

Time for an Academic Boycott of Israel?



FREEDOM
JUSTICE
EQUALITY



Palestinian Campaign
for the Academic & Cultural
Boycott of Israel

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If I must die,
you must live
to tell my story
to sell my things
to buy a piece of cloth
and some strings,
(make it white with a long tail)
so that a child, somewhere in Gaza
while looking heaven in the eye
awaiting his dad who left in a blaze—
and bid no one farewell
not even to his flesh
not even to himself—
sees the kite, my kite you made, flying up above
and thinks for a moment an angel is there
bringing back love
If I must die
let it bring hope
let it be a tale



Refaat Alareer (1979 - 2023)

A Genocidal War on Education

- Genocidal war that targets Palestinian universities, schools, academics and students.
- Israel has deliberately targeted and killed 94 Palestinians scholars in air raids on their homes, in addition to 231 teachers and 4,327 students, with more among the missing.



Damage at the Islamic University of Gaza after it was hit in an overnight Israeli strike, Gaza city.

A Genocidal War on Education

Israel has [destroyed](#) ALL Palestinian universities in Gaza, including by placing explosives in empty campuses meant to flatten them, and after some had been occupied and used as military bases and detention centers.

It has completely or partially destroyed 346 schools.



Israeli forces destroy Israa University in Gaza, after occupying it for 70 days and turning it into a detention center.

A Genocidal War on Education

"Almost 90,000 Palestinian university students cannot attend university in Gaza. Over 60 % of schools, almost all universities and countless bookshops and libraries have been damaged or destroyed, and hundreds of teachers and academics have been killed, including deans of universities and leading Palestinian scholars, obliterating the very prospects for the future education of Gaza's children and young people" - Blinne Ni Ghalaigh (11 January 2024)



UN Special Rapporteur on the right to housing

@adequatehousing

...

In Gaza, a new international crime - educaricide or the killing of learning - needs to be added to be list of crimes under international law when schools and universities are systematically destroyed, resulting in generational damage to societies.



Greg @GregGrandin · Jan 18

IDF blowing up Palestine University



3:39 AM · Jan 18, 2024 from Derwood, MD · 431.1K Views

185

2.2K

3.6K

182



Israel's Attacks on Palestinian Educational System

- Academic institutions, scholars and students in the occupied West-Bank and occupied East Jerusalem are regularly [arrested, detained without charge, or harassed](#) by Israeli forces.
- Birzeit University has been [raided over 20 times](#) in the past 28 years, and was most recently [targeted on 8 November 2023](#).
- On 15 January 2024, [Israeli forces raided An-Najah University](#) in Nablus, assaulted staff and arrested 25 students who were staging a peaceful sit-in.
- Palestinian students at Israeli universities face a [hostile environment](#), with an [institutional push for suspension and expulsion](#), and [academic institutions are actively collaborating with Israeli police](#) to target their Palestinian students.
- Since October 8, at least [74 students from 25 different Israeli institutions have been suspended](#) for their social media posts.

ISRAEL'S #GAZAGENOCIDE TARGETS PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITIES

THE TIME FOR ACADEMICS TO ACT IS NOW.
IF NOT NOW, WHEN?



Islamic University of Gaza



Al-Azhar University

PACBI - Palestinian Academic and Cultural Boycott Campaign

- PACBI (2004) - Palestinian call to comprehensively and consistently boycott all Israeli academic and cultural institutions as a contribution to the Palestinian struggle to end Israel's occupation, colonization and system of apartheid.
- BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) call (2005)



Palestinian Campaign
for the Academic & Cultural
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What is BDS

The BDS call was launched in 2005 by the broadest coalition in Palestinian society representing the 3 major components of the Palestinian people: the refugees in exile, Palestinians under occupation in the West Bank including East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip and the discriminated Palestinian citizens of the Israel state - 170+ Palestinian organisations, trade unions, farmers committees, etc.

BDS is an inclusive, anti-racist human rights movement that is opposed on principle to all forms of discrimination, including anti-semitism and Islamophobia. BDS does not target individuals but institutions. It does not target identities but complicity.

The BDS movement is supported by unions, churches, NGOs and movements representing millions across every continent and there are vibrant BDS campaigns in communities across the world.

The Palestinian BDS call urges nonviolent pressure on Israel until it complies with international law by meeting three demands:

- a. Ending its 1967 occupation and Israel's illegal apartheid wall.
- b. upholding the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their lands, homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.
- c. ending its institutionalized and legalized system of racial domination, which meets the UN definition of apartheid, as claimed for decades by the Palestinian civil society and recently acknowledged by Human Rights Watch, Israel's leading human rights organization B'Tselem, and Amnesty International.



It calls for boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) as a form of non-violent pressure on Israeli apartheid.

- **BOYCOTTS** involve withdrawing support from Israel's apartheid regime, complicit Israeli sporting, cultural and academic institutions, and from all Israeli and international companies engaged in violations of Palestinian human rights.
- **DIVESTMENT** campaigns urge banks, local councils, churches, pension funds and universities to withdraw investments from the State of Israel and all Israeli and international companies that sustain Israeli apartheid.
- **SANCTIONS** campaigns pressure governments to fulfil their legal obligations to end Israeli apartheid, and not aid or assist its maintenance, by banning business with illegal Israeli settlements, ending military trade and free-trade agreements, as well as suspending Israel's membership in international forums such as UN bodies.

Israeli universities as pillars of Israel's system of oppression against Palestinians

- Israeli universities have long enjoyed a reputation as liberal bastions of freedom and democracy.
- Israeli universities serve as pillars of Israel's system of oppression against Palestinians.
- Academic disciplines, degree programs, campus infrastructure, and research laboratories all service Israeli occupation and apartheid, while universities violate the rights of Palestinians to education, stifle critical scholarship, and violently repress student dissent.
- Universities constitute an [organic part of Israel's military establishment](#) and its role in denying Palestinian rights.



Israeli universities participate in colonization of Palestinians lands and forced displacement of Palestinians communities

- Tel Aviv university is [built](#) on top of the depopulated Palestinian village of Sheik Muwannis. The university suppresses commemoration of the Nakba
- Hebrew university is situated in occupied East Jerusalem on confiscated land. Some of the university's student accommodation is located in an illegal Israeli settlement.
- Ariel university is located in Ariel, an illegal settlement in the occupied West Bank.



Israeli universities participate in colonization of Palestinian lands and forced displacement of Palestinian communities

ACADEMIA SERVING APARTHEID

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY
Built on top of the depopulated Palestinian village of Sheikh Muwannis; suppresses commemoration of the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in 1948

HEBREW UNIVERSITY
Situated in occupied East Jerusalem on confiscated land; collaborates with Israeli police in the surveillance and harassment of the Palestinian neighborhood of Isawiyah

ARIEL UNIVERSITY
Located in Ariel, an illegal Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank

VISUALIZING PALESTINE SOURCES bit.ly/VP-israeliuniv [WWW.VISUALIZINGPALESTINE.ORG](https://www.visualizingpalestine.org) [@visualizingpal](https://twitter.com/visualizingpal) [/visualizing_palestine](https://www.facebook.com/visualizingpalestine) [fb.me/visualizingpalestine](https://www.instagram.com/visualizingpalestine) MAY 2022

Israeli universities are part of Israeli militarism

- [Technion](#) develops military [drone technologies](#) and [remote-controlled weaponized bulldozers](#) used to demolish Palestinian homes. It also hosts a venture fund in partnership with the Israeli secret services (Shin Bet) to incubate start-up companies that specialise in surveillance technologies and artificial intelligence.
- Tel Aviv University was responsible for developing the "[Dayhiya doctrine](#)", which calls for disproportionate force against civilian infrastructure and intense suffering among the civilian population to "impose an expensive reconstruction processes".
- Graduates of the Hebrew University's [Talpiot military program](#), sponsored by the [Israeli Air Force](#) and [army](#), pursue higher education while serving in the army, utilizing their expertise to further military research and development.

Israeli universities develop the infrastructure of oppression

- Israeli universities make up a key part of the ideological infrastructure of the Israeli colonial regime and produce knowledge that contributes to the subjugation of the Palestinian people.
- In partnership with Elbit, a leading Israeli weapons manufacturer, [Technion](#) has played a leading role in the construction and surveillance of Israel's wall, declared illegal by the [International Court of Justice](#) in 2004.
- Israeli universities often directly participate in Israel's colonisation of Palestinian land. Hebrew University, for instance, has participated in the [confiscation](#) of Palestinian land in occupied East Jerusalem and [collaborates](#) with Israeli police in the surveillance and harassment of the Palestinian neighborhood of Isawiyah.

Israeli universities rooted into the apartheid system and open support to Israel's crimes

- The [Association for Civil Rights in Israel](#) has condemned Israeli universities' disciplinary measures against Palestinian students protesting on social media their universities' [unabashed support](#) for Israel's 2014 Gaza massacre.
- A [Human Rights Watch](#) study documents institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians in Israeli universities and segregated school system.
- Haifa University [revoked](#) the degree of an MA student who researched the 1948 massacre of Palestinian in Tanturan emblematic of wider repression of critical research and expression at Israeli universities. Haifa university also hosts the [Ambassadors Online Program](#) that trains students to become "digital advocates for Israel".
- A top Israeli education official once [called](#) Bedouin Palestinian citizens of Israel "blood-thirsty Bedouins who commit polygamy, have 30 children and continue to expand their illegal settlements, taking over state land."
- [Racial incitement](#) against Palestinians has become mainstream in Israeli universities. Extremist anti-Arab and Islamophobic speech by Israeli academics, like one who advocates for deterring Palestinian militants by [raping their sisters and mothers](#), almost never triggers disciplinary measures.

Israeli universities directly support or justify oppression

- Israel's relentless and deliberate attack on Palestinian education, which some have recently termed [scholasticide](#), goes back to the 1948 Nakba, when [Israel plundered and/or destroyed tens of thousands of Palestinian books](#).
- During the first Palestinian Intifada (1987-1993), Israel shut down all Palestinian universities, [some](#) for several years, [all 1,194 Palestinian schools](#) and eventually kindergartens, prompting Palestinians to build an "illegal network" of underground schools.
- As early as 2001, HRW [concluded](#) *"discrimination at every level of the Israeli education system wins out a progressively larger proportion of Palestinian children as they progress in the school system, or channels those who persevered away from the opportunity of higher education. The herd of Palestinian Arab students from kindergarten to university functioned like a series of seeds with sequentially thinner holes"*.
- Palestinian scholars and students are [methodically denied their basic rights](#), including academic freedom, and are often subjected to imprisonment, denial of freedom of movement, even [violent attacks](#).
- In its assault on Gaza in 2014, [Israel targeted at least 153 schools](#), including 90 run by the UN, and the largest university, according to UNICEF.

Israeli universities are now supporting genocide

Tel Aviv University has:

- instituted a hasbara [course](#) on Israel's #GazaGenocide;
- bragged about having helped "[make](#)" Israel's propaganda-ridden case before the International Court of Justice;
- [crowdfunded](#) for "care" packages for soldiers committing genocide in Gaza.

Hebrew University boasts of [providing](#) "*diverse logistics equipment to several military units.*"

As most Israeli universities, Hebrew University also immediately instituted an "[Enhanced Financial Package](#)" for student soldiers committing Israel's genocide in Gaza, in addition to academic benefits.

Technion boasts of a student who enlisted professors and alumni to create an AI-driven "[army of robots](#) to massively increase the impact of pro-Israel efforts on social media," pushing Israeli propaganda whitewashing its genocide and repressing speech on Palestinian rights.

The Academic Boycott of Israel

The academic boycott is now supported by [academic associations](#) across the world, including the American Studies Association, National Women's Studies Association, African Literature Association, among others. The [Teachers Union of Ireland](#), Federation of Francophone Students in Belgium ([FEF](#)), the National Union of Students ([NUS](#)) in the UK, Qatar University Student Representative Board ([QUSR](#)), the graduate student workers unions at [New York University](#) and University of Massachusetts [Amherst](#), among others, have endorsed the academic boycott of Israel.

Thousands of academics in [South Africa](#), [US](#), [UK](#), [India](#), [Sweden](#), [Ireland](#), [Brazil](#), [Belgium](#), [Italy](#) and elsewhere have signed statements in support of the institutional academic boycott of Israel.



Students and faculty at the University of Michigan protest against the Apartheid regime in South Africa (1970's)

The Academic Boycott of Israel

- The leading international law scholar on the crime of genocide, William Schabas, has [stated in a legal opinion](#) that there were a serious risk that Israel is committing the crime of genocide in Gaza. Prominent genocide and Holocaust studies scholar [Omer Bartov](#) as well as over [880 international scholars](#) have also warned of an unfolding genocide. Prominent Israeli genocide scholar [Raz Segal](#) have called it a "text-book case of genocide."
- 1000+ scholars of int'l law, genocide studies, and international studies [declared](#) support to South Africa's application to the ICJ to stop Israel's genocide "*as a step towards a necessary ceasefire in Gaza and Justice in Palestine*".
- 400 philosophers have [signed](#) the Philosophy for Palestine statement urging support for the boycott of complicit Israeli universities. "*We urge all to speak out openly & fearlessly, and work to advance the cause of Palestinian liberation & justice for all*".
- 2,700 Italian academics [call](#) for ceasefire and for Italian Conference of University Rectors to support "*immediate interruption of collaborations with Israeli university & research institutions until respect for int'l & humanitarian law is restored.*"
- In Ireland, 600 academics [urge](#) Irish universities to cut ties with Israeli academic institutions over their complicity in Israel's crimes against Palestinians. "*Anything less at this point amounts to tacit support for crimes against humanity.*"
- 300+ scholars at Nordic universities [call](#) for ceasefire & urge academic institutions to boycott complicit Israeli universities "*until Israel ends their war on Gaza and puts an end to their occupation & apartheid rule*" over Palestinians.
- The 9th Conference of Critical Geography held at the National Autonomous University of Mexico [expresses](#) support for Palestinian rights, calls for an end to the unfolding genocide in Gaza, and for transnational solidarity, liberation and return.
- Dutch scholars for Palestine [denounce](#) genocide and defend education knowledge in Palestine, calling to action to the executive boards of high educational institutions in the Netherlands.

Academic Boycott of Israel

- University of Antwerp Law Faculty Council has [decided](#) to halt a cooperation agreement with Bar-Ilan University over Israel's violations of international law in Gaza and Bar-Ilan University's unwavering support for Israel's military assault (January 2024).
- The Federal University of Ceará (UFC) in Brazil [canceled](#) the "Innovation Challenge Brazil - Israel" over Israel's military assault in Gaza (January 2024).
- The AkademikerPension in Denmark [divested](#) from Israeli banks (January 2024).
- Modern Language Assoc Delegate Assembly [passed](#) a motion defending scholars & students facing "*threats, harassment and violence*" for condemning Israel's "*massive bombardment*" of Gaza (January 2024).
- Humanities & Social Sciences Faculty of Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia San Juan Bosco [voted](#) a motion urging for a ceasefire and supporting the Birzeit University call to shun complicit Israeli academic institutions (November 2023).
- Psychology Dept Faculty Council at the University of the Republic in Uruguay [calls](#) for a ceasefire, stop the unfolding genocide, and an end to Israel's regime of military occupation and apartheid oppressing millions of Palestinians (October 2023).
- The American Anthropological Association membership [voted](#) to endorse a resolution to boycott Israeli academic institutions. (July 2023)

Academic Boycott of Israel

- Often supported by academics and scholars, lots of students, student unions and governments across the world have been organizing demonstrations, peaceful disruptive actions such as sit-ins, inside their universities demanding divestment from Israel's crimes or academic boycott.
- Witnessing a genocide that is enabled by their complicit government, corporates or institutions in their lifetime is horrific and they want to act to stop it.
- For years, BDS campaigns have been a way for student solidarity organizations to build huge support for the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality among an entire generation of young people.



Action from students "Utrecht in Solidarity with Palestine"



Student groups from the University of Harvard, 2023

Israeli Apartheid Week 2024

The IAW is a tool for mobilizing grassroots support on the global level for the Palestinian liberation struggle against Israel's decades-old regime of settler-colonialism and apartheid. It is a grassroots solidarity mechanism to raise awareness about Israeli apartheid and to mobilize support for strategic BDS campaigns to end international complicity in this system of oppression as a meaningful contribution to dismantling it.

IAW provides an opportunity to network and strengthen the links between the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality and other struggles against all forms of racism, oppression, discrimination and climate devastation.



**ISRAELI
APARTHEID
WEEK
MARCH 1ST - 31ST**

**MARCH FOR PALESTINE: STOP GENOCIDE;
DISMANTLE APARTHEID!**



**END DUTCH
UNIVERSITIES'
COMPLICITY IN
ISRAELI
APARTHEID.**

#ACADEMICBOYCOTT

Conclusion

The Israeli genocide scholar Raz Segal [wrote](#) in a recent OpEd *“With the ICJ ruling that Israel’s attack on Gaza is plausibly genocidal, every university, company and state around the world will now need to consider very carefully its engagement with Israel and its institutions. Such ties may now constitute complicity with genocide”*.

Palestinian know too well that international law is not alone to bring Justice and Liberation. Human agency does. That’s why the BDS movement calls for intensifying grassroots and civil society pressure to hold states, corporations and institutions (including universities) accountable for complicity in Israel’s 75-year-old system of [settler-colonialism, apartheid military occupation](#), its brutality and genocide.

If Not Now, When?

