

Call for TU Berlin to Uphold Its Ethical Responsibility and End Complicity in Violations of International Law

As students and employees of TU Berlin, backed by the *Hertie Solidarity Collective*, *Jewish Solidarity Collective* (*Jewish students and staff across Berlin universities*), *Students for Palestine FU*, *Not In Our Name ASH*, *Not In Our Name UdK*, *Decolonize HU*, *Stand Up For Palestine Potsdam*, (*Bard College Berlin*) *BCB for Palestine*, *Students from Charite*, and *The Student Coalition Berlin*, we expect the university's administration to uphold its commitment to respect international law and human rights, as well as fundamental rights. It is essential not only to maintain and respect these obligations, but also to ensure they extend to the universities and institutions that TU Berlin partners with.

Following the example set by many universities across European Universities and worldwide (Appendix part 7), we believe in the importance of scrutinizing our academic collaborations to ensure they align with these principles. No university should be contributing to violations of international law. Therefore, these Universities have taken decisive steps to reassess their relationships with Israeli partners, guided by their commitment to human rights and international law. By conducting a meticulous review and halting collaborations where necessary, they have set a precedent for ethical academic conduct. We urge TU Berlin to adopt a similar approach, ensuring that our institution does not directly or indirectly support activities that violate international law and human rights.

Therefore, we, as a student collective and employees at TU Berlin, are calling for a thorough investigation into our university's partnerships with Israeli universities and institutions due to the ongoing violations of international law against the Palestinian people, during which the partnerships should be suspended. Our key points are as follows:

1 Case-by-case investigation

We understand the decision of German universities to cut ties with Russian academic institutions [[TUB1](#)]¹, as it tried to prioritize the respect of international law and human rights. For that reason, considering the current situation in Gaza and to ensure that TU Berlin remains consistent with its values and ethical commitments, we demand a case-by-case investigation of **all** Israeli universities, institutions, and collaborations involving Israeli companies or other non-academic partners, especially those for which we have provided

¹ [TUB1]: [TUB Press release on cutting ties with Russian institutions](#)

Berlin, 02.08.2024

evidence in the appendix of being directly or indirectly involved in violations of international law and the violent illegal occupation of Palestine.

This investigation should cover the actions of Israeli universities regarding:

1. research activities and potential ties to the current violations of international law and war crimes against Palestinians;
2. institutional ties to the Israeli military and to the Israeli Defense Ministry and their activities in violation of international law;
3. universities that support students who participated or are participating in Operation Swords of Iron, starting October 2023;
4. discrimination by Israeli universities against their Palestinian students after 7 Oct 2023;
5. active participation in the occupation and annexation of Palestinian territories and TU's possible participation in the violation;
6. failing to distinguish in dealing with Israel and the territory occupied since 1967, violation to the UN Resolution 2334 (2016) [[UN1](#)]².

2 Suspend Ties During Investigations

In light of the ample evidence provided in the appendix, we demand that ties with the Israeli universities and institutions suspected of breaking international law, be suspended for the duration of the investigation. This temporary suspension is necessary to ensure that TU Berlin does not inadvertently support activities that violate international law and human rights and contribute to the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people.

Following the example set by other European and international universities, which took decisive steps to reassess and suspend their relationships with Israeli partners in light of their ethical commitments, we believe that TU Berlin should also guarantee its commitment to respect international law and basic human rights for all. By suspending collaborations during the investigation, the university administration ensures that our institution would have maintained integrity and upheld its ethical standards.

If the investigations confirm violations of international law, human rights law, or direct or indirect participation in the occupation of Palestinian territories, ties should be permanently severed. This decisive action will demonstrate TU Berlin's commitment to ethical conduct and its adherence to the principles of human rights and international law.

To maintain transparency and accountability:

- The results of the investigation should be made public.

² [UN1]: [UN Resolution 2334](#)

- All points in the appendix (i.e. the evidence provided) **must** be addressed and the answer to **each point** should be included in the results.

This will ensure that the TU Berlin community and its stakeholders are fully informed of the findings and the rationale behind any decisions made regarding the university's partnerships. Transparency in this process will reinforce trust and uphold the university's reputation for ethical and responsible academic collaboration.

3 Take the international institutions and NGOs into account for the investigation

The investigation should consider several critical sources and recent legal actions to ensure a comprehensive review. This includes the findings and provisional measures of the two advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the current investigation of genocide, UN Human Rights Council and Security Council resolutions, and testimonies from renowned NGOs both inside and outside of Germany.

ICJ's Advisory Opinion on the Wall (2004): *"In sum, the Court finds that,[...] The construction of such a wall accordingly constitutes breaches by Israel of various of its obligations under the applicable international humanitarian law and human rights instruments."* [ICJ1]³.

It is relevant to note here that the TU Berlin has partners who cooperate with companies that have supplied this same wall. (More information will be presented in the Appendix)

ICJ Advisory Opinion on Illegality of Occupation, Annexation, and Apartheid (2024): *"Israel has an obligation to put an end to those unlawful acts. In this respect, Israel must immediately cease all new settlement activity. Israel also has an obligation to repeal all legislation and measures creating or maintaining the unlawful situation, [...], as well as all measures aimed at modifying the demographic composition of any parts of the territory."*

In this case, two of TU Berlin's partner universities are in direct breach of international law according to the ICJ's opinion. (More information will be presented in the Appendix). [ICJ2]⁴

"The Court is of the view that Member States are under an obligation not to recognize any changes in the physical character or demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the territory occupied by Israel on 5 June 1967, including East Jerusalem, except as agreed by the parties to the conflict through negotiations and to distinguish in their dealings with Israel between the territory of the State of Israel and the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967." [ICJ2]⁴ By allowing exchange programs with Universities that are located in the Palestinian territory occupied since **1967 the TU Berlin as a public legal body is effectively breaking international law** (See appendix part 6).

By incorporating the findings and testimonies from these prominent organizations, TU Berlin can ensure a thorough and unbiased investigation. This approach not only aligns with

³ [ICJ1]: [1677.pdf \(icj-cij.org\)](#)

⁴ [ICJ2]: [Summary of the Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 \(icj-cij.org\)](#)

Berlin, 02.08.2024

the university's commitment to international law and human rights but also upholds the integrity and ethical standards expected by its students and the global academic community. In the Appendix, we are providing enough evidence to warrant an investigation against certain partner universities.

Appendix:

1. **Precedent at TU Berlin - the Russia case**

2. **Tel Aviv University**

1. Ties to the Israeli military, Israeli defense Ministry and the ongoing violation of human rights and international law
2. The Institute for national security studies (INSS)
3. Research and academic activities with ties to the current violations of Palestinian human rights
4. Support for students who participated or are participating in Operation Swords of Iron, starting October 2023.
5. Discrimination to its Palestinian students after 7 Oct 2023

3. **The Technion - I.I.T. The Israel Institute of Technology**

1. Ties to the Israeli military, Israeli defense Ministry and the ongoing violation of human rights and international law
2. Research and academic activities with ties to the current violations of Palestinian human rights
3. Support for students or soldiers who participated or are participating in Operation Swords of Iron
4. Discrimination to its Palestinian students after 7 Oct 2023
5. TU Berlin's potential direct participation in the human rights violation happening in Gaza

4. **Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**

1. Research and academic activities with ties to the violations of Palestinian human rights
2. Unit 8200
3. TU Berlin's potential direct participation in the human rights violation happening in Gaza
4. Support for students or soldiers who participated or are participating in Operation Swords of Iron

5. **Bar Ilan University**

1. The Ariel University
2. The Begin-Sadat Center
3. Support for students or soldiers who participated or are participating in Operation Swords of Iron

6. **The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

1. Active participation in the illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories
2. Shin Bet
3. TU Berlin's potential direct participation in the human rights violation happening in Gaza

7. **Examples of other Universities cutting ties with one or multiple of the aforementioned universities or considering it**

8. **The Academic Freedom question**

Berlin, 02.08.2024

1 Precedent at TU Berlin - the Russia case

On 25 February 2022, the Executive Board of the Technische Universität Berlin decided to suspend its many longstanding and intensive cooperations with Russia with immediate effect. All activities with Russia – including at institutional and strategic level – were suspended until further notice and no new projects were to be initiated.

Statement from the former president of TU Berlin Professor Christian Thomsen:

"These extensive measures are taken in response to the Russian government's military attack on Ukraine - an act of aggression which is counter to international law. We very much regret that we have to suspend cooperation and that the measures taken will affect those Russian researchers who condemn this war of aggression as strongly as we do. We enjoy many friendly relations with fellow researchers in Russia and we very much hope this bond will survive these difficult times. Our decision affects everyone deeply. The exclusively civil use of our research is a high priority for us and is non-negotiable. Wherever research is linked to the current Russian regime, this can no longer be guaranteed."[TUB1]⁵

Here is the President of the German Academic Exchange Service commenting on the decision to restricting its exchange with the Russian Federation in the aftermath of the war:

"We know that this step also creates injustice and affects numerous academics and students who are committed to peaceful and constitutional conditions as well as good neighbourly relations. We are aware that many of our Russian friends and our Russian partner institutions reject the campaign against Ukraine from the bottom of their hearts. At the same time, in view of the war, we believe it is imperative to critically review the promotion of exchange relations with Russia," Joybrato Mukherjee continued.[DAAD]⁶

We propose a better course of action that will still ensure that the TU Berlin does not inadvertently support activities that violate international law and human rights and contribute to the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people.

By referencing the Russian case, we demonstrate that there is precedent for severing ties with institutions. Claiming that it is bureaucratically, administratively, or ethically impossible would be a blatant falsehood from the Administration.

⁵ [TUB1]: [TUB Press release on cutting ties with russian institutions](#)

⁶ [DAAD]: [DAAD restricts academic exchange with Russia - DAAD](#)

2 The Tel Aviv University

2.1 Ties to the Israeli military, Israeli defense Ministry and the ongoing violation of human rights and international law

- Tel Aviv University's venture capital firm, TAU Ventures, boasts of investing in Xtend [[LinkedIn](#)]⁷, which provides systems to deploy armed drones that have been used in Israel's current potential war crimes.^[afsc]⁸

"Four days after October 7th, the IDF chose Xtend as one of their core partners in the war against Hamas. Since then, their team has put its former activities on hold and redirected energies to supporting the IDF 100%."^[CTech]⁹

"We've received more orders in the past two months than the rest of the entire 2022 year combined. What used to be manufacturing 10 to 50 systems in a month has become 300 to 500 in a month."^[CTech]⁹

"Tel Aviv startup Xtend, a developer of a human-guided AI drone and robots operating system that was tested and deployed by the Israeli army in a dense urban battlefield during the ongoing war with the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip, has raised \$40 million in fresh capital in a private funding round."^[TTI1]¹⁰

"Xtend will use the funds to further develop AI operating system that allows humans to manage teams of drones and robots for defense and civilian purposes"^[TTI1]¹⁰
- Tel Aviv University cooperates with Elbit Systems in multiple fields including of autonomous drone navigation and nanoscience. [[TAU1](#)]¹¹[[TAU2](#)]¹²

Elbit Systems is one of the primary suppliers of weapons and surveillance systems to the Israeli military and has been actively contributing to the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian population:

"Elbit-made MPR 500 multi-purpose bombs are being used by Israel in its attacks on the Gaza Strip. Designed for use in "densely populated urban warfare," [Israel Defense] these bombs contain 26,000 controlled fragments for "high kill probability." Elbit says that these 500-pound bombs are as powerful as U.S.-made 2,000-pound MK-84 bombs"^[afsc]⁸

2.2 The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) is affiliated with the Tel Aviv University. This affiliation provides the INSS with access to academic resources, research collaborations, and intellectual contributions from the university's faculty and students:

- The INSS has been extensively reporting on the events following the October 7, 2023, attacks, focusing primarily on strategic and military analyses. However, their coverage notably omits crucial aspects such as the deaths of humanitarian aid workers and international journalists, the incident of the Israeli military accidentally

⁷ [linkedin]: [TAU invests in xtend | LinkedIn](#)

⁸ [afsc]: [Companies Profiting from the Gaza Genocide | American Friends Service Committee \(afsc.org\)](#)

⁹ [CTech]: [With its drone technology, startup Xtend plays a crucial role in the ongoing war | Ctech](#)

¹⁰ [TTI1]: [Israeli developer of VR drone system used by IDF in Hamas war raises \\$40m | The Times of Israel](#)

¹¹ [TAU1]: [Our Partners Already | TAU Innovation Labs | Tel Aviv University \(archive.org\)](#)

¹² [TAU2]: [web.archive.org/web/20240219121318/https://english.tau.ac.il/nanoscience/](#)

killing its own hostages, and the severe humanitarian impact of the war on Gaza. This selective reporting by the INSS represents a dangerous case of information omission, which actively contributes to the violation of human rights and international law. By neglecting these critical issues, the INSS's publications fail to acknowledge the full humanitarian crisis and the implications of these actions, thereby indirectly supporting narratives that justify ongoing violations and undermine efforts to address the broader humanitarian concerns and legal obligations under international law. This omission aligns with a pattern of avoiding uncomfortable truths that challenge the official narrative and hinders comprehensive understanding and accountability in the conflict.[INSS1]¹³

- The INSS is credited with developing the Dahiya Doctrine, also known as the doctrine of disproportionate force. This doctrine, adopted by the Israeli military, advocates for the destruction of national infrastructure and the infliction of intense suffering on the civilian population.

In a Publication made on October 2, 2008, still in the INSS website to this day, Gabi Siboni calls for the use of a *“force that is disproportionate to the enemy's actions and the threat it poses.”* Here are some excerpts from the [paper](#):

“Such a response aims at inflicting damage and meting out punishment to an extent that will demand long and expensive reconstruction processes.”

“The strike must be carried out as quickly as possible and must prioritize damaging assets over seeking out each and every launcher.”

“in Lebanon, attacks should both aim at Hizbollah’s military capabilities and should target economic interests and the centers of civilian power that support the organization.” [INSS2]¹⁴

2.3 Research and academic activities with ties to the current violations of Palestinian human rights

- The Tel Aviv University has instituted a propaganda course on Israel’s current genocide on Gaza:

“The new academic course follows another initiative of the Lowy International School: a task force initiated by international students to assist Israel's national effort to tell the war's true and tragic story to the world.” [TAU3]¹⁵

- The Tel Aviv University has instituted a task force of international students that help sharing misinformation to further the confusion over the facts of the genocide in social media as well as denying the apartheid system in Israel called out by multiple NGOs both in and outside Israel:

“The ICC decision is the epitome of absurdity” [ig1]¹⁶

“When people say #israel is an apartheid state they truly have no idea what they are talking about.” [ig2]¹⁷

¹³ [INSS1]: [war data | INSS](#)

¹⁴ [INSS2]: [disproportionate force israel's concept of response | INSS](#)

¹⁵ [TAU3]: [First Academic Course on the Current War Launched at TAU for International Students | TAU](#)

¹⁶ [ig1]: [ISRAEL WAR STORY | The ICC decision is the epitome of absurdity](#)

¹⁷ [ig2]: [When people say #israel is an apartheid state they truly have no idea](#)

2.4 Support for students or soldiers who participated or are participating in Operation Swords of Iron

- Tel Aviv University funded “care packages” for soldiers involved in the ongoing human rights violation and possible war crimes in Gaza [TAU4]¹⁸
- Tel Aviv University has actively supported its students who have been called up for reserve duty in the Israeli military during Operation Swords of Iron. The university announced that each of the estimated 5,239 students serving in the reserves would receive a grant of NIS 1,000 (\$250) as an initial measure to help ease their financial burden. This support extends beyond financial aid, as the university also provides academic adjustments to accommodate the students' military commitments and ensures that those serving in combat or combat-support units receive substantial additional grants [TAU5]¹⁹

2.5 discrimination to its Palestinian students after 7 Oct 2023

- In an interview made with a member of the Hadash party in Israel and a representative of the Hadash student group at Tel Aviv University, the following testimony was given:
“At the beginning of the war, a lot of Palestinian students who posted on Instagram and Facebook against the war or in support of the people in Gaza were expelled from the university, and some of them were even sent to prison.” [TSSP]²⁰
- Reports from The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel (ADALAH) indicate that the university has restricted activities organized by Palestinian student groups. For instance, the university prevented events such as an Arab Book Fair and an artistic protest by Palestinian student movements, citing security and incitement concerns. These actions have been seen as a violation of the students' rights to freedom of expression and organization within the academic setting [Adalah1]²¹
- the presence and activities of Israeli military soldiers on campus have raised concerns among Palestinian students. The university's collaboration with the military to host a program for officer training has been criticized for potentially increasing political tensions and militarization on campus. Palestinian students have expressed fears that the visibility of uniformed soldiers and the emphasis on military studies could exacerbate feelings of insecurity and discrimination[+972(1)]²²

¹⁸ [TAU4]: web.archive.org/web/20240425203812/https://international.tau.ac.il/lone-soldiers

¹⁹ [TAU5]: [Students on IDF reserve duty to receive an initial grant of NIS 1,000 | Tel Aviv University](#)

²⁰ [TSSP]: [Neither the river nor the sea. Interview from Tel Aviv University - Transnational Social Strike Platform](#)

²¹ [adalah1]: [Tel Aviv University Prevents Activities of Palestinian Student Groups - Adalah](#)

²² [+972(1)]: [‘It’ll turn campus into an army base’: Tel Aviv University to host soldiers' program \(972mag.com\)](#)

3 The Technion - I.I.T. The Israel Institute of Technology

3.1 Ties to the Israeli military, Israeli defense Ministry and the ongoing violation of human rights and international law

The Technion - Israel Institute of Technology is closely tied to the Israeli military-industrial complex, contributing to the oppression of Palestinians through its collaborations and research. The university works with major arms manufacturers like Elbit Systems which is targeted for divestment around the world due to its involvement in "[violations of international humanitarian law](#)" [[Haaretz1](#)]²³ as well as the Israeli-government owned Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israeli Aerospace Industries. The university contributed heavily to developing military technologies used in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. It also has high level of support to the Israeli military:

- Technion during 2008–2013 had a research partnership with Elbit Systems Ltd., which provides **electronic detection devices used in the Israeli Separation Wall in the West Bank**, and has also supplied **drones** to the Israeli army for use in combat in the West Bank and Gaza [[RBR](#)]²⁴
- In 2008 Technion opened a center for developing electro-optics in partnership with **Elbit systems**, one of the largest Israeli weapons companies [[אלביט מערכות והטכניון](#) [הידען](#) [מחקר בתחום מערכות הראייה – הידען](#) ([archive.org](#))]
- **Elbit Systems** gave half a million dollars to the Technion in research grants [[הדפס](#) [כתבה אלביט מערכות תעניק מענקי מחקר לטכניון בהיקף של חצי מיליון דולר](#) ([archive.org](#))]
- **Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd.** has maintained a research and project-based relationship with Technion. [[Tech](#)]²⁵ It is a large Israeli state-owned weapons manufacturer, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems makes missiles, drones, and other weapons systems for the Israeli military that has been involved in the current war.
“The Israeli military has used Rafael Spike Guided Missiles extensively to target, from the air and ground, people inside buildings in the Gaza Strip. The Spike missile family includes many configurations, including ground missiles for use by infantry soldiers and air-to-ground missiles that can be mounted on aircraft and drones.” [[afsc](#)]²⁶
“Rafael collaborated with the Israeli military to develop the Spark, a new unmanned drone used to carry out intelligence missions, escort ground forces, and direct strikes. After first being received by the Israeli Air Force in September, Spark drones have reportedly been assisting Israeli combat teams in Gaza and acting as a “force multiplier on the battlefield.” [[afsc](#)]²⁶
- Prof. Uri Sivan, President of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology said that at Technion “students, administrative personnel, and academic staff rally to aid Israeli military soldiers”
- The Technion is a sponsor of the Psagot “academic reserve” program [[PAA](#)]²⁷

²³ [[Haaretz1](#)]: [U.S. Pension Fund Giant Confirms Divestment From Israel Firm - Haaretz Com - Haaretz.com](#)

²⁴ [[RBR](#)]: Robbins B. Review: Against Apartheid: The Case for Boycotting Israeli Universities, edited by Ashley Dawson and Bill V. Mullen. J Palest Stud [Internet]. 2016;45(4):90–1. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1525/jps.2016.45.4.90>

²⁵ [[Tech](#)]: [Home - מרכז הידע לחדשנות - טכניון \(technion.ac.il\)](#)

²⁶ [[afsc](#)]: [Companies Profiting from the Gaza Genocide | American Friends Service Committee \(afsc.org\)](#)

²⁷ [[PAA](#)]: [Psagot Alumni Assoc. | ארגון בוגרי פסגות \(archive.org\)](#)

- Technion organizes courses focused on how to brand and market Israel's defense industry to global audiences[+972(2)]²⁸
- Technion has close links with Verint, Check Point, and NICE systems. NICE systems, Check Point, and Comverse, a Verint acquisition, are three of Israel's largest high-tech companies. Each is influenced by technology developed by Unit 8200 – Israel's version of the NSA, which is involved in the surveillance of Palestinian telephone and internet traffic.[NYACT]²⁹

3.2 Research and academic activities with ties to the violations of Palestinian human rights

Education and research at the Technion are focused on the development of hi-tech weaponry, serving as an incubator for the Israeli military-industrial complex, and developing technologies like:

- **The remote-controlled Caterpillar D-9 bulldozer:** The Technion has developed remote-control capabilities for the Caterpillar D-9 bulldozer to facilitate the continued destruction of Palestinian houses, olive groves, and tunnels without any risk to their operators. According to one military officer, the Israeli military doubled its order for D-9s after they “performed remarkably during operation Cast Lead [the invasion of Gaza]” [JP]³⁰. A UN-appointed fact finding mission later reported strong evidence of war crimes committed during that operation including with the D-9 Bulldozer [OHCHR]³¹.
The Caterpillar D-9 bulldozer has also been actively used by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in operations following the October 7, 2023 attacks. The Israeli military employed these heavily armored bulldozers, often referred to as "Teddy Bears," for various purposes, including clearing pathways, demolishing structures, and fortifying defensive positions along the Gaza border.
- **The stealth drone:** As part of the Technion Autonomous Systems Program (TASP), students at The Technion developed the “Stealth drone” which can fly up to 1850 miles and carry two 1100-pound “smart bombs.” TASP also developed the “Dragonfly” drone whose 9-inch wing span makes it small enough to “easily enter rooms through small windows and to send back photos from a miniature camera” according to the American Technion Society's website [ATS]³².
- **The Scream:** Electro-Optics Research & Development (EORD), a subsidiary of the university, manufactured the “Scream,” an acoustic system that “creates sound levels that are unbearable to humans at distances up to 100 meters” [WP]³³.

²⁸ [+972(2)]: [Top Israeli university marketing country's arms industry to the world - +972 Magazine](#)

²⁹ [NYACT]: [The Technion | NYACT](#)

³⁰ [JP]: ['Black Thunder' unmanned dozers to play greater role in IDF - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

³¹ [OHCHR]: [United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza conflict | OHCHR](#)

³² [ATS]: [Stealth UAV, Lunar Elevator Among Student-Developed Projects - American Society for Technion-Israel Institute of Technology \(archive.org\)](#)

³³ [WP]: https://whoprofits.org/sites/default/files/weapons_report-8.pdf (archive.org)

3.3 Support for students or soldiers who participated or are participating in Operation Swords of Iron

- **Financial Assistance:** The Technion provides a grant of 6,000 NIS to all students mobilized by an emergency call-up order. This grant is intended to cover tuition fees, dormitory rent, and other related expenses for student soldiers that may be involved in alleged war crimes and a plausible genocide currently investigated by the ICJ.[[Tech2](#)]³⁴

3.4 Discrimination to its Palestinian students after 7 Oct 2023

Since October 7, 2023, the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology has displayed discriminatory practices against Palestinian students by applying its disciplinary jurisdiction inconsistently. While the university claimed it could not discipline a Jewish-Israeli student for online threats, it has actively punished Palestinian students for social media posts unrelated to the Technion. This double standard underscores a broader pattern of biased enforcement, disproportionately targeting Palestinian students and creating a hostile academic environment[[adalah2](#)]³⁵

3.5 TU Berlin's potential direct participation in the human rights violation happening in Gaza

In 2022/2023 a Computer Engineering TU Berlin Student participated in an exchange semester at where he states he had taken the following courses:
Algorithms and Applications in Computer Vision – 046746 which involves research that could very well be for 'dual-use'

- The TU Berlin should investigate the research agreements and funds as well as Technion's involvement in military research or weapons that have been contributing to the current violation of international human rights.
- TU Berlin should also investigate the specific department which has research partnerships with the above stated weapons manufacturers to ensure that TU Berlin's resources and exchange students are not utilized for research that could lead to grave breaches of international human rights and laws.

³⁴ [[Tech2](#)]: [The Technion Supports Reserve Soldiers](#)

³⁵ [[Adalah2](#)]: [Adalah's Report to the UN Special Rapporteur on Education.docx](#)

4 Ben Gurion University of The Negev

4.1 Research and academic activities with ties to the violations of Palestinian human rights

The Ben-Gurion University hosts the Homeland Security Institute which partners with Elbit System and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems as well as the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), the ministry of defense [BGU1]³⁶, all of which are participating in the current human rights' violation and the plausible genocide:

- Ben-Gurion University's technology transfer company BGN Technologies "conducts research for companies wishing to take advantage of [Ben-Gurion University]'s expertise and facilities" [BGU2]³⁷ [DUB]³⁸
- In 2019, Ben-Gurion University and Rafael signed a multi-year research collaboration after the company decided to open an R&D center at the university's Advanced Technologies Park. [BGU3]³⁹ [TTI2]⁴⁰
- "In addition, an elite Israel Defense Forces (IDF) technology unit recently relocated to Beer-Sheva. The sprawling new IDF campus is located adjacent to the University, reinforcing the important and long-standing partnership between BGU and the IDF to safeguard Israel's future. The new IDF campus houses technological units, Israeli Air Force units, and the headquarters of the military's Southern Command, responsible for dealing with threats from Gaza." [ISSUU]⁴¹
- When Elbit Systems opened a new lab at the Advanced Technologies Park in March 2024, the company stated that it maintained "a close relationship with academia [that] extends beyond simple collaboration. We actively transform academic research into practical applications...Students involved in our projects earn academic credit for their work, creating a mutually advantageous connection". [ES]⁴² [DUB]³⁸
- "Additionally, in partnership with the Intelligence Division and the 8200 Alumni Association, we launched the iMTech Training Center to meet the employment demands of high-tech industries in the Negev. The first cohort of young people from the region began this training and placement program in February 2024." [ISSUU]⁴³

4.2 Unit 8200

Lavender was developed by the Israel Defense Forces' elite intelligence division, Unit 8200 [TG1]⁴⁴. This unit, which is comparable to the US's National Security Agency or GCHQ in the UK, is partnered with BGU University as stated in the **BGU's president's report 2024** [ISSUU]⁴³.

³⁶ [BGU1]: [Homeland Security Institute - Collaborations \(archive.org\)](#)

³⁷ [BGU2]: [Ben-Gurion University Technology Transfer - Industry Collaborations \(bgu.ac.il\)](#)

³⁸ [DUB]: [How collaborations with Israeli universities make UU complicit in war crimes | DUB](#)

³⁹ [BGU3]: [Ben-Gurion University Technology Transfer - BGU and Rafael Sign Strategic Research Collaboration](#)

⁴⁰ [TTI2]: [Ben Gurion researchers, Israel defense firm Rafael join forces on cyber, AI | The Times of Israel](#)

⁴¹ [ISSUU]: [Negev Connection - Fall 2023 by Americans for Ben-Gurion University - Issuu](#)

⁴² [ES]: [Where Robots Go to Play | Elbit Systems](#)

⁴³ [ISSUU]: [BGU | PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024 \(cld.bz\)](#)

⁴⁴ [TG1]: ['The machine did it coldly': Israel used AI to identify 37,000 Hamas targets | The Guardian](#)

Berlin, 02.08.2024

- *“All six (intelligence officers, all who have been involved in using AI systems to identify Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) targets in the war) said that Lavender had played a central role in the war, processing masses of data to rapidly identify potential “junior” operatives to target. Four of the sources said that, at one stage early in the war, Lavender listed as many as 37,000 Palestinian men who had been linked by the AI system to Hamas or PIJ.” [TG1]⁴⁵*
- *“Several of the sources described how, for certain categories of targets, the IDF applied pre-authorised allowances for the estimated number of civilians who could be killed before a strike was authorised. Two sources said that during the early weeks of the war they were permitted to kill 15 or 20 civilians during airstrikes on low-ranking militants. Attacks on such targets were typically carried out using unguided munitions known as “dumb bombs”, the sources said, destroying entire homes and killing all their occupants.” [TG1]⁴⁵*
- An investigation by +972 and Local Call revealed that, during the early stages of its most recent war on Gaza, the Israeli military “almost completely relied on Lavender, which clocked as many as 37,000 Palestinians as suspected militants – and their homes – for possible air strikes”. [+972(3)]⁴⁶ [DUB]⁴⁷

According to posts on the Israeli military's website, the Gospel was developed by Israel's signals intelligence branch, known as Unit 8200, which is a partner of the Ben Gurion University [NPR]⁴⁸.

- Misztal's group (a group that facilitates military cooperation between Israel and the United States) documented one of the first trials of the Gospel and noted that, while the AI had plenty of training data for what constituted a target, it lacked data on things that human analysts had decided were *not* targets. The Israeli military hadn't collected the target data its analysts had discarded, and as a result the system's training had been biased [NPR]⁴⁸
- The Israeli military noted in November 2024 that in addition to increasing accuracy, the Gospel system “allows the use of automatic tools to produce targets at a fast pace.” That same statement said that Israel had hit more than 12,000 targets in the first 27 days of combat [POLITICO]⁴⁹.

In 2014 The Guardian published Testimonies from people who worked in this Unit that was and still is partnered with BGU University [ISSU]⁵⁰.

- *“I also collected information on people who were completely innocent [...]. All Palestinians are exposed to non-stop monitoring without any legal protection.[...] The notion of rights for Palestinians does not exist at all. Not even as an idea to be disregarded.” [TG2]⁵¹*
- *“Any Palestinian may be targeted and may suffer from sanctions such as the denial of permits, harassment, extortion, or even direct physical injury.[...] Any information that might enable extortion of an individual is considered relevant*

⁴⁵ [TG1]: 'The machine did it coldly': Israel used AI to identify 37,000 Hamas targets | The Guardian

⁴⁶ [+972(3)]: 'Lavender': The AI machine directing Israel's bombing spree in Gaza (972mag.com)

⁴⁷ [DUB]: How collaborations with Israeli universities make UU complicit in war crimes | DUB

⁴⁸ [NPR]: Here's how Israel is using artificial intelligence to find targets in Gaza. : NPR

⁴⁹ [POLITICO]: Israel under pressure to justify its use of AI in Gaza - POLITICO

⁵⁰ [ISSU]: BGU | PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024 (cld.bz)

⁵¹ [TG2]: 'Any Palestinian is exposed to monitoring by the Israeli Big Brother' | Israel | The Guardian

information. Whether said individual is of a certain sexual orientation, cheating on his wife, or in need of treatment in Israel or the West Bank – he is a target for blackmail.” [TG2]⁵²

4.3 TU Berlin’s potential **direct** participation in the human rights violation happening in Gaza

In the academic year 2019/2020, a Computer Science (B.Sc.) student from TU Berlin participated in an exchange semester at Ben-Gurion University, specifically within the Department of Computer Science, which is a research partner of Unit 8200 responsible for the "Lavender" AI and for war crimes and violation of human rights. [ISSU]⁵³ [TG2]⁵² [TG1]⁵⁴

- Allowing further exchange opportunities between TU Berlin and Ben-Gurion University poses the risk of TU students engaging in research linked to significant human rights and international law violations.
- Further cooperation with Ben-Gurion University raises concerns about ensuring that TU Berlin’s resources are not utilized for research that could lead to grave breaches of international human rights and laws.

4.4 Support for students or soldiers who participated or are participating in Operation Swords of Iron

- **Financial Support:** Students called up for reserve duty, that may potentially be involved in alleged war crimes and a plausible genocide currently investigated by the ICJ, receive a grant of NIS 1,200 (\$300) and can postpone their rental fees if they are living in university housing [TTI3]⁵⁵.

⁵² [TG2]: [‘Any Palestinian is exposed to monitoring by the Israeli Big Brother’ | Israel | The Guardian](#)

⁵³ [ISSU]: [BGU | PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2024 \(cld.bz\)](#)

⁵⁴ [TG1]: [‘The machine did it coldly’: Israel used AI to identify 37,000 Hamas targets | The Guardian](#)

⁵⁵ [TTI3]: [Israeli universities step up to support students in reserves, war effort | The Times of Israel](#)

5 Bar-Ilan University

5.1 The Ariel University

Ariel University started as the "College of Judea and Samaria" and was **established** by Bar-Ilan University. The institution was founded in 1982 in the Israeli settlement of Ariel [che]⁵⁶.

- Ariel University is situated in the settlement of Ariel, which is in the West Bank, a territory occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War. The international community, including the United Nations, generally considers Israeli settlements in the West Bank to be **illegal under international law**, specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention.
- The establishment of institutions like Ariel University in these settlements is thus seen illegal under the fourth Geneva convention and the UN Resolution 2334 [UN1]⁵⁷. That act was done by the Bar-Ilan University and Ariel university was a part of the Bar-Ilan university until 2004 [THE]⁵⁸.
- *"The German Government's position on the construction of Israeli settlements remains unchanged. They are illegal under international law and jeopardize future mutually agreed negotiations for peace and a life in security and dignity for both Israelis and Palestinians in the region."* [aus-amt]⁵⁹

We are aware that the infringement by the Bar-Ilan University of article 49 of the fourth Geneva convention, UN security council's Resolution 242 (1967), Resolution 338 (1973), Resolution 446 (1979) and Resolution 2334 (2016) will be regarded as irrelevant by the TU Administration due to the fact that it happened in 1982 to 2004 but settlements are considered a war crime in international law which would make the Bar-Ilan University a potential war criminal institution.

5.2 The Begin-Sadat Center

The Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University *"Seeks to advance a realistic, conservative and Zionist agenda in the search for security and peace for Israel. Over the years, BESA has been the first to successfully place on the public agenda issues such as the problematic aspects of Palestinian Statehood."* [afbiu]⁶⁰

- Efraim Inbar, the center's former long-term director, has acknowledged that 'political neutrality' is not an option for the center, which is Zionist in orientation.
- A paper was released in November 2018 by the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University by Prof. Hillel Frisch, a professor of political studies and Middle East studies at Bar-Ilan University and a senior research associate at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies. The paper states:

"Only a fourth massive round of fighting against Hamas can possibly bring the group to the conclusion the Arab states reached after four wars with the Jewish

⁵⁶ [che]: [The-College-of-Judea-and-Samaria.pdf \(che.org.il\)](#)

⁵⁷ [UN1]: [UN Resolution 2334](#)

⁵⁸ [THE]: [Ariel University | World University Rankings | THE \(timeshighereducation.com\)](#)

⁵⁹ [aus-amt]: [Statement by the Federal Foreign Office on the building of over 2300 housing units in the occupied West Bank - Federal Foreign Office \(auswaertiges-amt.de\)](#)

⁶⁰ [afbiu]: [Begin Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University | American Friends of Bar-Ilan University \(afbiu.org\)](#)

state in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973 – that the pain to be suffered is so great, and the chance of eliminating the Jewish state so slim, as to render violence pointless.” [BESA1]⁶¹

“Now, alas, is the time for war.” [BESA1]⁶¹

- Another paper published by the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University written by Lt. Col. (res.) Dr. Mordechai Keda titled “Why Do the Arabs Hate the Palestinians”:

“Israel is rich while many Arabs and Muslims are poor; Israel is a paradise compared to some Arab countries, many of which resemble nothing so much as the last train stop before hell (see Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Sudan; the list goes on).

In short, they despise Israel because it has succeeded in areas where they have failed.” [BESA2]⁶²

- After operation Guardian of the Walls in 2021, one BESA Center paper advocated boycotting Palestinians[BESA3]⁶³; another warned against any Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank[BESA4]⁶⁴ which is explicitly against international law according to article 49 of the fourth Geneva convention, UN security council’s Resolution 242 (1967), Resolution 338 (1973), Resolution 446 (1979) and Resolution 2334 (2016)..
- According to the begin-Sadat Center of the Bar-Ilan University “the demand for a continued Israeli presence in those areas (West Bank) is justified, both tactically and generally” [BESA4]⁶⁴. This perspective practically calls for the continuation of policies that violate international law according to article 49 of the fourth Geneva convention, UN security council’s Resolution 242 (1967), Resolution 338 (1973), Resolution 446 (1979) and Resolution 2334 (2016).

5.3 Support for students or soldiers who participated or are participating in Operation Swords of Iron

- **Personal Support:** The university has launched fundraising campaigns and established emergency funds to assist student soldiers that may be involved in the alleged war crimes and plausible genocide currently investigated by the ICJ.[JP2]⁶⁵

⁶¹ [BESA1]: [Another Round, not More Extortion, Is Needed in Gaza \(besacenter.org\)](https://besacenter.org/another-round-not-more-extortion-is-needed-in-gaza/)

⁶² [BESA2]: [1758-Why-Do-the-Arabs-Hate-the-Palestinians-Kedar-final.pdf \(besacenter.org\)](https://besacenter.org/1758-Why-Do-the-Arabs-Hate-the-Palestinians-Kedar-final.pdf)

⁶³ [BESA3]: [Boycott Palestine \(besacenter.org\)](https://besacenter.org/boycott-palestine/)

⁶⁴ [BESA4]: [Lessons of the Gaza War \(besacenter.org\)](https://besacenter.org/lessons-of-the-gaza-war/)

⁶⁵ [JP2]: [Bar-Ilan students are on the front line - Israel News - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](https://www.jpost.com/Bar-Ilan-students-are-on-the-front-line-Israel-News-The-Jerusalem-Post)

6 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

6.1 Active participation in the illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories

The mount Scopus campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is located in the illegally occupied territory of Palestine, more precisely in east Jerusalem. This goes against:

- **Resolution 478 (1980)**: This resolution declared Israel's 1980 Jerusalem Law, which proclaimed Jerusalem as the "complete and united" capital of Israel, as null and void. It affirmed that all legislative and administrative measures taken by Israel to alter the character and status of Jerusalem are **violations of international law and must be rescinded**. It also called on member states to withdraw their diplomatic missions from Jerusalem[UN2]⁶⁶.
- **Resolution 2334 (2016)**: This resolution reiterated that Israel's establishment of settlements in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, **has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law**. It called for an immediate and complete halt to all settlement activities and emphasized the need to distinguish in dealings between the territory of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967 [UN1]⁶⁷.

While we are aware that the original buildings of the Hebrew University are located in the area that was designated in 1948 as the “Demilitarized Zone”, whose status is contested, the University has expanded significantly since the 1967 occupation, and significant parts of it fall **beyond** the “Demilitarized Zone” line and are in the Palestinian occupied territory and are effectively settlements. The expansion includes part of the Maierdsdorf Dormitories, all of the Alan Bronfman Dormitories, the Students Village, the Lerner Family Indoor Sports Complex and the Gilbert Tennis Courts [CLT]⁶⁸.

- These parts are settlements for they are used to house the population of an occupying power in an occupied territory. [CLT]⁶⁸
- These parts are also used for the accommodation of international incoming students including TUB students.
- As a large higher education institution with thousands of students and employees, HUIJ’s presence in this area stimulates settler activities in East Jerusalem, especially in the adjacent neighborhoods of the French Hill, Ramat Eshkol and Sheikh Jarrah and beyond. [CLT]⁶⁸
- HUIJ Benefits from the settlement infra-structure, the transport lines, and the access roads, which are all in the occupied territory, some of which are on privately-owned Palestinian land. This infra-structure is also designed in a way to favor Israeli settlements in the area, and to the detriment of the local Palestinian population. [CLT]⁶⁸

⁶⁶ [UN1]: [UN Resolution 2334](#)

⁶⁷ [UN2]: [Resolution 478 \(1980\) / \(un.org\)](#)

⁶⁸ [CLT]: [Statement by Legal Scholars and International Lawyers Against Holding ESIL Forum at the Hebrew University in East Jerusalem \(criticallegalthinking.com\)](#)

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) 2024 report:

“The court is of the view that Member States are under an obligation not to recognize any changes in the physical character or demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the territory occupied by Israel on 5 June 1967, including East Jerusalem, except as agreed by the parties to the conflict through negotiations.” [ICJ2]⁶⁹

Statement by the German Federal Foreign Office:

“Like its partners in the European Union, the German Government regards the building of settlements in the Palestinian territories as illegal under international law and as a major obstacle to the possibility of a two-state solution to be negotiated between Israel and the Palestinians. It calls on those involved to refrain from taking any steps that would further hinder a two-state solution.” [aus-amt]⁷⁰

6.2 Shin Bet

The HUJ has hosted events and recruitment drives for the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service. A testimony about the Shin Bet lecture at Hebrew University was published in [Haaretz](#). In it the author described her observations and ethical concerns about the collaboration between the university and the Shin Bet:

- *“I was especially dismayed by what I did not see or hear, and what I have seen and heard all these years in military courts in Ofer and in the alleyways of Yatta and Hebron, from the methodical destruction of Palestinian society in the West Bank with temptations and threats and turning people against their siblings to the torture in the Shin Bet’s interrogation facilities. I have documented all their methods by speaking to victims, I told myself, and here they are presented to me in the guise of a perfect public relations production sponsored by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. And no one protests, speaks out against or disrupts this detestable conference.” [Haaretz2]⁷¹*
- *“It would be appropriate to call for an academic boycott of the Hebrew University and its instructors, whether or not the ethics code forbids this, for this collaboration with the Shin Bet security service. All of my ethical, aesthetic and academic senses — as a graduate and a current student of the university — tell me that an academic institution should not collaborate with secret services anywhere, much less in Israel, in light of its situation today.” [Haaretz2]⁷¹*

6.3 TU Berlin’s potential direct participation in the human rights violation happening in Gaza

The partnership between Technische Universität Berlin (TUB) and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ) facilitates exchange semesters for TUB students at HUJ through the Erasmus+ E+ KA 171 Program [[TUB3](#)]⁷² but also through the Selma Stern Zentrum [[TUB2](#)]⁷³. The HUJ offer accommodation to international incoming students including TUB students in illegally Palestinian occupied territories [[HUJ11](#)]⁷⁴.

⁶⁹ [ICJ2]: [Summary of the Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 \(icj-cij.org\)](#)

⁷⁰ [aus-amt]: [Statement by the Federal Foreign Office on the building of over 2300 housing units in the occupied West Bank - Federal Foreign Office \(auswaertiges-amt.de\)](#)

⁷¹ [Haaretz2]: [What I Saw at a Shin Bet Lecture at Jerusalem’s Hebrew University - Opinion - Haaretz.com](#)

⁷² [TUB3]: [Erasmus+: Mobilität mit Partnerländern \(tu.berlin\)](#)

⁷³ [TUB2]: [Starkes Netzwerk für Jüdische Studien](#)

⁷⁴ [HUJ11]: [Accommodations | HUJ International](#)

Berlin, 02.08.2024

The Rothberg international school is part of the HUJ and is located in mount Scopus in east Jerusalem and is also partner with TU Berlin as a part of HUJ.

- One of the common study programs the TUB has with the Rothberg International School is the Master of science in Building Archeology and Heritage Conservation.
- One of the courses that can be accepted by TU Berlin as part of an exchange semester is *Jerusalem: A Journey Through Time and Space, Historical and Geographical Perspectives*, ID: 48170 [HUJ12]⁷⁵.
As part of its 2023 syllabus a field trip called Jerusalem Redefined was organized and it **included places that are in the occupied Palestinian territories according to the 1967 partition**. Effectively directly violating international law, explicitly Resolution 2334 (2016) which “emphasized the need to distinguish in dealings between the territory of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967.”

Monday Sept 18th

Field Trip: Jerusalem Redefined:

Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Via Delarosa, Austrian Hospice, Roman and Crusader Cardo

Figure 1: [HUJ11]⁷⁴

Through the continued partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, TU Berlin as a public legal body is effectively violating the following resolutions:

United Nation’s General Assembly Resolution 32/161 (1977): Calls upon all States, international organizations, specialized agencies, investment corporations and all other institutions not to recognize, or cooperate with or assist in any manner in, any measures undertaken by Israel to exploit the resources of the occupied territories or to effect any changes in the demographic composition or geographic character or institutional structure of those territories [UN3]⁷⁶.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 465 (1980): Calls upon all States not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements in the occupied territories [UN6]⁷⁷.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016): Calls upon all States, bearing in mind paragraph 1 of this resolution, to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967[UN1]⁷⁸.

United Nation’s General Assembly Resolution 74/11 (2019): calls upon all states, To respect and ensure respect for international law, in all circumstances, including through measures of accountability, consistent with international law [UN4]⁷⁹.

United Nation’s General Assembly Resolution 77/126 (2022): Calls upon all States, consistent with their obligations under international law and the relevant resolutions, not to recognize, and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining, the situation created by measures that are illegal under international law, including those aimed at advancing

⁷⁵ [HUJ12]: [The Hebrew University \(huji.ac.il\)](https://www.huji.ac.il)

⁷⁶ [UN3]: <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/un-general-assembly-resolution-32-161-december-1977>

⁷⁷ [UN6]: [Resolution 465 \(1980\) / \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2019/201906/20190616.unsc.res.8477.html)

⁷⁸ [UN1]: [UN Resolution 2334](https://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2016/201612/20161216.unsc.res.8477.html)

⁷⁹ [UN4]: [un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/A.RES._74.11.pdf](https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/A.RES._74.11.pdf)

Berlin, 02.08.2024

annexation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 [\[UN5\]](#)⁸⁰.

The International Court of Justice's advisory opinion (2024): The Court considers that the duty of distinguishing dealings with Israel between its own territory and the Occupied Palestinian Territory encompasses, inter alia, the obligation to abstain from treaty relations with Israel in all cases in which it purports to act on behalf of the Occupied Palestinian Territory or a part thereof on matters concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or a part of its territory; to abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or parts thereof which may entrench its unlawful presence in the territory; to abstain, in the establishment and maintenance of diplomatic missions in Israel, from any recognition of its illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and to take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal situation created by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory [\[ICJ2\]](#)⁸¹.

Germany's Basic Law (Grundgesetz) Art. 25: The general rules of international law shall be an integral part of federal law. They shall take precedence over the laws and directly create rights and duties for the inhabitants of the federal territory.

⁸⁰ [\[UN5\]: A/RES/77/126 \(undocs.org\)](#)

⁸¹ [\[ICJ2\]: Summary of the Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 \(icj-cij.org\)](#)

7 Examples of other Universities cutting ties with one or multiple Israeli universities or considering it

Several European universities have taken steps to sever ties with Israeli institutions involved in military research or located in illegal settlements and we urge the TUB to be the example in Germany before it becomes another stain in the university's and the country's history:

- **Belgium's University of Ghent (Belgium):** is severing ties with three Israeli educational or research institutions which it says no longer align with UGent's human rights policy, its rector said [\[Reuters\]](#)⁸²[\[UG\]](#)⁸³.
- **The Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium):** the ULB said that it would suspend ties with both Israeli and Palestinian universities until "*their respective university authorities make a clear commitment to the demands made by the International Court of Justice ... and the unconditional release of the Israeli hostages*" [\[ULB\]](#)⁸⁴.
- **OsloMet (Norway):** puts the exchange agreement with the University of Haifa on hold, pledged not to enter into any new agreements with complicit Israeli universities, and will work to end procurement contracts with suppliers linked to Israel's military or illegal settlements [\[OM\]](#)⁸⁵.
- **University of Southeastern Norway:** ended ties with Haifa University, pledged not to enter into any new agreements with complicit Israeli universities, and will work to end procurement contracts with suppliers linked to Israel's military or illegal settlements.

"USN's leadership is appalled by Israel's attack on Gaza's civilian population and infrastructure, and the catastrophic humanitarian situation that now prevails in Gaza. The Israeli authorities have chosen to ignore the International People's Court's statements and have not fulfilled the requirements to improve the humanitarian situation. That is the reason why we no longer want to have cooperation agreements with universities in Israel," says Rector Pia Cecilie Bing-Jonsson." [\[USN\]](#)⁸⁶

- **University of Bergen (Norway):** ended its cooperation agreements with Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design after it created a workshop on campus to design and sew uniforms and gear for the Israeli military. [\[KA\]](#)⁸⁷
- **The Bergen School of Architecture (Norway):** also ended its cooperation agreements with Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design over its work with the Israeli military. [\[KA\]](#)⁸⁷
- **University of Stavanger (Norway):** UiS is terminating all institutional collaboration agreements with Israeli institutions, due to the war in Gaza, which is contrary to international law. Nor will UiS enter into any new agreements as long as hostilities are ongoing. [\[UiS\]](#)⁸⁸

⁸² [\[reuters\]: Belgium's Ghent university severs ties with three Israeli institutions | Reuters](#)

⁸³ [\[UG\]: Gent university statement on cooperation with israeli institutions](#)

⁸⁴ [\[ULB\]: L'ULB suspend ses accords et projets de recherche avec les universités israéliennes - ULB](#)

⁸⁵ [\[OM\]: OsloMet puts exchange agreement on hold - minsid](#)

⁸⁶ [\[USN\]: Avslutter samarbeid med universiteter i Israel - Universitetet i Sørøst-Norge \(usn.no\)](#)

⁸⁷ [\[KA\]: UiB avslutter avtale med israelsk kunstakademi \(kunstavisen.no\)](#)

⁸⁸ [\[UiS\]: UiS ends institutional cooperation with Israel | University of Stavanger](#)

Berlin, 02.08.2024

- **University of Florence (Italy):** is suspending a collaboration agreement with Israeli universities and research institutes. [TTI4]⁸⁹
- **University of Barcelona (Spain):** has approved a motion calling for "the severance of institutional and academic relations" with Israeli institutions in solidarity with Palestine. [EIN]⁹⁰

"It is time for the UB to be faithful to its principles and put an end to complicit silence in the face of the Palestinian genocide at the hands of Israel." [EIN]⁹⁰

- Trinity College Dublin (Ireland): agrees to divest from Israeli firms and establish a task force to review ties with Israeli academic institutions after student protests: *"Trinity will complete a divestment from investments in Israeli companies that have activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and appear on the UN blacklist," it said. "Trinity will endeavour to divest from investments in other Israeli companies."* [TG3]⁹¹
- **Conference of University Rectors in Spain (CRUE) (Spain):** announced that it will cut ties with Israeli universities and research centers *"that have not expressed a firm commitment to peace and compliance with international humanitarian law."* And commit to intensifying the Palestinian scientific and higher education system. [UAB]⁹². The CRUE groups a total of 76 Spanish universities, 50 of which are public whilst 26 are private.

⁸⁹ [TTI4]: [Italy's University of Turin to exit Israel research pact amid Gaza protests | The Times of Israel](#)

⁹⁰ [EIN]: [University of Barcelona faculty passes motion calling to break academic relations with Israel](#)

⁹¹ [TG3]: [Trinity College Dublin agrees to divest from Israeli firms after student protest | The Guardian](#)

⁹² [UAB]: [Communiqué by the CRUE - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona - UAB Barcelona](#)

8 The Academic Freedom question

Academic freedom is a cornerstone of higher education, ensuring that scholars can pursue truth and knowledge without external pressures. **It must remain free from government influence and other institutional coercion. Academic institutions should not be forced into adopting specific positions or responding to political or social pressures.**

An example of this issue is the case of the **Technical University of Berlin's President** who liked a tweet perceived as antisemitic. This led to intense media and political campaigns demanding her resignation. Such incidents highlight the vulnerability of academic leaders to external pressures, threatening the principle of academic freedom.

Conversely, **Prof. Dr. Stefan Liebig** from FU Berlin faced no similar backlash for sharing tweets supporting the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). He also posted a tweet stating, "From the river to the sea, that's the flag you're gonna see" with the Israeli flag over both Israel and Palestine. According to the logic used by German authorities and academics regarding the phrase "from the river to the sea," this tweet could be seen as a call for the complete control of Palestinian territories, and the denial of Palestinians' "right to exist" yet it did not trigger the same outcry. Proving again the double standards of academic institutions in Germany.

German professors write a public letter again^{1/3} boycotting Israeli academics and antisemitism and are feted by Bild Zeitung. But the statement's initiator posts things like this



Through not at least pausing the ties with Israeli universities and engaging in investigating their ties to war crimes, human rights abuses and violation of international law, the TU Berlin shows us once again that it does not care about academic freedom but only follows the rules set onto it, potentially doing the same mistakes it has done in its past.

From the Israeli side, there has been no comment from the Israeli university presidents either about the Israeli state's destruction of all universities in Gaza, or the killing of dozens of their academic colleagues across Gaza. [Mondoweiss]⁹³. In no sense have these presidents sought either to take a stand of criticality or dissent toward the actions of the Israeli state or pursued a course of claimed neutrality with regard to the Israeli state; rather, what has been exhibited is fervent and consistent partisanship. To oppose apartheid, occupation, and genocide in Palestine, we need to oppose the research universities of Israel. [Mondoweiss]⁹³

⁹³ [How Israeli university presidents are proving the case for boycott – Mondoweiss](#)

Berlin, 02.08.2024

Sources:

[ICJ1]: [1677.pdf \(icj-cij.org\)](#)

[ICJ2]: [Summary of the Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 \(icj-cij.org\)](#)

[TUB1]: [TUB Press release on cutting ties with russian institutions](#)

[UN1]: [UN Resolution 2334](#)

[DAAD]: [DAAD restricts academic exchange with Russia - DAAD](#)

[afsc]: [Companies Profiting from the Gaza Genocide | American Friends Service Committee \(afsc.org\)](#)

[CTech]: [With its drone technology, startup Xtend plays a crucial role in the ongoing war | Ctech \(calcalistech.com\)](#)

[TTI1]: [Israeli developer of VR drone system used by IDF in Hamas war raises \\$40m | The Times of Israel](#)

[TAU1]: [Our Partners Already | TAU Innovation Labs | Tel Aviv University \(archive.org\)](#)

[TAU2]: web.archive.org/web/20240219121318/https://english.tau.ac.il/nanoscience/

[TAU3]: [First Academic Course on the Current War Launched at TAU for International Students | TAU International | Tel Aviv University \(archive.org\)](#)

[INSS1]: <https://www.inss.org.il/publication/war-data>

[INSS2]: [inss.org.il/publication/disproportionate-force-israels-concept-of-response-in-light-of-the-second-lebanon-war/](https://www.inss.org.il/publication/disproportionate-force-israels-concept-of-response-in-light-of-the-second-lebanon-war/)

[TAU4]: web.archive.org/web/20240425203812/https://international.tau.ac.il/lone-soldiers

[TAU5]: [Tel Aviv University Emergency Fund: Students on IDF reserve duty to receive an initial grant of NIS 1,000 | Tel Aviv University | Tel Aviv University \(tau.ac.il\)](#)

[TSSP]: [Neither the river nor the sea. Interview from Tel Aviv University - Transnational Social Strike Platform \(transnational-strike.info\)](#)

[adalah1]: [Tel Aviv University Prevents Activities of Palestinian Student Groups - Adalah](#)

[+972(1)]: [‘It’ll turn campus into an army base’: Tel Aviv University to host soldiers' program \(972mag.com\)](#)

[Haaretz1]: [U.S. Pension Fund Giant Confirms Divestment From Israel Firm - Haaretz Com - Haaretz.com](#)

[RBR]: Robbins B. Review: Against Apartheid: The Case for Boycotting Israeli Universities, edited by Ashley Dawson and Bill V. Mullen. J Palest Stud [Internet].

2016;45(4):90–1. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1525/jps.2016.45.4.90>

[Tech]: [Home - מרכז הידע לחדשנות - טכניון \(technion.ac.il\)](#)

Berlin, 02.08.2024

[PAA]: [Psagot Alumni Assoc. | ארגון בוגרי פסגות \(archive.org\)](#)

[+972(2)]: [Top Israeli university marketing country's arms industry to the world - +972 Magazine](#)

[NYACT]: [The Technion | NYACT](#)

[OHCHR]: [United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza conflict | OHCHR](#)

[JP]: ['Black Thunder' unmanned dozers to play greater role in IDF - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

[ATS]: [Stealth UAV, Lunar Elevator Among Student-Developed Projects - American Society for Technion-Israel Institute of Technology \(archive.org\)](#)

[WP]: https://whoprofits.org/sites/default/files/weapons_report-8.pdf (archive.org)

[Tech2]: [The Technion Supports Reserve Soldiers](#)

[Adalah2]: [Adalah's Report to the UN Special Rapporteur on Education.docx](#)

[BGU1]: [Homeland Security Institute - Collaborations \(archive.org\)](#)

[BGU2]: [Ben-Gurion University Technology Transfer - Industry Collaborations \(bgu.ac.il\)](#)

[DUB]: [How collaborations with Israeli universities make UU complicit in war crimes | DUB](#)

[TTI2]: [Ben Gurion researchers, Israel defense firm Rafael join forces on cyber, AI | The Times of Israel](#)

[BGU3]: [Ben-Gurion University Technology Transfer - BGU and Rafael Sign Strategic Research Collaboration](#)

[ISSUU]: [Negev Connection - Fall 2023 by Americans for Ben-Gurion University - Issuu](#)

[ES]: [Where Robots Go to Play | Elbit Systems](#)

[ISSU]: [BGU | PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024 \(cld.bz\)](#)

[TG1]: ['The machine did it coldly': Israel used AI to identify 37,000 Hamas targets | Israel-Gaza war | The Guardian](#)

[+972(3)]: ['Lavender': The AI machine directing Israel's bombing spree in Gaza \(972mag.com\)](#)

[NPR]: [Here's how Israel is using artificial intelligence to find targets in Gaza. : NPR](#)

[POLITICO]: [Israel under pressure to justify its use of AI in Gaza - POLITICO](#)

[TG2]: ['Any Palestinian is exposed to monitoring by the Israeli Big Brother' | Israel | The Guardian](#)

[TTI3]: [Israeli universities step up to support students in reserves, war effort | The Times of Israel](#)

[che]: [The-College-of-Judea-and-Samaria.pdf \(che.org.il\)](#)

Berlin, 02.08.2024

[THE]: [Ariel University | World University Rankings | THE \(timeshighereducation.com\)](#)

[afbiu]: [Begin Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University | American Friends of Bar-Ilan University \(afbiu.org\)](#)

[BESA1]: [Another Round, not More Extortion, Is Needed in Gaza \(besacenter.org\)](#)

[BESA2]: [besacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/1758-Why-Do-the-Arabs-Hate-the-Palestinians-Kedar-final.pdf](#)

[BESA3]: [Boycott Palestine \(besacenter.org\)](#)

[BESA4]: [Lessons of the Gaza War \(besacenter.org\)](#)

[JP2]: [Bar-Ilan students are on the front line - Israel News - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

[UN2]: [Resolution 478 \(1980\) / \(un.org\)](#)

[CLT]: [Statement by Legal Scholars and International Lawyers Against Holding ESIL Forum at the Hebrew University in East Jerusalem \(criticallegalthinking.com\)](#)

[aus-amt]: [Statement by the Federal Foreign Office on the building of over 2300 housing units in the occupied West Bank - Federal Foreign Office \(auswaertiges-amt.de\)](#)

[Haaretz2]: [What I Saw at a Shin Bet Lecture at Jerusalem's Hebrew University - Opinion - Haaretz.com \(archive.org\)](#)

[TUB3]: [Erasmus+: Mobilität mit Partnerländern \(tu.berlin\)](#)

[TUB2]: [Starkes Netzwerk für Jüdische Studien](#)

[HUJI1]: [Accommodations | HUJI International](#)

[HUJI2]: [The Hebrew University \(huji.ac.il\)](#)

[UN3]: <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/un-general-assembly-resolution-32-161-december-1977>

[UN4]: [un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/A.RES_.74.11.pdf](#)

[UN5]: [A/RES/77/126 \(undocs.org\)](#)

[UN6]: [4TH GENEVA CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR OF 12 AUGUST 1949](#)

[reuters]: [Belgium's Ghent university severs ties with three Israeli institutions | Reuters](#)

[UG]: [Gent university statement on cooperation with israeli institutions](#)

[ULB]: [L'ULB suspend ses accords et projets de recherche avec les universités israéliennes - Actualités de l'ULB](#)

[OM]: [OsloMet puts exchange agreement on hold - minside](#)

[USN]: [Avslutter samarbeid med universiteter i Israel - Universitetet i Sørøst-Norge \(usn.no\)](#)

Berlin, 02.08.2024

[KA]: [UiB avslutter avtale med israelsk kunstakademi \(kunstavisen.no\)](#)

[UiS]: [UiS ends institutional cooperation with Israel | University of Stavanger](#)

[TTI4]: [Italy's University of Turin to exit Israel research pact amid Gaza protests | The Times of Israel](#)

[EIN]: [University of Barcelona faculty passes motion calling to break academic relations with Israel \(elnacional.cat\)](#)

[TG3]: [Trinity College Dublin agrees to divest from Israeli firms after student protest | Ireland | The Guardian](#)

[UAB]: [Communiqué by the CRUE - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona - UAB Barcelona](#)

[Mondoweiss]: [How Israeli university presidents are proving the case for boycott – Mondoweiss](#)

[UN6]: [Resolution 465 \(1980\) / \(un.org\)](#)