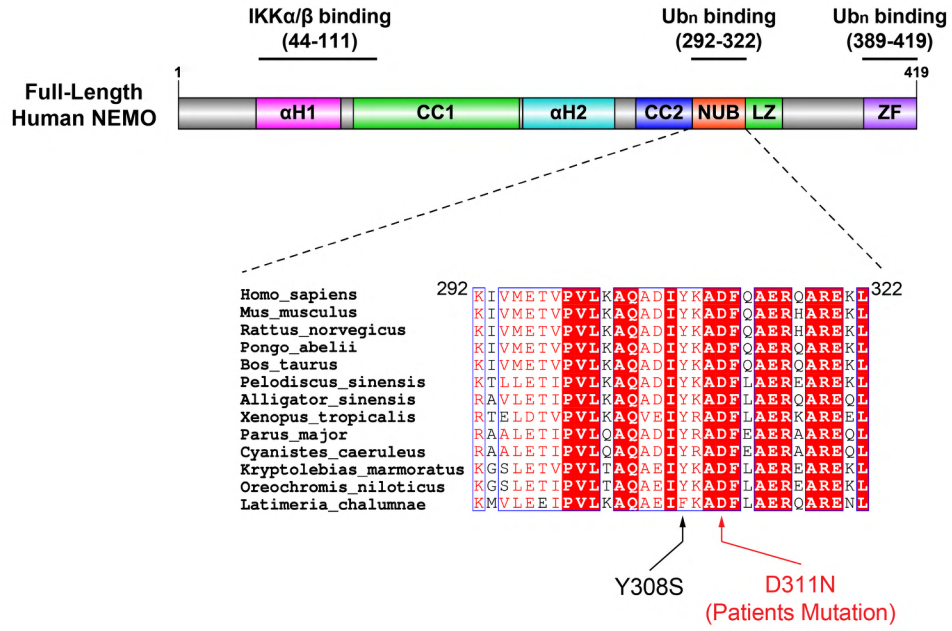
A

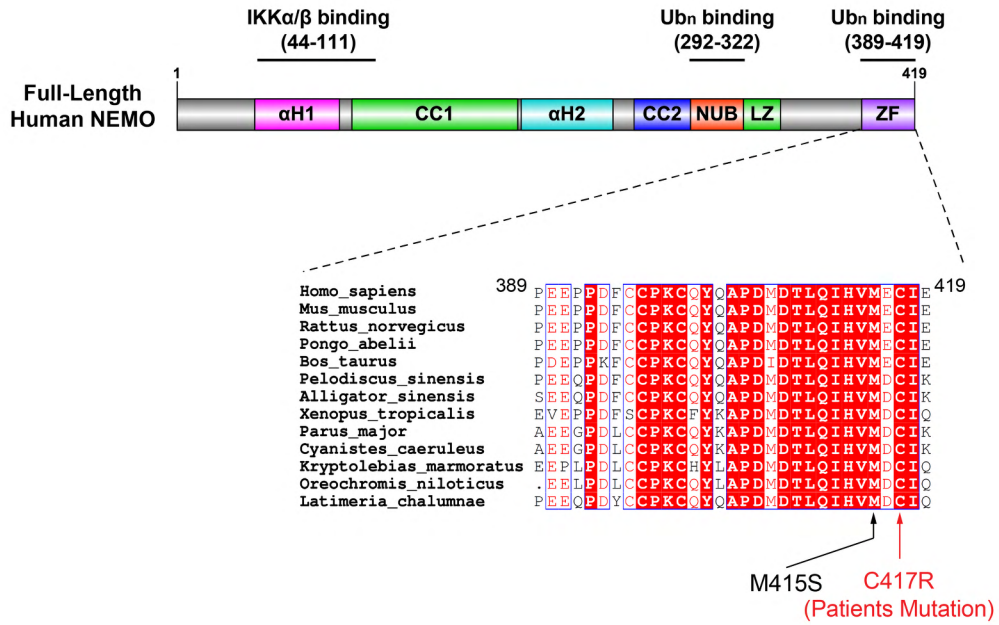
Figure S14. Multivalent interactions between NEMO and polyUb led to NEMO phase separation and IKK activation in cells stimulated with TNF α , related to Figure 6

Experiments and cell lines were similar to Figure S13B except that cells were stimulated with TNF α for indicated time. Data were used to plot the graphs shown in Figure 6G-H.

A



B



C

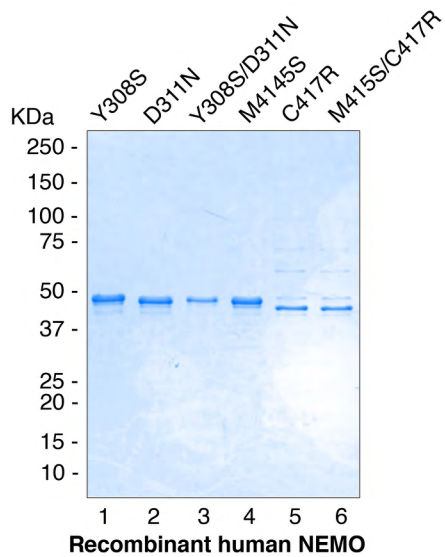


Figure S15. NEMO ubiquitin-binding mutants, related to Figure 7

(A) Sequence alignment of NEMO ubiquitin binding (NUB) domain across multiple species. The mutations Y308S and D311N impair the binding of NEMO to polyUb.

(B) Sequence alignment of NEMO zinc finger (ZF) domain across multiple species. The mutations M415S and C417R impair the binding of NEMO to polyUb.

(C) Coomassie blue staining of purified recombinant human full-length NEMO protein bearing single or double mutations as indicated.

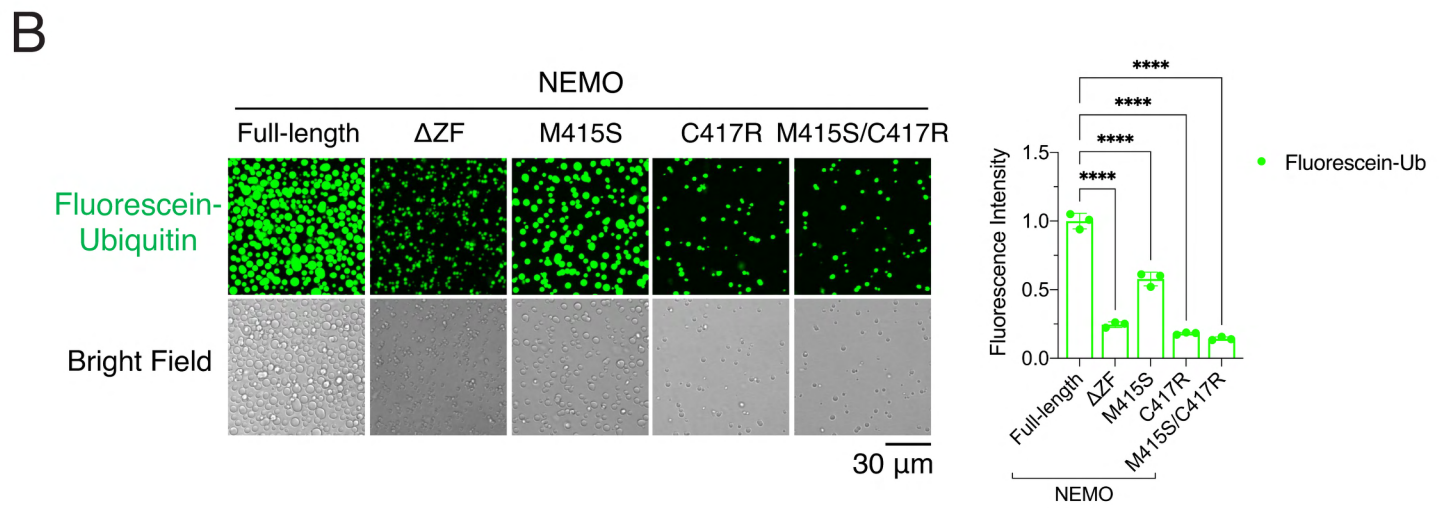
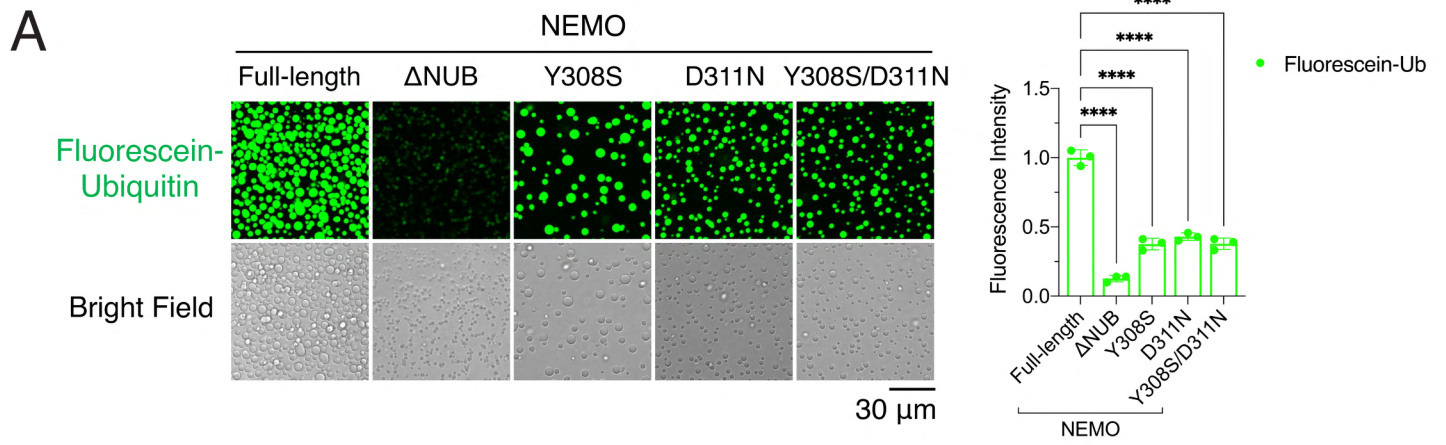


Figure S16. NEMO mutants linked to human diseases are defective in phase separation with polyubiquitin chains, related to Figure 7

(A) and (B) Left panel: representative images of phase separation after incubating NEMO or its mutants with K63-polyUb synthesized in a reaction containing E1, UBC13/UEV1A, TRAF6, ubiquitin and fluorescein ubiquitin. Right panel: quantification of fluorescence intensity of liquid droplets. Shown are means \pm SD. n = 3 areas. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA); ****, $P < 0.0001$. These images are from the same experiment as in Figure 5B.