

- University of Haifa** » Hosts the three military colleges comprising the 'Israeli Military Academic Complex' which according to the university itself "form the backbone of the IDF's elite training programs"
 » Holds courses at an Israeli military base considered an extension of the university
- Tel Aviv University** » Home to Institute for National Security Studies, which developed the so-called "Dahiya Doctrine," involving the disproportionate use of force and the systematic targeting of civilian infrastructure.
 » Collaborates closely with Israel's largest arms manufacturer, Elbit Systems
 » Runs a joint research center with the Israeli Air Forces aimed at developing "operational concepts, combat doctrines, and power- building processes."
 » The academic reserve program in the law department trains lawyers for the Military Advocate General, which engages in whitewashing Israel's war crimes and provides legal justification for the targeting of civilians.
- Open University of Israel** » Has been running a joint academic elite program with the Israeli military since 1999, where elite combat soldiers pursue an academic degree while on active duty.
 » The only Israeli university where soldiers on active duty in the IDF are authorized to study while serving.
- Technion** » Collaborates closely with some of Israel's largest weapons manufacturers including Elbit Systems.
 » Runs a course 'Defense Strategy for International Markets' as of 2017, which trains students in promotion of the international trade of Israeli arms.
 » Developed remote control systems for remote-controlled, weaponized Caterpillar bulldozers prominently used by the IDF to demolish Palestinian homes.
- Hebrew University Jerusalem** » Mount Scopus campus is partly built on illegally occupied land in East Jerusalem.
 » Host the IDF's Havatzalot academic elite program which is designed to train future intelligence officers.
 » Hosts the highly secretive Talpiot military program, combining military training with studies in math, physics and computer science.
 » Has publicly promoted its provision of 'diverse logistics equipment to several military units' since the invasion of Gaza began.
- Bar Ilan University** » Runs 'hackathons' in collaboration with both Elbit Systems and the IDF.
 » Has participated in joint research with the army, specifically in developing artificial intelligence for unmanned combat vehicles.
 » Collaborates closely with the Shin Bet, Israel's notorious security services, which has been condemned by the UN Committee Against Torture for its use of torture and other illegal violent interrogation tactics.
- Ariel University** » Entirely built in the illegal settlement of Ariel in the Occupied West Bank. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 reconfirmed in 2016 that Israel's settlement activity "has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law."
- Ben Gurion University** » Home to the Homeland Security institute which has partnerships with both the Ministry of Defence and top Israeli weapons companies, such as Elbit Systems.
 » The Israeli military is building a technology campus next to the BGU campus aimed at furthering the ties between the military and BGU and according to a defence ministry official to "reinforce the army's operational capabilities."
- Weizmann Institute of Science** » Offers a Gap Year programme for high school seniors, to prepare them for "meaningful military service"

Why we need an academic boycott of complicit Israeli universities



FACT SHEET
Academics for Palestine

Why we need an academic boycott of complicit Israeli universities

For decades, Israeli universities have played a key role in planning, implementing and justifying Israel's occupation and apartheid policies, while maintaining a uniquely close relationship with the Israeli military. Not only are Israeli universities profoundly complicit in developing weapon systems and military doctrines deployed in Israel's recent war crimes in Gaza, they also provide legal and moral justification for the ongoing colonization of Palestinian land, extra-judicial killings and indiscriminate attacks against civilians. Some Israeli universities, such as Ariel and Hebrew University, are built fully or partially as colonies in the occupied Palestinian territory in contravention of international law. Since the beginning of what is currently being investigated as genocide, universities across Israel have not only expressed unwavering support for the Israeli military, but also provided financial compensation and other benefits for so-called "warrior students" serving in the army.

SOURCES



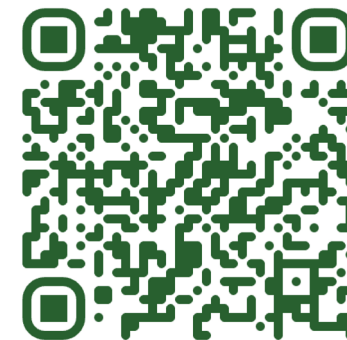
What can you do?

Sign the national petition for an academic boycott of universities that are complicit in Israel's regime of occupation and apartheid!

Spread awareness about the academic boycott! You can download flyers, posters, fact sheets on our website.

Contact your head of department, dean or rektor, and raise your concerns. You can find email templates on our website.

Talk to your colleagues and identify allies locally! It's always easier to take action if you can do it with people you trust.



Israeli universities and research institutes are complicit in Israel's ongoing occupation, apartheid and genocide of Palestinians. Look at the back of this booklet to learn more.

Complicit Israeli universities >>

Do academic boycotts it even work?

Already in 2015, the Israeli president at the time, Reuven Rivlin, described the academic boycott of Israel as a “strategic threat of the first order.” Since then, the movement has only accelerated. In response to the past few months of student-led and faculty-supported mobilizations, universities across the world have already taken measures to suspend collaborations with complicit Israeli institutions, including universities in South Africa, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Finland, Mexico, and Norway. According to the BDS-movement, the academic boycott campaign has never witnessed “so many gains in such a short period of time”. In April, Israeli Ministry of Intelligence compiled a report warning that the wave of boycotts “pose risks to Israel’s scientific-technological position in the world, and in the long run could lead to damage to national security and the strength of Israel’s economy”. The wave of boycott also jeopardizes Israel’s place in the Horizon Europe funding scheme. Along with targeted economic and cultural boycotts, the academic boycott contributes to effectively challenging international support for Israeli apartheid and settler-colonialism.



Isn't the call for boycott an attack on academic freedom?

The academic boycott is a boycott of Israeli institutions not individuals. Therefore it does not conflict with academic freedom. In line with the global BDS movement we oppose all forms of discrimination, including Islamophobia, anti-semitism and discrimination on the basis of nationality. The BDS movement rejects boycotting individuals on the basis of their identity and does not call for a boycott of individual Israeli academics simply because of their affiliation to a complicit university. The boycott in other words does not prevent Israeli scholars from engaging with international scholars and international institutions. Only if an exchange is part of an institutional relationship with a complicit Israeli institution or if an individual is representing the state of Israel or a complicit Israeli institution (such as a dean, rector, or president), or if the person is commissioned/recruited to participate in Israel’s efforts to “rebrand” itself, are their activities subject to the institutional boycott the BDS movement is calling for.



Shouldn't we support critical thinking at the universities instead of boycotting them?

Israeli scholars, have played an indispensable role in exposing Israel's system of colonialism and apartheid, whether through their academic work or public advocacy. However, as institutions, Israeli universities do not have much space for critique. On the contrary, censorship and restriction of academic freedom in Israeli universities have been well documented by Palestinian as well as Israeli scholars. Discussion of fundamental subjects such as the Nakba, the right of Palestinian refugees to return, Zionism, the complicity of Israeli academic institutions in settler-colonial and apartheid projects, etc. are often off-limits on campus, and critical scholars often face harassment, threats and even suspension. As a result, many of the most prominent critical Israeli scholars have left Israel. Over the past nine months alone, Scholars at Risk has documented the dismissal and suspension of at least three scholars for criticizing the Israeli military's brutal assault on civilians in Gaza. Meanwhile, the Knesset is currently debating a bill, that will force universities to fire faculty who "negate Israel's character as a Jewish and democratic state or support terror activities." Needless to say, Palestinian students are not only regularly and disproportionately targeted with disciplinary measures by the university administrations, but also face threats and harassment from fellow students. In other words, the idea that Israeli universities are bastions of liberal thinking and academic freedom is simply a myth.



Who is behind this?

The call for academic boycott is just one pillar of the global Boycott, Divest, Sanctions movement (BDS). The BDS movement was launched in 2005 by 170 Palestinian civil society organizations, including the General Union of Palestinian Teachers and the Federation of Unions of Palestinian Universities' Professors and Employees. Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, the Palestinian BDS call urges nonviolent pressure on Israel until it complies with international law by ending the illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, recognizing the rights of Palestinians citizens of Israel and respecting the right of displaced Palestinians to return. In South Africa academic boycott was also a central component of movement, but while the South African academic boycott targeted both institutions and individuals, the current campaign against Israeli universities only targets institutions.

