

COMPLICITY OF HU BERLIN



A BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS (BDS) REPORT FOR HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY BERLIN

Academic complicity in Israeli occupation,
Apartheid and Genocide

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List of abbreviations frequently used in the report

BDS	Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions
BGU	Ben Gurion University
BIU	Bar-Ilan University
HU	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
HUJI	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
IDF	Israel Defense Forces
oPt	Occupied Palestinian territory
PACBI	Palestinian campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel
TAU	Tel Aviv University
UN	United Nations

1. Introduction

1.1 Genocide and International Consensus

*"The Commission concludes on reasonable grounds that the Israeli authorities and Israeli security forces have committed and are continuing to commit the following actus reus of genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza, namely (i) killing members of the group; (ii) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (iii) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and (iv) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group."*¹

This is the conclusion reached by the United Nations' Independent International Commission of Inquiry, published on September 16, 2025. The report aligns with numerous expert and institutional findings that have determined Israel to be guilty of genocide against the Palestinians, including: Amnesty International², Genocide Watch³, Human Rights Watch⁴, the International Association of Genocide Scholars⁵, B'Tselem⁶, Human Rights⁷, and the Centre for Constitutional Rights⁸, among others.

As of June 10, 2026, Israel murdered more than 72,991 Palestinians in Gaza, with a further 173,212 wounded.⁹ According to the UN, 1.9 million people have been displaced, representing over 90% of the regional population,¹⁰ and 92% of all residential buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed.¹¹ This has also been made possible by German military aid, which comprises 30% of all military supplies to Israel - the second largest arms partnership after the US.¹² During its genocide, Israel has consistently targeted journalists¹³ and healthcare services, healthcare personnel and health infrastructure, with at least 1,581 healthcare workers killed.¹⁴ Israel also inflicts serious harm on Palestinians under arrest through maltreatment, torture, and sexual violence.¹⁵ Over 18,500 Palestinians were detained by Israeli forces in Gaza and the West Bank since October 2023.¹⁶ A UN report states that detainees from Gaza were "stripped, transported naked, blindfolded, kicked, beaten, sexually assaulted and subjected to death threats."¹⁷

In Gaza, Israel continues to attack Palestinians after the most recent ceasefire, causing a further 983 deaths.¹⁸ In Lebanon, Israel has violated the ceasefire 2,740 times.¹⁹ As of now, Israel continues its invasion and attacks in Lebanon, killing more than 3,900 and injuring another 11,600.²⁰ The genocide reflects Israel's larger history of apartheid and settler colonialism. Israel was founded through the mass displacement and ethnic cleansing of the indigenous Palestinian population, wherein 700,000 Palestinians were forced off their land in a process known as the *Nakba* (Arabic for *catastrophe*).²¹ To this day, Israel continues to violently expand settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which is a violation of International Law. Palestinians do not hold the same rights as Jewish Israelis both legally and in practice.²² This is why leading international²³ and Israeli²⁴ human rights organisations recognise Israel as an apartheid regime.

¹ Human Rights Council. Legal Analysis of the Conduct of Israel in Gaza Pursuant to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. A/HRC/60/CRP.3. United Nations, 2025. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session60/advance-version/a-hrc-60-crp-3.pdf>, p. 71.

² Amnesty International. "Amnesty International Investigation Concludes Israel Is Committing Genocide against Palestinians in Gaza." May 12, 2024. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/12/amnesty-international-concludes-israel-is-committing-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza/>.

³ Condon, Grace, Frankie Condon, Grace Harris, and Gregory Stanton. "Genocide Emergency: Gaza and the West Bank 2024." Genocide Watch, December 30, 2024. <https://www.genocidewatch.com/single-post/genocide-emergency-gaza-and-the-west-bank-2024>.

⁴ Human Rights Watch. "Israel's Crime of Extermination, Acts of Genocide in Gaza." December 19, 2024. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/12/19/israels-crime-extermiation-acts-genocide-gaza>.

⁵ International Association of Genocide Scholars. "IAGS Resolution on the Situation in Gaza." August 31, 2025. <https://genocidescholars.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/IAGS-Resolution-on-Gaza-FINAL.pdf>

⁶ B'Tselem. "Our Genocide." May 2025. https://www.btsalem.org/publications/202507_our_genocide.

⁷ European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights. "Gaza and the Matter of Genocide." October 12, 2024. <https://www.ecchre.eu/en/press-release/gaza-and-the-matter-of-genocide/>.

⁸ Center for Constitutional Rights. "New Filings in Gaza Genocide Lawsuit: Palestinians Refute Biden Admin Arguments That Court Cannot Review Its Role in Furthering Israel's Genocide." December 23, 2023. <https://ccrjustice.org/home/press-center/press-releases/new-filings-gaza-genocide-lawsuit-palestinians-refute-biden-admin>.

⁹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. "Reported Impact Snapshot | Gaza Strip (10 June 2026)." December 6, 2026. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-10-june-2026>.

¹⁰ The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. "UNRWA Situation Report #177 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, Including East Jerusalem." June 27, 2025. <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-177-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>.

¹¹ United Nations. "Gaza: Destruction of Vital Lifting Gear Halts Search for Thousands Buried under Rubble." May 22, 2025. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/04/1162491>.

¹² Schneider, Tal. "Amid Arms Embargo Calls, Data Shows 99% of Israeli Weapon Imports Are from US, Germany." Times of Israel, March 24, 2024. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-arms-embargo-calls-data-shows-99-of-israeli-weapon-imports-are-from-us-germany/>.

¹³ Committee to Protect Journalists. "Record 129 Press Members Killed in 2025; Israel Responsible for 2/3 of Deaths." February 25, 2026. <https://cpj.org/special-reports/record-129-press-members-killed-in-2025-israel-responsible-for-2-of-3-of-deaths/>.

¹⁴ United Nations. "Killing of Medical Professionals in Gaza – UN Human Rights in Occupied Palestinian Territory." July 16, 2025. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/ohchr-press-release-16jul25/>.

¹⁵ United Nations Human Rights Council. "More than a Human Can Bear: Israel's Systematic Use of Sexual, Reproductive and Other Forms of Gender-Based Violence since 7 October 2023." March 13, 2025. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session58/a-hrc-58-crp-6.pdf>.

¹⁶ Middle East Eye. "Over 18,500 Palestinians Detained by Israel in West Bank since October 2023." March 8, 2025. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/live-blog/live-blog-update/over-18500-palestinians-detained-israel-west-bank-october-2023>.

¹⁷ Human Rights Council. Legal Analysis of the Conduct of Israel in Gaza Pursuant to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. A/HRC/60/CRP.3. United Nations, 2025. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session60/advance-version/a-hrc-60-crp-3.pdf>, p. 20.

¹⁸ Al Jazeera. "Israeli Attacks Kill Three in Gaza as Post-'Ceasefire' Deaths Hit 983." <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/6/13/gaza-post-ceasefire-deaths-hit-983-as-israeli-attack-targets-refugee-camp>.

¹⁹ The Cradle. "Nearly 200 Killed in 2,740 Israeli Violations of Ceasefire with Lebanon." May 17, 2025. <https://thecradle.co/articles/nearly-200-killed-in-2740-israeli-violations-of-ceasefire-with-lebanon>.

²⁰ Rawnsley, Jessica, and Hugo Bachega. "Lebanon Says Israeli Strikes Kill 47 as Israel Says Four Soldiers Killed by Hezbollah." BBC. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c23ymz1n9rmo>.

On July 19, 2024, in its advisory opinion on the „Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,” the International Court of Justice (ICJ) determined that Israel, through its policies in the West Bank, violates Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).²⁵

1.2 Israeli Academia Complicity

Israel's systematic attacks on educational institutions in Gaza have led to the destruction of all universities in the region and caused the deaths of thousands of students, teachers and university professors. In the face of “scholasticide”²⁶ Israeli universities do not just stay silent, they are complicit in Israel's crimes.

As will be demonstrated in the following report, six out of the eight Israeli universities analysed have partnerships with Israeli arms manufacturers.²⁷ These partnerships play an important role in supplying the industry with increasingly sophisticated tools of repression and control, which are used and tested on the Palestinian population, and marketed worldwide. Hebrew University and Tel-Aviv University also offer specific programmes for Israeli soldiers, actively supporting their military service by offering them benefits such as student housing and financial aid.

The universities also actively support the illegal settlement movement by providing ideological justification, research on infrastructure and material support. Two of the universities analysed — the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Haifa — have campuses or facilities located on occupied Palestinian territories (oPt).²⁸

1.3 Boycott, Divestment, Sanction

In response to all these conditions, the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) was founded in 2004. Shortly after, Palestinian civil society organisations joined forces and adopted this demand as part of a broader Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement to ensure Israel's compliance with international law and universal principles of human rights. Specifically, it calls for Israel to enact three measures:

- 1. Ending its occupation and colonisation of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall**
- 2. Recognising the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and**
- 3. Respecting, protecting, and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.**²⁹

²¹ Amnesty International. “Marking the 77th Anniversary of Nakba.” May 15, 2025. <https://www.amnesty.org.au/nakba-day-77th-anniversary-we-must-listen-to-palestinian-voices-and-take-action/>.

²² B'Tselem. “A Regime of Jewish Supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This Is Apartheid.” December 1, 2021. https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid.

²³ Amnesty International. “Marking the 77th Anniversary of Nakba.” May 15, 2025. <https://www.amnesty.org.au/nakba-day-77th-anniversary-we-must-listen-to-palestinian-voices-and-take-action/>.

²⁴ B'Tselem. “A Regime of Jewish Supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This Is Apartheid.” December 1, 2021. https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid.

²⁵ International Court of Justice, Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders – Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, Advisory Opinion of July 19, 2024, https://www.icj.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-jud-01-00-en.pdf?__cf_chl_f_tk=3lppOAHf50gUPsAAIUzzf6kl0kY7w1zzunDpB3BnE-1783163875-1.0.1.1-a5KhfX4TJmtpOsBDfWfEITjVvesrOK3HuGZh4Fo1Xw

²⁶ ‘UN Experts Deeply Concerned over “Scholasticide” in Gaza’, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, 18 May 2024, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/un-experts-deeply-concerned-over-scholasticide-gaza>.

²⁷ ‘Beyond Dual Use: Israeli Universities’ Role in the Military-Security-Industrial Complex’, European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine, 24 May 2018, <https://www.eccpalestine.org/beyond-dual-use-israeli-universities-role-in-the-military-security-industrial-complex/>.

²⁸ Newsroom, ‘Study Links Israeli Universities to Settlement Expansion, Military Support’, Türkiye Today, 24 November 2025, <https://www.turkiyetoday.com/region/study-links-israeli-universities-to-settlement-expansion-military-support-3210310?s=1>.

²⁹ ‘BDS Call’, BDS Freedom Justice Equality, accessed 24 June 2026, <https://bdsmovement.net/bds-call>. United Nations, United Nations

³⁰ Charter (full text) (United Nations, o. J.), <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>.

These three measures explicitly invoke international law, namely the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, as stipulated in Article 1(2) and Article 55 of the UN Charter³⁰, Article 1 of the International Covenants on Human Rights³¹, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)³² and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)³³, as well as Article 3 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).³⁴ Furthermore, Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits the occupying power from transferring its own population into the occupied territories³⁵, constituting war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.³⁶

The State of Israel's violations of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and of Article 49 GCIV have been steadily emphasised by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) 2004 Advisory Opinion on the 'Legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory'³⁷, numerous UN Security Council Resolutions³⁸, the Statement by the International Committee of the Red Cross³⁹, the statements by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967⁴⁰ and the UN General Assembly Resolution 3236.⁴¹

In regard to the occupation specifically, an Advisory Opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2024 concluded that Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful and that it would need to bring its presence in these territories to an end as rapidly as possible.⁴² The court further called on states "not to recognise as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence" and to "not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by the continued presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory".⁴³

The aim is to uphold institutional boycotts until the institution recognises these three fundamental rights of the Palestinian people and terminates all forms of complicity, including discriminatory policies and any aid to violations of international law. PACBI and BDS are designed in accordance with principles of academic freedom. PACBI guidelines adhere to anti-racist principles, and disallow boycotts of individual scholars, unless they serve a representative function in a complicit institution (such as the president of a university), or advocate for views incompatible with Palestinians' fundamental rights.

³¹ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (o. J.), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/ccpr.pdf>.

³² INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (o. J.), https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1976/03/19760323%2006-17%20AM/Ch_IV_04.pdf.

³³ UN, International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, 1976, https://treaties.un.org/doc/treaties/1976/01/19760103%2009-57%20pm/ch_iv_03.pdf.

³⁴ UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/Declaration_indigenous_en.pdf.

³⁵ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention), 12 August 1949, 75 UNTS 287, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/assets/treaties/380-GC-IV-EN.pdf>.

³⁶ UN HRC, Report of the independent fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf.

³⁷ International Court of Justice (ICJ), Advisory Opinion Concerning Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 9 July 2004, available at <https://www.refworld.org/jurisprudence/caselaw/icj/2004/35595>

³⁸ Among others: SC Res. 271, 15 September 1969; SC Res. 446, 22 March 1979; SC Res. 465, 01 March 1980; SC Res. 469, 20 May 1980; SC Res. 471, 05 June 1980; SC Res. 476, 30 June 1980; SC Res. 478, 20 August 1980; SC Res. 484, 19 December 1980; SC Res. 592, 08 December 1986; SC Res. 605, 22 December 1987; SC Res. 607, 08 January 1988; SC Res. 636 of 06 July 1989; SC Res. 641, 30 August 1989; SC Res. 672, 12 October 1990; SC Res. 681, 20 December 1990; SC Res. 694, 24 May 1991; SC Res. 726, 06 January 1992; SC Res. 799, 18 December 1992; SC Res. 904, 18 March 1994; SC Res. 1322, 07 October

³⁹ Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, Statement by the International Committee of the Red Cross, 05 December 2001, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-213362/>

⁴⁰ UNHRC, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, 13 January 2014, A/HRC/25/67, www.refworld.org/docid/531439c44.html

⁴¹ UNGA, Resolution 3236, Question of Palestine, 22 November 1974, A/RES/3236 undocs.org/A/RES/3236(XXIX)

⁴² Vibhu Mishra, 'Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territory 'unlawful': UN world court', news.un.org, 19. Juli 2024, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152296>.

⁴³ *ibid.*

1.4 Humboldt University's Responsibilities

According to its constitution and mission statement, Humboldt University of Berlin (HU) is committed to

*"the preservation and improvement of human living conditions and the environment through its research and teaching. In this spirit, and conscious of its responsibility towards society and the environment, it examines the prerequisites and possible consequences of the use of its research results, in particular for the preservation of peace, natural resources and the non-discriminatory, sustainable development of all people, [acting] in a value-based and future-orientated manner: we live, promote, protect and defend freedom, truth, equality, diversity as well as pluralism and democracy [...] Against the background of our history, we take particular care to act freely and independently of political and economic influence in our research."*⁴⁴

However, as we will demonstrate in this report, by choosing to remain silent on Israeli higher education institutions' complicity in, and in some cases, direct breaches of international law, HU goes against its own principles.

In fact, HU can be held to the legal standards of international law via German domestic law in Article 25 GG ("Völkerrechtsfreundlichkeit").⁴⁵ HU is obliged, as other public institutions and also private actors, to adhere to peremptory norms (fundamental obligations to the international community). There is also little that impedes HU from cutting ties on a practical level. It swiftly implemented an institutional boycott of Russian academic institutions within weeks after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.⁴⁶

In examining Humboldt University's ties with Israeli institutions, we found various forms of cooperation, such as university partnerships, Erasmus+ contracts and joint research projects, which must all be subject to review. This report aims to establish the complicity of HU's institutional partners in these crimes. Based on the present report's findings, we, as members of HU's community, demand of our institution:

⁴⁴ 'Mission Statement', Humboldt Universität Zu Berlin, <https://www.hu-berlin.de/en/university/mission-statement>.

⁴⁵ Art. 25 GG incorporates the general rules of international law – including peremptory norms (jus cogens) – into German federal law, giving them precedence over statutes and obligating German state bodies to comply with them. https://www.buzer.de/25_GG.htm

⁴⁶ Humboldt-Universität Suspends Collaborations with Russian Partner Institutions, 2 March 2022, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250328152742/https://www.hu-berlin.de/en/press-portal/nachrichten-en/march-2022/nr-2232>.

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- 1.** Boycott of all Israeli academic institutions and the termination of all joint research projects, cooperation agreements and exchange programmes with Israeli universities, in accordance with the guidelines of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI).
 - 2.** Introduction of a civil clause obliging Humboldt University to adhere to its constitutional objectives. This means rejection of any involvement in science and research with military applications or objectives. The civil clause is to be safeguarded by a committee in which students and staff are represented.
 - 3.** Increased student participation in all matters concerning the university.
 - 4.** Establishment of partnerships with Palestinian educational institutions.
 - 5.** Protection of academic freedom and the withdrawal of all repressive measures taken by HU against students in solidarity with Palestine.
 - 6.** Humboldt University must condemn the genocide, apartheid and occupation perpetrated by Israel in breach of international law, as well as acknowledge the complicity of the German state and German academic institutions.

1.5 Summary of Content

The present report firstly provides an overview of existing cooperations (chapter 2). Subsequently, each university to which Humboldt University has active ties will be analysed in regard to the following dimensions of complicity in the crimes of genocide and apartheid as well as the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory: military cooperation, settlement activities, discrimination of Palestinian students and ideological justification of violations of international law and human rights (chapter 3). Chapter 4 focuses on the planned integration of Israel Aerospace Industries into Adlershof's technology park, announced on the 11th of June 2026, which has the potential to affect HU's research and collaboration with the military industry. The report provides evidence of systematic entanglement between Israeli academic institutions in occupation, apartheid, and genocide. This substantiates the call for accountability and action to restore justice, as formulated in the introduction.

2. Institutional Ties between Humboldt University of Berlin and Israeli Universities

*The partnerships documented in this chapter must be understood in the context of a broader pattern across Europe, where dozens of universities have suspended or frozen institutional ties with Israeli academic institutions following documented involvement in violations of international law. These suspensions – including those by Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University of Amsterdam, Ghent University, the University of Barcelona, and Trinity College Dublin – target institutional agreements and joint research projects, while typically allowing individual academic collaborations to continue. The pattern is clear: institutional partnerships cannot continue as if there were no occupation, no apartheid, no genocide.*⁴⁷

2.1 Mobility Programs

Types of Mobility Programs

University Partnerships

University partnerships are direct, bilateral agreements between two universities that are not funded through the Erasmus+ programme.⁴⁸ These partnerships facilitate the mobility of students, usually, for example, through an exemption of tuition fees at the respective partner institution.⁴⁹

Faculty Partnerships

Faculty Partnerships are bilateral agreements between two faculties of two universities.

Erasmus+ Agreements

Erasmus+ is an EU Programme in the fields of education, training and sport currently established for the 2021-2027 period.⁵⁰ It comprises three main actions (1) learning mobility of individuals, (2) cooperation among organisations and institutions, (3) support for policy development and cooperation.⁵¹ Israel is a third country not associated with the Erasmus.⁵²

The Erasmus+ agreements that HU currently has established with the Israeli universities allow for subsidised mobility of Bachelor's students, master's students, doctoral students, staff members.⁵³

Humboldt-International Campus

Humboldt-International Campus is an institution affiliated with Humboldt University of Berlin. It is especially focussed on incoming mobility and aims at encouraging international research cooperation.⁵⁴ The programmes tend to be short-term, accepting students of all levels and fields as well as early-stage researchers.⁵⁵

⁴⁷ Academic Boycott Conference (2026), accessed 4th of July, <https://academicboycott-conference.com/en/academic-boycott/>

⁴⁸ 'Auslandsemester Weltweit', Humboldt-Universität Zu Berlin, accessed 2 July 2026, <https://www.hu-berlin.de/universitaet/international/in-die-welt/programme/auslandsemester-weltweit>

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ 'Part A: General Information about the Erasmus+ Programme', <https://Erasmus-plus.Ec.Europa.Eu>, accessed 2 July 2026, <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-a>.

⁵¹ 'Part B - Information about the Actions Covered by This Guide', <https://Erasmus-plus.Ec.Europa.Eu>, accessed 2 July 2026, <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b>.

⁵² 'Eligible Countries', <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu>, accessed 2 July 2026, <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-a/eligible-countries>. These guidelines restrict the award of grants or prizes to Israeli entities having their place of establishment within Israel's pre-1967 borders. As "place of establishment" is understood "the legal address where the entity is registered". See: Commission Notice Nr.2013/C-205/05, OJEU C-205 of 19/07/2013 9, accessed 2 July 2026, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ.C.2013.205:FULL>.

⁵³ 'Erasmus+ Worldwide', Humboldt-Universität Zu Berlin, accessed 28 March 2026, <https://www.hu-berlin.de/en/university/international/coming-to-hu/programmes/erasmus-worldwide#c15763>.

⁵⁴ 'HIC | Über Uns', Hic.Hu-Berlin.De, accessed 2 July 2026, <https://hic.hu-berlin.de/de/ueber-uns>.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

Mobility Agreements with Israeli Institutions

Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI)

The HU has a bilateral agreement for student mobility with the HUJI, which takes the form of a university partnership. Mobility in this scope is open to students of all levels and fields of study.⁵⁶ As sections of the Hebrew University's campus, including student housing, are built on illegally occupied territory, the explicit reference on the HU website to the possibility for international students to stay in student accommodation during their mobility is of particular concern.⁵⁷

Further, there exists a faculty-level partnership between Faculties of Law of the HU and the HUJI.⁵⁸ A safety notice regarding academic year 2026/2027 gives a clear indication that the mobility cooperation between the two faculties remains active. While this does not appear on the HU's website, the HUJI also lists the Humboldt-University as an Erasmus+ Partner in the field of humanities.⁵⁹ Lastly, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is also part of the Humboldt-International Campus.⁶⁰

Tel-Aviv University (TAU)

Similar to the HUJI, Tel-Aviv University is also listed as a partner university of the HU with mobility programmes of study.⁶¹ Further, HU students, PhD candidates and staff may also stay at TAU as part of the Erasmus+. ^{62 63}

Bar Ilan University (BIU)

Bar-Ilan University has an Erasmus+ agreement with the HU.⁶⁴ In addition to this, exchange between students and early-stage researchers is encouraged through the university's inclusion to the Humboldt-International Campus.⁶⁵

Weizmann Institute of Science

Similar to Bar-Ilan University, mobility between the HU and the Weizmann Institute of Science is encouraged via an Erasmus+ agreement as well the Institute's inclusion into the Humboldt-International Campus programme.⁶⁶ For PhD students, it may also be facilitated through the iNames-Graduate-School, as further detailed below. ⁶⁷

Kinneret Academic College in the Jordan Valley

Mobility to the Kinneret College is facilitated by an active Erasmus+ agreement as well as its participation in the Humboldt-International Campus. ⁶⁸

⁵⁶ 'Auslandssemester in Asien', Humboldt-Universität Zu Berlin, accessed 2 July 2026, <https://www.hu-berlin.de/universitaet/international/in-die-welt/studierende/regionen/asien>.

⁵⁷ Humboldt-Univ Zu Berl., 'Auslandssemester Weltweit'.

⁵⁸ 'Fakultätskooperationen - Rechtswissenschaften', Rewi.Hu-Berlin.De, accessed 2 July 2026, <https://www.rewi.hu-berlin.de/de/p/exchange/outgoing/stud/faculty-agreements#erasmus--partneruniversit-ten>.

⁵⁹ Hebrew University, HUJI international, 'Exchange Partners', accessed 25 June 2026, <https://international.huji.ac.il/exchange-partners>.

⁶⁰ 'HIC Partner University Discount (Asia)', 6 February 2026, https://www2.hu-berlin.de/aia/hic/resources/hic/partner_universities/hic_partner_universities.pdf.

⁶¹ Humboldt-Univ Zu Berl., 'Auslandssemester in Asien'.

⁶² 'Erasmus+ Worldwide', Humboldt-Universität Zu Berlin, <https://www.hu-berlin.de/en/university/international/going-abroad/erasmus/erasmus-worldwide>.

⁶³ 'HIC Partner University Discount (Asia)'.

⁶⁴ Humboldt-Univ Zu Berl., 'Erasmus+ Worldwide'.

⁶⁵ 'HIC Partner University Discount (Asia)'.

⁶⁶ Humboldt-Univ. Zu Berl., 'Erasmus+ Worldwide'; 'HIC Partner University Discount (Asia)'.

⁶⁷ iNAMES; Mdc-Berlin.De, accessed 2 July 2026, <https://www.mdc-berlin.de/inames>.

⁶⁸ Humboldt-Univ Zu Berl., 'Erasmus+ Worldwide'.

University of Haifa

While not currently listed as a partner university or a university with which an Erasmus + agreement exists on the HU's website, the HU appears as a partner university on the Website of the University of Haifa.⁶⁹ They have also shared an Erasmus+ agreement in the past.⁷⁰ Further, the Institute for Area Studies Asia/ Africa lists University of Haifa as a partner institution on their website.⁷¹

2.2 Joint Research Projects

Ongoing Joint Research Projects

"The role of Myosin VI in regulating degradative organelle positioning and secretion in axons" (June 2026-May 2030)

This project in the field of molecular biology, is, among other partners, undertaken in collaboration with the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology.⁷² As reissued by the Robert-Koch Institute in February 2026, life science research carries with it a risk for dual-use.⁷³

SPECENG: Specification Engineering for temporal logical Specifications (March 2026 – March 2029)

The SPECENG Project is a scientific collaboration between Humboldt University and Tel Aviv University directed by the Humboldt University's Institute for Computer Science. The aim of the project is to establish a systematic methodology for the translation of software requirements throughout software development. The project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).⁷⁴

Towards optimal non-linear fluctuation-response tests of Markovianity (June 2026 – May 2029)

This Project is a scientific collaboration between Humboldt University and Tel Aviv University directed by the Humboldt University's Department of Physics. The aim of the project is to develop methods for studying random and fluctuating systems in physics and biology in order to understand the underlying dynamics that govern their behaviour. The project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).⁷⁵

REGACE: Crop Responsive Greenhouse Agrivoltaics System with CO₂ Enrichment for Higher Yields (February 2023 – January 2026)

The REGACE project aims to deploy and test in-greenhouse agrivoltaic system in six locations in Europe and Israel. The Project is a joint research collaboration of 11 research institutes and commercial organisations including Humboldt University and Tel-Aviv University, coordinated by Al-Zahrawi Society and funded by European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 101096056.⁷⁶

⁶⁹ 'International Partnership Agreements', University of Haifa, accessed 11 June 2026, <https://uhaifa.org/international-partnership-agreements/>.

⁷⁰ 'In Die Welt', Humboldt-Universität Zu Berlin, accessed 11 June 2026, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250701060246/https://www.international.hu-berlin.de/de/in-die-welt/zielgruppen/studierende/regionen/asien>.

⁷¹ 'Informationen Über Auslandsaufenthalte Im Rahmen Des Studiums', Humboldt-Universität Zu Berlin, accessed 11 June 2026, <https://www.iaaw.hu-berlin.de/de/studium/ausland/ausland>.

⁷² RG 5228/2: The Role of Myosin VI in Regulating Degradative Organelle Positioning and Secretion in Axons (SP 04); Humboldt-Universität Zu Berlin, accessed 2 July 2026, <https://www.hu-berlin.de/en/research-teaching/forschungsinformationssystem>.

⁷³ 'Dealing with Dual-Use Risks at the RKI', Rki.De, 23 March 2026, <https://www.rki.de/EN/Topics/Research-and-data/Dual-use/dual-use-node.html>.

Ludovic Righetti and Vincent Boulanin, 'Navigating the Dual-Use Dilemma', IEEE Spectrum, 10 June 2025, <https://spectrum.ieee.org/navigating-the-dual-use-dilemma>.

⁷⁴ „SPECENG: Specification Engineering for Temporal Logical Specifications", Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, <https://www.hu-berlin.de/en/forschungsinformationssystem/projekt-details/speceng-specification-engineering-fuer-temporale-logische-spezifikationen>.

⁷⁵ „Towards optimal nonlinear fluctuation-response tests of Markovianity", Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, <https://www.hu-berlin.de/en/forschungsinformationssystem/projekt-details/optimale-nichtlineare-flukuations-reaktions-tests-der-markov-eigenschaft>.

⁷⁶ Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Research Report Humboldt Universität zu Berlin 2023 - 2024 (o. J.), https://www.hu-berlin.de/fileadmin/Mediathek/Zentrale_Seiten/Forschung___Lehre/Forschung/Dokumente/research-report-hu-2023%E2%80%932024.pdf

See also: „REGACE About Us", REGACE - Using Co₂ for Green Energy, <https://regaceproject.com/about-us/>.

Past Joint Research Projects

Developing an economic simulation-modelling framework as a decision-support tool for policy makers in the water sector (June 2021 - November 2024)

A joint research project with Hebrew University that ran from 2021 to 2024 focused on developing models for Water management policy, using Israel as a case study. It applied two neo-classical economic models to simulate the direct and indirect effects of policies on the water sector.⁷⁷ Israel's national water company and largest water supplier Mekorot, the Israel Water Authority (IWA), the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and the agricultural water users' association Water for Israel were involved as the biggest stakeholders of the Israeli water sector. They weighed in on the formulation of the research questions, the models, the simulation developments and evaluation of the results.⁷⁸

Water apartheid in occupied Palestinian territory is well-documented by international organisations.⁷⁹ In *From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide*, United Nations Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese describes the ongoing breaches of Palestinian human rights in regard to water access:

*"Israel forces Palestinians to purchase water sourced from two major aquifers in their own territory, at inflated prices and with intermittent supply. The Israeli national water company Mekorot has a water monopoly in the occupied Palestinian territory. In Gaza, more than 97 percent of water from a coastal aquifer is contaminated, making residents dependent on Mekorot pipelines for most of their drinking water. For at least the first six months post-October 2023, Mekorot ran its Gaza pipelines at 22 percent capacity, leaving areas such as Gaza City without water 95 percent of the time, actively aiding the transformation of water into a tool of genocide."*⁸⁰

Corporate entities have a responsibility to uphold international law and human rights and can be made liable if they fail to do so. Through this research project, HU has thus had a direct tie to an Israeli company that is breaching international law and might have been involved in the crime of genocide during the time of collaboration. In total, since 2012, HU counts 17 joint research projects with the HUJI.⁸¹

⁷⁷ Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Forschungsinformationssystem, "Entwicklung eines ökonomischen Modellierungsrahmens zur Unterstützung von Entscheidungsträgern im Wassersektor", accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.hu-berlin.de/forschung-lehre/forschungsinformationssystem/projekt-details/entwicklung-eines-oekonomischen-modellierungsrahmens-zur-unterstuetzung-von-entscheidungsstraegern-im-wassersektor>. Technische Informationsbibliothek, "Abstract: EconWatSim - Developing an economic simulation-modelling framework as a decision-support tool for policymakers in the water sector", accessed 25 June 2026, <https://oa.tib.eu/renate/items/5f58048c-3f4c-4e09-ae09-dd096318676c>.

⁷⁸ Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin et al., Sachbericht zum Verwendungsnachweis: Verbundprojekt Developing an economic simulation-modelling framework as a decision-support tool for policymakers in the water sector, (2025), accessed 25 June 2026, <https://oa.tib.eu/renate/items/5f58048c-3f4c-4e09-ae09-dd096318676c>, pp.6–7.

⁷⁹ See: Who Profits Research Centre, *Dried Up: Mekorot's Involvement in the Israeli Occupation*, (2023) accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.whoprofits.org/publications/report/165>.

See also: Amnesty International, *The Occupation of Water*, accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2017/11/the-occupation-of-water/>.

See also: Al-Haq, *Corporate Liability: The Right to Water and the War Crime of Pillage*, (2022), accessed 25 June 2026, https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2022/12/12/al-haq-report-2-1670826325.pdf.

⁸⁰ Francesca Albanese, A/HRC/59/23: *From economy of occupation to economy of genocide – Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967*, accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5923-economy-occupation-economy-genocide-report-special-rapporteur>, p.15.

⁸¹ Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, "Hebrew University of Jerusalem - Humboldt-Universität Zu Berlin", accessed 21 June 2026, <https://www.hu-berlin.de/forschung-lehre/forschungsinformationssystem/kooperationspartner-details/hebrew-university-of-jerusalem>.

2.3 Other Research Collaborations

Hi-Score doctoral Programme

The HI-SCORE doctoral programme is a multilateral consortium with Bar-Ilan University, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, the Weizmann Institute of Science and Ben-Gurion University which includes HU as a full partner.⁸² While the programme focuses on civilian solar energy research, human rights organisations have documented how renewable energy projects in the occupied West Bank and Golan Heights are used to consolidate Israeli control over Palestinian and Syrian land and resources, raising questions about the broader context in which civilian energy research in Israel operates.⁸³ The programme, which ran from 2018 to 2023 with approximately €7 million in funding, involved doctoral candidates spending six months in Israel and six months in Germany, with joint supervision.⁸⁴ Although the initial funding period has concluded, the network remains active.⁸⁵ This multilateral consortium is particularly significant given that several of its partner institutions – including Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University, and the Technion – have been the subject of independent investigations by European universities, which found direct involvement in human rights violations and subsequently suspended institutional collaborations. The Erasmus University Rotterdam decision of June 2025, which froze all collaborations with Bar-Ilan University, provides a critical precedent.

iNames-Graduate-School

The iNames-Graduate-School is a programme for PhD researchers that was established by Humboldt University Berlin in cooperation with the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Charité Berlin and the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine.⁸⁶ In the scope of this programme, participants are mentored by a tandem of mentors from both German and Israeli partner Institutions. Participants are also eligible for international mobility in Israel/ Germany for up to 6 months.⁸⁷ It strongly encourages interdisciplinary research that ranges from the fields of computational science and artificial intelligence to life sciences – sectors of which have a high risk of research being used for military purposes.⁸⁸

Faculty of Physics x Weizmann Institute

On a faculty level, HU's Institute of Physics lists the Weizmann Institute as a collaboration partner in the scope of a funding scheme by what seems to be the Minerva Foundation.⁸⁹ The Minerva Foundation was founded in the 1960s and aims at fostering German-Israeli research collaborations.⁹⁰

⁸² Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin, „HI-SCORE International Research School – Harvesting the Sun efficiently,” accessed June 5, 2026, https://www.helmholtz-berlin.de/forschung/kooperationen/lehre-nachwuchsforderung/graduierenschulen/hi-score/index_en.html.

⁸³ Friends of the Earth Europe, „Occupation through renewables: FoE groups urge governments to cut ties with Israeli energy company,” July 29, 2024, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://friendsoftheearth.eu/news/occupation-through-renewables/>.

⁸⁴ WISTA, „HI-SCORE International Research School Kick-Off Meeting in Berlin,” 26th April 2018. Accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.wista.de/en/news-press/news/hi-score-international-research-school-kick-off-meeting-in-berlin>.

⁸⁵ Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin, „HI-SCORE All-Hands-Meeting 2025,” accessed June 5, 2026, https://www.helmholtz-berlin.de/events/hiscore/index_en.html.

⁸⁶ Mdc-Berlin.de, 'iNAMES'.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Life sciences: Rki.De, 'Dealing with Dual-Use Risks at the RKI'.

⁸⁹ 'Funding', Humboldt-Universität Zu Berlin, accessed 27 March 2026, <https://www.physik.hu-berlin.de/de/pep/funding>.

⁹⁰ 'The Minerva Stiftung', Minerva.Mpg.De, accessed 2 July 2026, <https://www.minerva.mpg.de/about-us>.

German U15 x VERA

The German U15 is an association of fifteen leading research universities in Germany, including the Humboldt University of Berlin, that participate in the Excellence Strategy funding programme. The German U15 has advocated for the interests of research-intensive universities in dialogue with governments as well as partners in science and industry and has engaged in monitoring of science policy developments at both national and global levels. One of its international partners is VERA, an association of University Heads of all Israeli universities, which aims to represent these universities collectively to the decision-making bodies in higher education.⁹¹ Among the universities represented in VERA is also Ariel University, an Israeli University that is located on illegally occupied Palestinian territories in the West Bank. This is particularly problematic given that the German government and the European Union have repeatedly condemned settlement expansion as illegal under international law.

The German U15 formalised its collaboration with the German-Israeli Foundation (GIF) in February 2023 with the goal of strengthening new partnerships between U15 member universities and Israeli higher education and research institutions. A key component of this cooperation is the organisation of joint U15–GIF scientific meetings in both Germany and Israel, designed to foster connections and encourage collaboration among early-career researchers from both countries.⁹² In December 2023 a joint statement of the German U15 and VERA outlined intentions of intensifying collaborations.⁹³

⁹¹ What Is the Board of University's, Vera, <https://vera.org.il/>.

⁹² 'German U15 and the German Israeli Foundation (GIF) Sign MoU to Expand and Formalise Their Cooperation', German U15, https://www.german-u15.de/Internationales/Archiv-Internationales/Internationales-News-2023/2023-04-17_U15_PM_GIF_U15_MOU.html.

⁹³ Joint Statement of the Association of University Heads, Israel and German U15; German U15, https://www.german-u15.de/en/Internationales/Archiv-Internationales-EN/Internationales-News-2024-EN/2023-12-27_Joint_Statement_VERA_U15_EN.html.

3. Israeli Universities

3.1. Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem was opened in 1925 and nowadays consists of four main campuses: Mount Scopus, Givat Ram (Edmond J. Safra), Ein Kerem and Rehovot. Since its inception, HUJI has played a major role in the settlement of Palestine.

3.1.1 Location and Settlement Function in East Jerusalem

HUJI has played a central role in the dispossession of Palestinian land and property in Jerusalem. Parts of HUJI are built on occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and functions as settlements. Israel's National Library, co-owned by HUJI, houses around 30,000 looted Palestinian books.⁹⁴

Mount Scopus

HUJI was founded on Mount Scopus in 1925. Following the 1948 war and the partition of Jerusalem, Jordanian and Israeli forces designated Mount Scopus campus as an Israeli demilitarised enclave in East Jerusalem. All academic activity on it ceased until 1967. With the 1967 war, Israel annexed Mount Scopus and occupied East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank. The Mount Scopus campus was re-opened and quickly took a central role in the settlement activities in the subsequent decades. In 1968, the Israeli state confiscated land from the Palestinian village of Al-Issawiyeh, allocating a significant portion to HUJI to expand the campus.⁹⁵ The confiscation of occupied territory violates the Fourth Geneva Convention. Accordingly, the UN Security Council Resolution 252 (1968) declared all legislative and administrative measures undertaken by Israel in East Jerusalem, including confiscation of Palestinian land and property, as illegitimate.⁹⁶

HUJI has continued to claim additional lands in East Jerusalem for campus expansion.⁹⁷ By 2020, 90% of Al-Issawiyeh's land had been confiscated.⁹⁸ Mount Scopus campus has been expanded and a number of its buildings are on oPt, in violation of international law.⁹⁹ In particular, the Student Village is marketed to international students as a residential option. Other university reports found that German exchange students were given the offer to reside at the Student Village.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁴ Hannah Mermelstein, *Overdue Books: Returning Palestine's "Abandoned Property" of 1948*, 2012, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.70190/jq.147.p46>.

see also: Gish Amit *Ownerless Objects? The story of the books Palestinians left behind in 1948*, (Institute for Palestine Studies, 2008), DOI: <https://doi.org/10.70190/jq.133.p7>.

⁹⁵ B'Tselem, 2020, *This is Jerusalem: Violence and Dispossession in al-Esawiyah*, p. 7, accessed 15 June 2026, https://www.btselem.org/publications/summaries/202005_this_is_jerusalem_violence_and_dispossession_in_al-esawiyah.

⁹⁶ United Nations Security Council Resolution 252 (1968) / [adopted by the Security Council at the 1426th meeting], of 21 May 1968 (S/RES/252), available at: <https://unsct.com/en/resolutions/252/>.

UN Security Council resolutions are legally binding. Following Resolution 252, several other resolutions regarding the status of Jerusalem were passed condemning Israeli measures that alter the city's status, including confiscations.

⁹⁷ 'Hebrew University Expansionist Plans', POICA, 7 December 2004, accessed June 17 2026, <https://poica.org/2004/12/hebrew-university-expansionist-plans/>.

⁹⁸ B'Tselem, *This is Jerusalem*.

⁹⁹ These include: parts of the Maersdorf Dormitories, the Alan Bronfman Dormitories, the Students Village (where international students are housed), the Lerner Sports Complex, and Gilbert Tennis Courts. CLT, 2017, *Statement by Legal Scholars and International Lawyers Against Holding ESIL Forum at the Hebrew University in East Jerusalem*, <https://criticallegalthinking.com/2017/11/23/statement-against-holding-esil-at-the-hebrew-university/>.

¹⁰⁰ Students for Palestine Bonn, *Is the University of Bonn Violating International Law*, November 2024, pp. 15–18; Students for Palestine FU, *Palästina-Komitee FU, [decoco] decolonial research group, A Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Report for Freie Universität Berlin*, (January 2025), pp. 23–24. To our knowledge, HU has no publicly accessible student experience reports for HUJI.

Talpiot

Talpiot is a joint military-academic engineering programme, in which students take science courses at the HUJI while undergoing military training with various military branches.¹¹¹ Upon graduating they are seamlessly integrated into military service, intelligence corps (like Unit 8200), the IDF's R&D, or military and space industries. Here they oversee weapon development.

Yissum

Yissum is HUJI's tech transfer company, connecting academic researchers with industries and entrepreneurs. While it promotes ventures in many sectors, it particularly supports start-ups and projects with direct military ties¹¹²:

- Oraqon Labs: Israeli defence-tech startup, part of a series of ventures founded by ex-IDF tech unit veterans and high-tech professionals. Founded in 2024, it develops security technologies.¹¹³
- HeQa Security: Develops quantum cryptography for data security. One of its clients is the IAI.¹¹⁴
- Qarakal: A joint venture between IAI and the Hebrew University. It develops hybrid quantum computing with a specific eye to industry-application, including dual use.¹¹⁵

In 2025, Yissum, together with HUJI, the Israeli Innovation Authority and IAI completed the development of Israel's first quantum computer. The Jerusalem Post stresses the relevance of this accomplishment for the Israeli defense sector.¹¹⁶

Michael Federmann:

Federmann is the Honorary Chairman of HUJI's Board of Governors (as well as the Chairman of the Weizmann Institute).¹¹⁷ He is also the largest shareholder (est. 27%) and former Chairman of Elbit Systems.¹¹⁸ Between 2023 and 2025 Federmann's net worth almost doubled (from 2.9 billion to 5 billion) and doubled again in one year (reaching 10.1 Billion in 2026). His son, David Federmann, is the current Chairman of Elbit Systems, and is on the BGN Technologies' board of directors (Ben-Gurion University Technology Transfer).¹¹⁹

Shin Bet and Police

There is a historical and ongoing cooperation between HUJI, Israel's internal security agency Shin Bet, and the Israeli National Police via HUJI's criminology department. The department provides research material and counsel to the police as well as fast-track BA programmes aimed at law enforcement personnel seeking promotions.¹²⁰ Shin Bet officials attend courses and give lectures to the department.¹²¹

¹¹¹ "Each Talpiot Graduate Can Make a 1% Difference in Battle", The Jerusalem Post (online), 27 March 2016, accessed 26 June 2026, <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/secretive-talpiot-program-helps-idf-soldiers-stay-ahead-of-the-curve-449279>.

¹¹² 'Portfolio Companies', Yissum, 16 March 2022, accessed 16 June 2026 <https://www.yissum.co.il/portfolio-companies/>.

¹¹³ Claw & Talon, 'Oraqon Labs Startup Profile', Claw & Talon, 29 April 2026, accessed 16 June 2026, <https://clawandtalon.capital/startup-oraqon-labs>.

¹¹⁴ HeQa, 'About HEQA Security', 8 August 2023, accessed 16 June 2026, <https://heqa-sec.com/about/>.

¹¹⁵ Qarakal Quantum, 'Quantum Utility in Action', 24 October 2025, accessed 16 June 2026, <https://qarakal.ai/quantum-utility-in-action-5/>.

¹¹⁶ The Jerusalem Post, 'Israel Now Operating Its First Domestically Built Quantum Computer', JPost.Com, 18 December 2024, accessed 26 June 2026 <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-833939>.

¹¹⁷ The Board of Governors sets HUJI's university policy together with the administration and according to the university's constitution. "Leadership," Hebrew University, accessed 25 June 2026, <https://en.huji.ac.il/presentors>.

¹¹⁸ Michael Federmann & Family, Forbes, accessed 26 June 2026, <https://www.forbes.com/profile/michael-federmann/>.

¹¹⁹ BGN, 'About Us', accessed 16 June 2026, <http://bgn.bgu.ac.il/about-us/>.

¹²⁰ Wind, Towers, p. 46.

¹²¹ Idem, p. 45.

3.1.3 Academic Departments and Research

Specific departments engage in activities supporting occupation, surveillance or historical erasure of Palestinians thus building up the “ideological scaffolding of apartheid”.¹²²

The Institute of Archaeology

The Institute of Archaeology, founded in 1967, has engaged in excavations in the oPt and in the transferral of cultural heritage out of the territory.¹²³ This section focuses on excavations in Qumran and Hyrcania (archaeological sites in the West Bank) as well as in East Jerusalem.

Under international law, the occupying power is prohibited from transferring, altering or destroying cultural and historic property of the occupied people. No excavations can be undertaken unless they are strictly required for salvaging cultural properties and thus benefit the local population.¹²⁴ If done without the approval of Palestinian authorities, excavations led by Israel in the oPt constitute breaches under international law. By HUJI's own admission, it did not consider the approval necessary to carry out digs in Qumran and Hyrcania.¹²⁵

Archaeological excavations in the West Bank are associated with land grabs by the Israeli government and settler groups. Archaeology in Israel is deeply interwoven with settler colonialism, Israeli state policy and Zionist nation-building. HUJI's and other Israeli departments have contributed to the furthering of narratives of exclusive Jewish religious claims to historic Palestine, as well as excluding and erasing indigenous Palestinian history.¹²⁶ For instance, in September 2025, the Israeli Civil Administration declared 60 new archaeological sites in the Nablus area of the West Bank. Far-right Jewish settlers gained access to these archaeological sites while the Israeli military bars the native Palestinian population and activists from entry.¹²⁷ Similarly, the establishment of national and archaeological parks in the oPt enables touristic ventures for Israel's benefit, while excluding native Palestinians from their historic sites, as well as impacting their economy and free access to their lands.¹²⁸ These measures severely infringe on Palestinians' fundamental rights, and third States must refrain from collaborating with Israel's excavations and the transfer of West Bank artefacts to Israel or abroad.¹²⁹

¹²² Albanese, *Economy of Genocide*, 23.

¹²³ Wind, *Towers*, p. 29, 34–35; The Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 'Hyrcania Fortress Excavation Project', accessed 26 June 2026, <https://archaeology.huji.ac.il/news/hyrcania-fortress-excavation-project-dr-oren-gutfeld-and-michal-haber/>.

¹²⁴ 'Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict', The Hague 26 March 1990, accessed 26 June 2026, <https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/second-protocol-hague-convention-1954-protection-cultural-property-event-armed-conflict>.

¹²⁵ EUR Advisory Committee on Sensitive Collaborations, *Advice on the collaborations with Israeli Universities*, Erasmus University Rotterdam, 26 May 2025, accessed 26 June 2026, <https://www.eur.nl/en/media/2025-05-20250526-advice-collaborations-israeli-universities-publication>. Note that the report considers the last HUJI-led excavation in the West Bank to have taken place in 2001. Refer to note 104 to see that this is not the case.

¹²⁶ Diakonia IHL Resource Centre, *Occupation Remains: A Legal Analysis of the Israeli Archeology Policies in the West Bank: An International Law Perspective*, 2015, p.8, retrieved from: <https://admin.diakonia.se/app/uploads/sites/2/2021/06/israeli-archeology-policies-ihl-occupation-report.pdf>.

see also Edward Fox, 'The Mysterious Death of Dr Glock', *The Guardian*, 2 June 2001, accessed 26 June 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2001/jun/02/highereducation.uk>.

¹²⁷ A recent example is the dwelling of Marajam, discussed in 'Palestinian Communities Living near Ancient Sites in the West Bank Face Extreme Pressure by Home Demolitions and Settler Violence', *Emek Shaveh*, 25 March 2026, accessed June 26 2026, <https://emekshaveh.org/en/ancient-sites-settler-violence/>.

See also Diakonia IHL Resource Centre, *Occupation Remains: A Legal Analysis of the Israeli Archeology Policies in the West Bank: An International Law Perspective*, 2015, p.8, retrieved from: <https://admin.diakonia.se/app/uploads/sites/2/2021/06/israeli-archeology-policies-ihl-occupation-report.pdf>.

¹²⁸ Diakonia, *Occupation Remains*, p. 8, 25; EUR, *Advice*.

¹²⁹ Diakonia, *Occupation Remains*, p.34.

Excavations organised by the Institute of Archaeology in East Jerusalem played an important role in Israel's re-shaping of the city's landscape and identity. Excavations in al-Haram al-Sharif (Temple Mount) and the new Jewish Quarter, which began in 1967, were criticised for compromising, removing and destroying artefacts from the Arab/Islamic periods.¹³⁰ HUJI archaeologists have participated in the "City of David" excavations, which is situated in the East Jerusalem Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan. Nowadays, the far-right settler movement Elad manages the City of David's archaeological site. Elad's archaeological projects have received severe criticism by archaeologists and Human Rights groups for unscientific work, erasing Arab/Islamic history and promoting exclusively Jewish claims to East Jerusalem.¹³¹

A deeply criticised annual conference further highlights the entanglement between archaeology and Israeli settler-colonialism. HUJI and international archaeologists, together with Israeli state representatives (The Minister of Heritage) and non-government actors, met to discuss findings from illegal excavations in the oPt focused on Jewish history and ancient Israel. The January conference was held in the illegal settlement of Ariel University.¹³² The most recent one was held at HUJI on 16-18 June 2026.¹³³

Other humanities

The Middle Eastern/Islamic Studies department hosts the Havatzalot since 2019.¹³⁴ This severely impacts the experience of Palestinian students at the department, who report an overwhelming presence of military uniforms in classrooms and student spaces, as well as censoring themselves as they are faced with the "Intelligence Corps soldiers training to surveil their families and communities".¹³⁵ This department is turned into a training facility for Israel's intelligence services, pursuing research in the service of the State and the military.¹³⁶

While it is true that the humanities are diverse fields allowing for multifaceted research.¹³⁷ HU and HUJI have partnerships that specifically cover the humanities (see chapter 2). Israeli Law and Philosophy departments have historically lent a helping hand to the justification of apartheid and occupation. In her book, *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, Maya Wind notes how Israeli philosophers have collaborated with legal scholars in developing moral justification for Israeli military policy "in real time".¹³⁸ This is a reason to scrutinise the departments more closely.

¹³⁰ Wind, *Towers*, p. 36

see also Nadia Abu El-Haj, 'Translating Truths: Nationalism, the Practice of Archaeology, and the Remaking of Past and Present in Contemporary Jerusalem', *American Ethnologist* 25, no. 2 (1998), <http://www.jstor.org/stable/646691>.

¹³¹ Emek Shaveh, 'Where Are the Antiquities? National Parks between the Old City of Jerusalem And Area E1', 13 September 2013, accessed 26 June 2026, <https://emekshaveh.org/en/nationalparks/>.

'Archaeology on a Slippery Slope: Elad's Sifting Project in Emek Tzurim National Park', 13 September 2013, accessed 26 June 2026, <https://emekshaveh.org/en/archaeology-on-a-slippery-slope/>.

'Six Feet Under: The Cultural Heritage of Minorities in Jerusalem', 21 May 2019, accessed 26 June 2026, <https://emekshaveh.org/en/six-feet-under/>.

¹³² everydayorientalism, 'Save Sebastia and Silwan: Illegal Israeli University Hosts International Scholars at Conference Normalising the Theft of Palestinian Heritage', *Everyday Orientalism*, 8 January 2026, accessed 27 June 2026, <https://everydayorientalism.wordpress.com/2026/01/08/save-sebastia-and-silwan-illegal-israeli-university-hosts-international-scholars-at-conference-normalising-the-theft-of-palestinian-heritage/>.

¹³³ everydayorientalism, 'Archaeology, Zionism & "Apolitical Neutrality" or More Reasons to Boycott ASOR', *Everyday Orientalism*, 23 June 2026, accessed 27 June 2026, <https://everydayorientalism.wordpress.com/2026/06/23/archaeology-zionism-apolitical-neutrality-or-more-reasons-to-boycott-asor/>.

¹³⁴ Australian Friends of the Hebrew University, 'Hebrew University Partners with IDF to Offer Prestigious Academic-Military Program for Intelligence Corps Officers', April 15, 2019, accessed June 7, 2026, <https://austfhu.org.au/hebrew-university-partners-with-idf-to-offer-prestigious-academic-military-program-for-intelligence-corps-officers/>.

¹³⁵ Wind, *Towers*, p. 56-57

¹³⁶ Wind, *Towers*, p. 57

¹³⁷ See for instance Israeli philosopher Anat Matar citing Kant in favour of academic boycott: <https://bdsmovement.net/news/israeli-academics-must-pay-price-end-occupation>, accessed 24 June 2026.

¹³⁸ Wind, *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, p. 39-40. Note that while speaking in general terms, the focus is on TAL, not HUJI staff, and the connected law-fare that is waged internationally to provide legal justification for the IDF's campaigns in Gaza. See section 3.2.2.

3.1.4 *Suppression of Dissent and Discrimination*

HUJI enacts institutional pressure against Palestinian faculty, students and pro-Palestinian voices, while shielding complicit staff from accountability.

Prof. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian

Prof. Shalhoub-Kevorkian is a Palestinian legal and feminist scholar. She signed a call for a ceasefire in late October 2023 that identified the genocidal nature of the offensive in Gaza, called for the protection of Palestinian children (3000 killed at the time) and demanded water, food and electricity to reach the population.¹³⁹

HUJI's president and rector pressured Shalhoub-Kevorkian to resign, likening her decision to support the call to incitement and sedition.¹⁴⁰ Soon after, Shalhoub-Kevorkian began receiving threats and became the object of smear campaigns in Israeli media. In March 2024 the HUJ leadership suspended her. When Shalhoub-Kevorkian was arrested in April 2024, suffering humiliation and torture at the hands of Israeli police, HUJI ultimately condemned political arrests of academics as infringing on "academic freedom".¹⁴¹ No support, apology or retraction had been offered in the period prior to the arrest. Rather, HUJI leadership contributed substantially to the escalation up until the end. Shalhoub-Kevorkian was reinstated following international pressure but decided to leave her position in August of 2024.¹⁴²

A FU/HU student-organised lecture with Prof. Shalhoub-Kevorkian in January 2024 was cancelled due to the institutional pressure she was experiencing at the time. Humboldt-University has not publicly addressed Shalhoub-Kevorkian's treatment despite its stated commitment to academic freedom and protection of at-risk scholars.

Discrimination against Palestinian students

A protest challenging Havatzalot's presence on campus was attacked by Israeli right-wing student groups.¹⁴³ Palestinian students were suspended based on social media posts following October 7th. At least two of them were taken to Hasharon prison where they were subjected to degrading treatment, inhumane conditions and routine beatings. Meanwhile, a right-wing student group at HUJI campaigned for the expulsion of the 9 students. Upon resuming her studies in early 2024, one of the Palestinian students reported fearing attacks from students attending classes with rifles and guns.¹⁴⁴

¹³⁹ Rachel Rosen et al., 'Childhood Researchers Call for an End to the Western-Backed Israeli Genocide in Gaza', Mondoweiss, 29 October 2023, <https://mondoweiss.net/2023/10/childhood-researchers-call-for-an-end-to-the-western-backed-israeli-genocide-in-gaza/>.

¹⁴⁰ Neve Gordon, 'BRISMES Reply to Prof. Cohen, Prof. Shaefer', 30 October 2023, https://www.brismes.ac.uk/files/documents/30102023_CAF_Hebrew_University_signed.pdf.

¹⁴¹ Amjad Iraqi, 'The Orchestrated Persecution of Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian', +972 Magazine, 30 April 2024, accessed 26 June 2026, <https://www.972mag.com/nadera-shalhoub-kevorkian-israeli-academia/>.

¹⁴² Sonia Boulos, 'On the Use and Misuse of Academic Freedom', *Academe Magazine*, accessed 22 April 2026, <https://www.aup.org/academe/issues/winter-2025/use-and-misuse-academic-freedom>.

¹⁴³ Wind, Towers, p. 56.

¹⁴⁴ B'Tselem, I.A., in *Her Twenties, a Palestinian Citizen of Israel Studying at an Israeli University: Welcome to Hell Report*, accessed 21 June 2026, https://www.btselem.org/publications/202408_welcome_to_hell/testimony_of_i_a.

3.2. Tel Aviv University

While Tel Aviv University's first centre, the Academic Institute of Natural Sciences, was founded in 1953, TAU received full accreditation in 1969. TAU exemplifies the deep militarisation of Israeli academia as it occupies a central position within Israel's national security ecosystem through the development of weapons and military strategy. As TAU professor Isaac Ben-Israel put it, "Military Research & Development in Israel would not exist without the universities. They carry out all the basic scientific investigation, which is then developed either by defence industries or the army."¹⁴⁵

3.2.1 Cooperations with Israeli Weapon Manufacturers and the Military

TAU collaborates extensively with the Israeli military sector to develop and export technologies used by the Israeli army and foreign buyers. Through workshops, conferences, and joint research, the university facilitates direct interaction between military official security agencies and defence corporations like Elbit Systems. The Elrom Center for Air and Space Studies, the Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology and the TAU's venture capital firm have partnered with the Israeli Air Force, Elbit Systems¹⁴⁶ and military-affiliated startups like *Xtend*, which provides AI-guided drone systems currently used in Gaza.¹⁴⁷

In December of 2024, TAU hosted Israel's first Defence Tech Summit, where weapon manufacturers and corporate leaders partnered with Israeli army officials.¹⁴⁸

Development of Military Technologies

Yuval Ne'eman Workshop for Science, Technology, and Security

TAU maintains institutional ties with Israel's military industry through a range of research, technological development and knowledge-exchange initiatives. A notable example is the Yuval Ne'eman Workshop for Science, Technology, and Security, established in 2002 under the direction of Isaac Ben-Israel, former head of MAFAT, the joint Ministry of Defense–IDF agency responsible for the development of advanced military technologies. The Workshop conducts research with direct relevance to national security, including projects in cybersecurity, robotics, missile technology, and precision-guided weapon systems. In addition to its research activities, it facilitates interaction among academic researchers, military personnel, security officials, and representatives of the military industry through conferences, seminars, and public forums. Its annual cybersecurity conference, organised in cooperation with the Israeli state, the military, and Israeli military industries, serves as a venue for showcasing technological innovations developed by the university and the Israeli military industry.^{149 150}

¹⁴⁵ Cyber Week 23-27 June, 2019 Tel Aviv University, cyberweek.tau.ac.il, in: Wind, Towers of Ivory, 89

¹⁴⁶ Tel Aviv University, "Nanoscience and nanotechnology," 2017. Accessed July 4, 2026. <https://english.tau.ac.il/nanoscience/>.

¹⁴⁷ Times of Israel, "Israeli developer of VR drone system used by IDF in Hamas war raises \$40m," accessed 5 July 2026, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-developer-of-vr-drone-system-used-by-idf-in-hamas-war-raises-40m/>.

¹⁴⁸ +927 Magazine, "With Gaza war and Trump's return, Silicon Valley embraces a military renaissance," accessed July 4 2026, <https://www.972mag.com/gaza-war-trump-silicon-valley-military/>.

¹⁴⁹ Ministry of Defense, "Defense-Tech Companies Working With the DDR&D," Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.mod.gov.il/en/press-releases/press-room/defense-tech-companies-working-with-the-ddrd-raised-over-1-billion-in-exits-and-funding-in-past-year-imod-to-allocate-double-digit-percentage-of-rd-budget-to-startups-and-smes>.

¹⁵⁰ Cyber Week, Cyber Week 23-27 June, 2019 Tel Aviv University, cyberweek.ctau.ac.il, in: Wind, Towers of Ivory, 89.

Elrom Center for Air and Space Studies

In 2022, TAU established the Elrom Center to advance military doctrine and operational planning through the promotion of academic research in the fields of air and space power. A key objective of the initiative is the development of “a cadre of future researchers”¹⁵¹ by fostering specialization among students from diverse professional backgrounds, including those affiliated with nonprofit organisations, government agencies, security institutions, and industries related to air and space technologies. The Center also seeks to facilitate international research collaboration amongst universities, research institutes and air forces worldwide. Research undertaken at the Centre contributes to the development and refinement of the Israeli Air Force’s operational concepts, combat doctrines and force-building processes, thereby strengthening the integration of academic expertise into military strategic planning and capability development.

At the inauguration of the Elrom Center, attended by senior representatives of both TAU and the Israeli Air Force, university and military leaders emphasised the strategic importance of advancing research in air and space power.¹⁵² TAU President Ariel Porat underscored the Centre’s role in strengthening collaboration between academia, industry, and public institutions in Israel and internationally. Air Force Commander Amikam Norkin stressed the growing complexity of modern warfare and argued that maintaining the Israeli Air Force’s operational superiority requires the integration of academic research and analytical methodologies into military planning. He described the Centre as a necessary institutional framework that would bring together academic and military expertise to generate advanced knowledge and address emerging operational challenges.¹⁵³

Tel Aviv University’s Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

TAU’s Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology collaborates with Israeli weapons companies, including IMH and Elbit Systems¹⁵⁴, “underscoring TAU’s standing as Israel’s major center of nano-based R&D”¹⁵⁵ The centre offers micro and nano equipment for the development of “fibre-optic components, biological superchips capable of detecting infections and diseases, smart sensors used in the automobile industry and even nanoparticles for advanced printing technology.”¹⁵⁶ TAU was chosen to manage the Nano2life foundation, intended to encourage research projects in the field of nano-biology in Israel in collaboration with the European Union. So far this has resulted in the development of drugs against cancer, superchips used by the high-tech industry and advanced memory chips.

¹⁵¹ Tel Aviv University. “For The 1st Time at an Israeli University: Air and Space Power Center,” accessed 5 July 2026, <https://english.tau.ac.il/news/air-and-space-power>.

¹⁵² Elrom. “מורלא זכרם | מורלא זכרם | מורלא זכרם.” Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://elrom.sites.tau.ac.il/en/>.

¹⁵³ <https://english.tau.ac.il/news/air-and-space-power>

¹⁵⁴ Tel Aviv University. “For The 1st Time at an Israeli University: Air and Space Power Center,” accessed 5 July 2026, <https://english.tau.ac.il/news/air-and-space-power>.

¹⁵⁵ Tel Aviv University. “Nanoscience and Nanotechnology,” August 16, 2017. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://english.tau.ac.il/nanoscience>.

¹⁵⁶ Tel Aviv University. “Nanoscience and Nanotechnology,” August 16, 2017. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://english.tau.ac.il/nanoscience>.

TAU Ventures

Tel Aviv University's ties to Israel's security and defence sectors extends beyond formal research partnerships and into its entrepreneurial ecosystem. Through its venture capital arm, TAU Ventures, the university has supported collaborations with the Israeli security establishment, including the Xcelerator programme for technology start-ups, with the Israel Security Authority (ISA) (Shin Bet). The programme provided selected ventures with funding, mentorship, and direct engagement with the security agency, fostering the development of technologies related to behavioural prediction, influence operations and digital monitoring.¹⁵⁷

TAU Ventures has also invested in military-affiliated companies such as Xtend, which develops AI-assisted drone and robotic operating systems.¹⁵⁸ Following October 7th, Xtend became a key supplier to the Israeli military, substantially expanding production to meet wartime demand.¹⁵⁹ The company has publicly stated that its systems were tested and deployed by Israeli forces in urban combat operations in Gaza and that new investment capital would be used to further develop AI platforms enabling operators to coordinate teams of drones and robotic systems.¹⁶⁰ These technologies have drawn scrutiny from human rights advocates because of their role in military operations conducted in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Train soldiers + develop operational strategies

Additionally, TAU hosts several military-affiliated training programmes on campus. Among them is the Galim Programme, which prepares cyber engineering personnel for service in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF).¹⁶¹ TAU has also hosted the Arazim Programme since at least 2018, aimed at recruiting outstanding students in technological and mathematical research for positions within the military's intelligence and cyber-defence units.¹⁶²

Since July 2023, TAU has additionally hosted the Erez Programme, a military-academic track designed to prepare soldiers for service in elite IDF combat units.¹⁶³ Candidates are selected through a screening process that includes psychometric testing and a three-month pre-enlistment phase known as Kadatz. Before beginning their academic studies at TAU, participants complete a year-long military training programme that qualifies them as "squad commanders". This programme encompasses basic infantry training at the Golani Brigade's training base and an eight-month course at the Commando School at the Adam base, alongside the training companies of Egoz, Maglan, and Duvdevan. The curriculum covers subjects like "leadership, command of armoured vehicles, explosives, and operational deployment."¹⁶⁴ Afterwards the soldiers commence their dual-track academic

¹⁵⁷ Yablono, Yasmin. "ISA And TAU Ventures Launch Startup Accelerator," accessed 4 July 2026, <https://englobes.co/en/article-isa-and-tau-ventures-launch-startup-accelerator-1001235281>.

¹⁵⁸ Ventures, Tau. "XTEND" LinkedIn, April 21, 2024. Accessed July 5, 2026. https://www.linkedin.com/posts/tau-ventures_xtend-our-portfolio-company-is-one-of-the-activity-7187760918267654144-Z92v/.

¹⁵⁹ Madeo. "Companies Profiting From the Gaza Genocide." American Friends Service Committee. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://afsc.org/gaza-genocide-companies>.

¹⁶⁰ Times of Israel. "Israeli developer of VR drone system used by IDF in Hamas war raises \$40m," accessed 5 July 2026, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-developer-of-vr-drone-system-used-by-idf-in-hamas-war-raises-40m/>.

¹⁶¹ Tel Aviv University. "Top Secret! The Galim Program – a Hush-hush Academic Degree." Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://en-engineering.tau.ac.il/Engineering-Faculty-Electrical-Engineering-Galim-Program>.

See also: Horowitz, Adam. "Why Higher Education Must Boycott Tel Aviv University." Mondoweiss. May 9, 2025. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://mondoweiss.net/2025/05/why-higher-education-must-boycott-tel-aviv-university/>.

¹⁶² Ministry of Defense. "Defense-Tech Companies Working With the DDR&D." Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.mod.gov.il/en/press-releases/press-room/defense-tech-companies-working-with-the-ddrd-raised-over-1-billion-in-exits-and-funding-in-past-year-imod-to-allocate-double-digit-percentage-of-rd-budget-to-startups-and-smes>.

See also: "It'll Turn Campus Into an Army Base: Tel Aviv University to Host Soldiers' Program – Aurdip." October 4, 2023. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://aurdip.org/en/ttl-turn-campus-into-an-army-base-tel-aviv-university-to-host-soldiers-program/>.

¹⁶³ "IDF's Erez Program: A Leadership Forge Where Fallen Heroes Shape Future Commanders." ynetglobal, November 21, 2025. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/hj3vw1sebg>.

¹⁶⁴ "IDF's Erez Program: A Leadership Forge Where Fallen Heroes Shape Future Commanders." ynetglobal, November 21, 2025. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/hj3vw1sebg>.

degree at TAU. The degree combines a humanities curriculum with a focus on military and security topics such as "strategy and national security," "terror and guerrillas," and "contemporary military thought"¹⁶⁵ and a second major chosen either from management, Middle Eastern studies, political science, or digital sciences for high-tech. Most academic courses are taken alongside civilian students. In addition, participants complete military-specific activities, including physical training, field exercises during academic breaks and operational deployments. These military components are conducted either on campus or at IDF Training Base 1 in Mitzpe Ramon and are taught by senior military personnel.¹⁶⁶

The Erez Programme is funded by the Israeli Ministry of Defence, which established extensive conditions governing both the content of the programme and the living arrangements of participating soldiers. Participants reside on designated floors within university dormitories and are required to wear military uniforms on campus. Soldiers were initially permitted to carry their service weapons on campus, although this policy was later withdrawn following a complaint. According to the university, the change was intended "to reduce the burden of carrying weapons during academic studies and to facilitate participants' integration into campus life."¹⁶⁷

The Ministry of Defence's conditions also require the university to ensure that academic staff refrain from making statements deemed offensive toward participating soldiers, whether concerning their military service or their presence on campus in uniform. For those programmes the university signed an agreement that faculty must now conduct themselves in accordance with military restrictions which includes the repression of dissent regarding the military service of IDF soldiers studying at the institution.¹⁶⁸ Compliance with this requirement forms part of the contractual framework governing the programme, raising questions about academic freedom at TAU.

While the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at TAU, has argued that the initiative offers a unique opportunity to combine military service with education in humanities it actually "represents another step toward the militarisation of Israeli academia and the social normalisation of that process."¹⁶⁹ In an interview Yuval Bazak, an IDF officer who has led the Erez Programme since its inception compares it to "West Point, the U.S. Army's prestigious academy for future commanders."¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁵ "It'll Turn Campus Into an Army Base: Tel Aviv University to Host Soldiers' Program – Aurdip," October 4, 2023. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://aurdip.org/en/itil-turn-campus-into-an-army-base-tel-aviv-university-to-host-soldiers-program/>.

¹⁶⁶ Ministry of Defense. "Defense-Tech Companies Working With the DDR&D." Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.mod.gov.il/en/press-releases/press-room/defense-tech-companies-working-with-the-ddrd-raised-over-1-billion-in-exits-and-funding-in-past-year-imod-to-allocate-double-digit-percentage-of-rd-budget-to-startups-and-smes>.

¹⁶⁷ JNS. "Arab Students at Tel Aviv University Demand IDF Soldiers Drop Weapons." Israel & Jewish News - JNS, November 7, 2024. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.jns.org/israel-news/arab-students-at-tel-aviv-u-demand-idf-soldiers-drop-weapons>.

¹⁶⁸ +927 Magazine, "It'll turn campus into military base", accessed 5 July 2026, <https://www.927mag.com/tau-army-militarization-palestinian-students/>.

¹⁶⁹ +927 Magazine, "It'll turn campus into military base", accessed 5 July 2026, <https://www.927mag.com/tau-army-militarization-palestinian-students/>.

¹⁷⁰ Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel* P 13

3.2.2 Normalization and propaganda

The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

The university's Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)¹⁷¹ has played an influential role in developing legal and ethical frameworks to mitigate international criticism of Israel and support it in evading accountability. Under the leadership of former military officials such as Amos Yadlin, the institute became a prominent venue for producing policy-oriented scholarship on counterterrorism and the laws of war. Central to this work are the writings of Asa Kasher and Yadlin, who argue that conventional international legal norms are inadequate for addressing Israel's "war on terror".^{172 173} Their framework introduces concepts such as a "third population"¹⁷⁴ of civilians who may indirectly affect military operations and advances a "hierarchy of human life"¹⁷⁵ that prioritises the protection of Israeli soldiers over Palestinian civilians.^{176 177} Building upon this line of reasoning, they developed the doctrine of disproportionate force advocating for devastating destruction and the targeting and infliction of intense suffering on the civilian population. After their publication, those frameworks have been implemented as "a practical guide for Israeli military commanders facing operational decisions"¹⁷⁸ in Israeli military attacks on Gaza since 2008, culminating in the current genocide.¹⁷⁹

Beyond operational doctrine, INSS scholars have sought to shape international legal discourse surrounding Israel's military conduct. Under the direction of Pnina Sharvit Baruch, the institute has promoted interpretations of international humanitarian law that provides greater flexibility for military action and challenges external criticisms. This work has included responses to UN investigations,¹⁸⁰ defences of Israeli military campaigns,¹⁸¹ critiques of reports by human rights organisations such as Amnesty International¹⁸² and challenges to the jurisdiction and findings of international bodies such as the International Criminal Court (ICC).¹⁸³

¹⁷¹ INSS, "Vision and Mission | INSS," August 15, 2024. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.inss.org.il/mission/>.

¹⁷² Asa Kasher, "Proper approach to the third population—not combatants and not civilians" [in Hebrew], *Military and Strategic Affairs* 5, Special Issue (April 2014): 47–50. Asa Kasher and Amos Yadlin, "Assassination and Preventive Killing," *SAIS Review of International Affairs* 25, no. 1 (2005): 41–57.

¹⁷³ This argument was echoed by Israeli legal scholars; see also Iddo Porat and Ziv Bohrer, "Preferring One's Own Civilians: May Soldiers Endanger Enemy Civilians More Than They Would Endanger Their State's Civilians?," *George Washington International Law Review* (2015): 99–158. Erakat, *Justice for Some*.

¹⁷⁴ Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, P. 41

¹⁷⁵ Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*.

¹⁷⁶ Asa Kasher, "Proper approach to the third population—not combatants and not civilians" [in Hebrew], *Military and Strategic Affairs* 5, Special Issue (April 2014): 47–50. Asa Kasher and Amos Yadlin, "Assassination and Preventive Killing," *SAIS Review of International Affairs* 25, no. 1 (2005): 41–57.

¹⁷⁷ This argument was echoed by Israeli legal scholars; see also Iddo Porat and Ziv Bohrer, "Preferring One's Own Civilians: May Soldiers Endanger Enemy Civilians More Than They Would Endanger Their State's Civilians?," *George Washington International Law Review* (2015): 99–158. Erakat, *Justice for Some*.

¹⁷⁸ Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, P. 41

¹⁷⁹ Rogers, Paul, "Israel's Use of Disproportionate Force Is a Long-established Tactic—With a Clear Aim," *the Guardian*, December 5, 2023. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/dec/05/israel-disproportionate-force-tactic-infrastructure-economy-civilian-casualties>.

¹⁸⁰ Pnina Sharvit Baruch, "The report of the Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry of the 2014 operation in the Gaza Strip: A critical analysis" [in Hebrew], INSS Memorandum 160, September 2016, [inss.org.il](https://www.inss.org.il).

¹⁸¹ Pnina Sharvit Baruch, "Operation Guardian of Walls: A Legal Angle," INSS Insight 1478 (May 2021).

¹⁸² Pnina Sharvit Baruch and Ori Beeri, "The Amnesty Report: Charges of Apartheid and the Denial of Israel's Right to Exist," INSS Insight 1555 (February 2022).

¹⁸³ Pnina Sharvit Baruch and Ori Beeri, "The International Criminal Court: A general guide and the Israeli angle" [in Hebrew], INSS Memorandum 222, July 2022, [inss.org.il](https://www.inss.org.il).



Figure 1: "INSS - Swords of Iron - Multi-Arena Dashboard"

source: INSS Tel Aviv University, "Dashboard: Swords of Iron", accessed 5 July 2026,

https://www.inss.org.il/publication/war-data/?__cf_chl_f_tk=PA0i9RLkgAeb9TCORYcStvM9edjwHcXiWr9kqwxUdV0-1783257948-1.0.1.1-nTCrHffFQZ4OjJOMI7WEXi3LGVULOK6DBJk0D8nZo

Furthermore, the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) displays extensive reporting ¹⁸⁴ of Israeli military performance in its ongoing military operations, including Gaza, Lebanon and Iran. The dashboard presents quantitative indicators on Israeli casualties, military operations and operational achievements while providing comparatively limited humanitarian information. Israeli deaths are presented as civilian or military casualties, whereas Palestinian deaths are categorised under labels such as „*Terrorists Killed*“¹⁸⁵ alongside figures attributed to Hamas authorities. It also highlights reported operational achievements, such as numbers of targets struck in Gaza, the murder of several alleged Hamas leaders and the proportion of Israeli control over Gaza in percent.

Similarly, an interactive geospatial map of Gaza presents categories such as „Israeli Military Presence,“ „IDF Retaliatory Strikes“ and „Terrorist attacks with casualties“. They are presented as objective cartographic data, although they embed legal and political judgments that are neither explained nor critically examined. Equally revealing is the inclusion of a layer depicting the „pre-war population“, presenting the civilian population as a static pre-war baseline, not allowing users to assess the relationship between military operations and the contemporary civilian reality, which is structured by forced displacement, destroyed infrastructure, hospitals, schools. Furthermore, notably absent are systematic accounts of incidents such as the deaths of humanitarian aid workers and journalists and the broader humanitarian crisis in Gaza. This selective report by the INSS actively justifies the violation of human rights and international law. ¹⁸⁶

¹⁸⁴ INSS Tel Aviv University, „Dashboard: Swords of Iron“, accessed July 5 2026, https://www.inss.org.il/publication/war-data/?__cf_chl_f_tk=PA0i9RLkgAeb9TCORYcStvM9edjwHcXiW9kqwxUdV0-1783257948-1.0.1.1-nTCrHFFQZ4OjOMi7WEKl3LGVULOK6DBJk0D8nZo.

¹⁸⁵ INSS Tel Aviv University, „Dashboard: Swords of Iron“, accessed July 5 2026, https://www.inss.org.il/publication/war-data/?__cf_chl_f_tk=PA0i9RLkgAeb9TCORYcStvM9edjwHcXiW9kqwxUdV0-1783257948-1.0.1.1-nTCrHFFQZ4OjOMi7WEKl3LGVULOK6DBJk0D8nZo.

¹⁸⁶ INSS Tel Aviv University, „Dashboard: Swords of Iron“, accessed July 5 2026, https://www.inss.org.il/publication/war-data/?__cf_chl_f_tk=PA0i9RLkgAeb9TCORYcStvM9edjwHcXiW9kqwxUdV0-1783257948-1.0.1.1-nTCrHFFQZ4OjOMi7WEKl3LGVULOK6DBJk0D8nZo.



Figure 2 - "INSS - Swords of Iron - Divisions by Arena - The Gaza Front"

source: INSS Tel Aviv University, „Dashboard: Swords of Iron“, accessed 5 July 2026,

https://www.inss.org.il/publication/war-data/?__cf_chl_f_tk=PA0i9RLkgAeb9TCORYcStvM9edjwHcXiW9kqwxUdV0-1783257948-1.0.1.1-nTCrHFFQZ4OjOMi7WEKl3LGVULOK6DBJk0D8nZo

Beyond producing legal and ethical frameworks that seek to mitigate international criticism of Israel, TAU also introduces its international students into these narratives. An exchange student from Humboldt University reported attending courses on the anthropological study of the Nayaka people of India¹⁸⁷, illustrating a curriculum that extracts indigenous knowledge as an object of academic inquiry, while the rights of the indigenous population living in Israel and the colonial conditions under which the university itself operates, are dismissed. Furthermore, TAU actively involves its international students in the dissemination of state-aligned narratives through its Lowy International School. For this purpose, the school has instituted a task force of international students that help share misinformation to further the confusion over the facts of the genocide in social media as well as denying the apartheid system.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁷ „Dafne in Tel Aviv“, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin International, <https://www.hu-berlin.de/en/university/international/going-abroad/hu-ambassadors/dafne-in-tel-aviv>.

¹⁸⁸ TAU International | Tel Aviv University. “First Academic Course on the Current War Launched at TAU for International Students.” Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://international.tau.ac.il/war-course>.

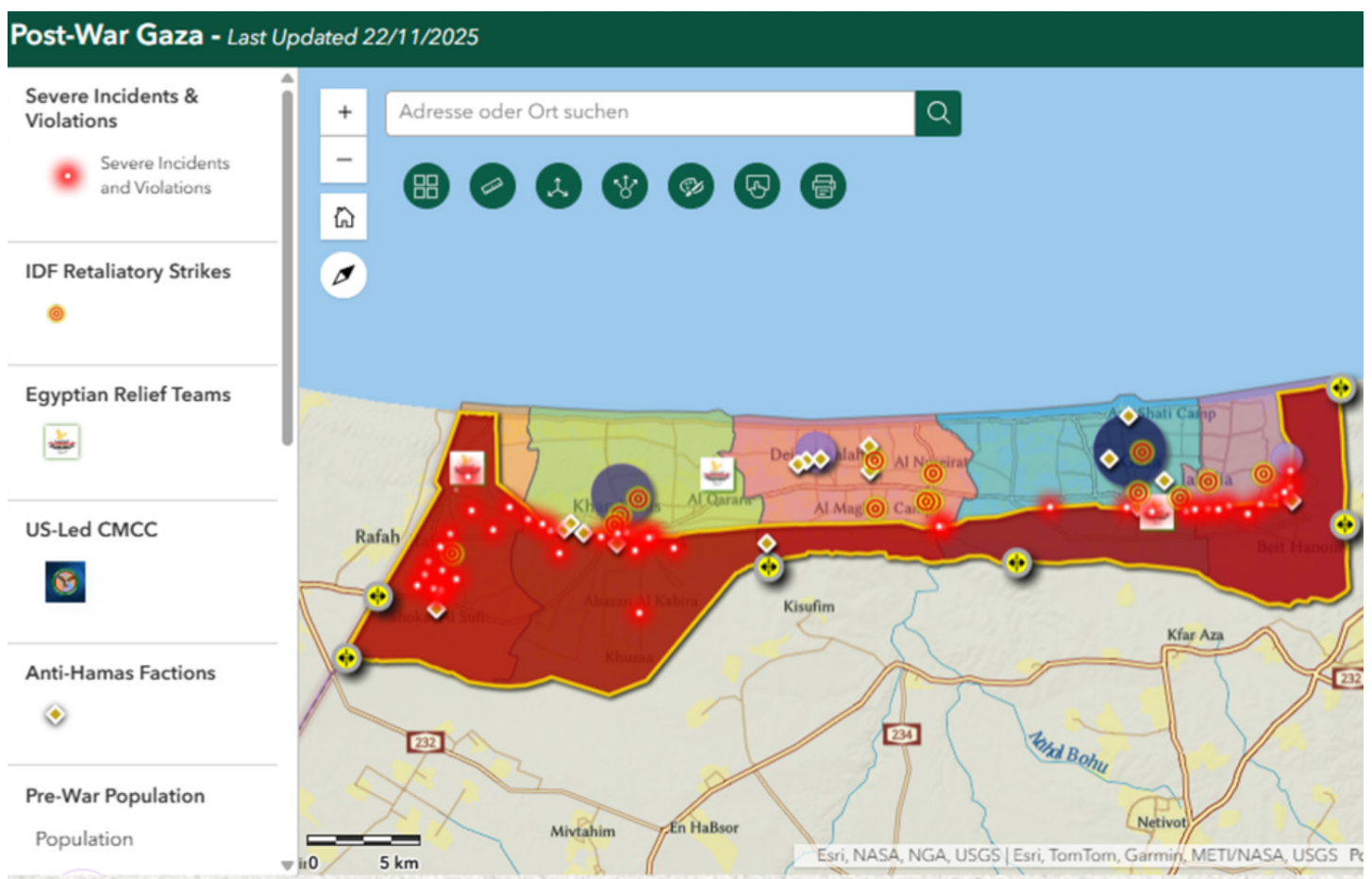


Figure 3 - „INSS - Swords of Iron - Divisions by Arena - Interactive Map - Post War Gaza“

source: INSS Tel Aviv University, „Dashboard: Swords of Iron“, accessed 5 July 2026,

https://www.inss.org.il/publication/war-data/?__cf_chl_f_tk=PA0i9RLkgAeb9TCORyCStvM9edjwHcXW9r9kqwxUdV0-1783257948-1.0.1.1-nTCrHFFQZ4OJjOMI7WEKl3LGVULOK6DBJk0D8nZo

Additionally, TAU discriminates against Palestinian researchers and students who constitute 12–16% of its student body. They face systematic forms of discrimination affecting their academic participation, freedom of expression, and access to institutional resources. Since the beginning of the military attacks on Gaza, Palestinian students who expressed solidarity on social media were summoned to disciplinary proceedings.¹⁸⁹ A testimony from a representative of the Hadash student group at TAU states that several students were expelled from the university and that some were subsequently imprisoned for their online posts.¹⁹⁰

Institutional practices further point to differential treatment of Palestinian students and researchers. The Dayan Institute denied Palestinian students access to classified military information that was otherwise made available to its researchers, thereby creating unequal research opportunities.¹⁹¹ In addition, TAU reportedly instructed employees in its tuition call center not to communicate with callers in Arabic, a policy that has been criticized as discriminatory toward Arabic-speaking students.¹⁹² The university has also restricted activities organised by Palestinian student groups, including an Arab Book Fair and an artistic protest, citing concerns over security and incitement.¹⁹³ Human rights organisations have argued that these restrictions infringe upon the rights to freedom of expression and association within the university setting.

These concerns are reinforced by the public statements of senior faculty members, most notably Professor Uzi Rabi, who in September 2024 reportedly advocated to “remove the entire civilian population from the north, and whoever remains there will be lawfully sentenced as a terrorist and subjected to a process of starvation or extermination.”¹⁹⁴ The absence of publicly documented institutional condemnation of such rhetoric, when contrasted with disciplinary action taken against Palestinian students for expressions of solidarity, suggests an asymmetrical application of standards governing acceptable speech. These practices indicate a university environment which is difficult to reconcile with principles of equal treatment and academic freedom.

¹⁸⁹ Middle East Studies Association. “Middle East Studies Association,” November 28, 2023. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://mesana.org/advocacy/committee-on-academic-freedom/2023/11/28/letter-regarding-intensified-targeting-of-palestinian-students-in-israeli-universities>.

¹⁹⁰ Platform, Tss, and Tss Platform. “Neither the River nor the Sea. Interview From Tel Aviv University - Transnational Social Strike Platform,” Transnational Social Strike Platform - (blog), June 5, 2024. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.transnational-strike.info/2024/06/05/neither-the-river-nor-the-sea-interview-from-tel-aviv-university/>.

¹⁹¹ Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, P.55

¹⁹² Skop, Yarden. “Tel Aviv University Tells Call Center Workers Not to Speak Arabic - Israel News,” Haaretz, February 17, 2016. Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2016-02-17/ty-article/.premium/tel-aviv-u-tells-call-center-workers-not-to-speak-arabic/0000017f-e4be-dc7e-adff-f4bfff4830000>.

¹⁹³ “Tel Aviv University Prevents Activities of Palestinian Student Groups - Adalah,” Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/10868>.

¹⁹⁴ +927 Magazine, “A plan liquidate northern gaza is gaining stream,” accessed 5 July 2026, <https://www.972mag.com/northern-gaza-liquidation-scenario-eiland-rabi/>.

“Uzi Rabi» ISGAP” Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://isgap.org/fellow/professor-uzi-rabi/>.

3.3 Bar-Ilan University

3.3.1 Structure and History of Bar-Ilan University

Bar-Ilan University (BIU) was established in 1955 by the American Mizrahi movement, a Religious Zionist organisation, with a founding mission unique among Israeli universities: the integration of „*Torah im Derekh Eretz*“ (Torah with the way of the land) into modern academic education.¹⁹⁵ Named after Rabbi Meir Bar-Ilan, a prominent Religious Zionist leader, the university opened with 90 students and 23 faculty members.¹⁹⁶ Unlike all other Israeli institutions of higher education, BIU has maintained a mandatory Jewish studies requirement for every undergraduate student – a structural feature that continues to define its institutional identity.¹⁹⁷ Indeed, the university's political character has shifted in tandem with the Religious Zionist movement. Following the 1967 occupation of the West Bank, BIU became one of the centres for the messianic and right-wing ideology that came to dominate the Religious Zionist movement, with the core interest of „the permanent incorporation of the West Bank under Israeli sovereignty“.¹⁹⁸ This ideologic trajectory culminated in the 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a BIU law student for signing the Oslo Accords with Yasser Arafat.¹⁹⁹

While mandatory religious studies are to be found in other universities worldwide, at BIU they are inseparable from its Religious Zionist founding mission – a project that scholars have characterised as settler colonialism.²⁰⁰

Additionally, two structural features of BIU warrant particular attention. First, the Department for Security Forces – established in 1995 – offers tailored degrees to members of the Shin Bet, Israeli Police and the defence industry, with approximately 5,000 security personnel graduated from the programme.²⁰¹ Second, the Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies (BESA) – founded in 1993 – advances a „realistic, conservative and Zionist agenda“²⁰² producing research directed toward senior Israeli decision-makers.

In sum, BIU is institutionally defined by three distinctive, mutually reinforcing pillars: (a) a religious Zionist founding ethos, operationalised through the mandatory Jewish studies requirement, which anchors the university's identity as a religiously and nationally oriented institution; (b) a strategic orientation toward national security, operationalised through the Department for Security Forces and the BESA Centre; and (c) a trajectory of scientific and military-industrial expansion, exemplified by the Gonda Nanotechnology Triplex, which directly facilitates collaborations with the Israeli arms industry.²⁰³ These features – particularly the second – bare directly on the assessment of BIU's complicity with violations of international law, examined in the following sections.

¹⁹⁵ Bar-Ilan University, „About Bar-Ilan – Overview“, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.biu.ac.il/en/about-bar-ilan/overview/why-bar-ilan>.

¹⁹⁶ Bar-Ilan University, „Historical Milestones“, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.biu.ac.il/en/about-bar-ilan/overview/historical-milestones>.

¹⁹⁷ Bar-Ilan University, „Information and Guidelines: Olamot - The School of Jewish Studies and Israeli Culture Studies Requirements – Bachelor's Degree“, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://olamot.biu.ac.il/en/node/2604>.

¹⁹⁸ Yoav Peled, „Toward Religious Zionist Hegemony in Israel“, in *Middle East Research and Information Project*, December 16, 2019, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.merip.org/2019/12/toward-religious-zionist-hegemony-in-israel/>.

¹⁹⁹ See also Asher Maoz, „Religiously Oriented Universities in Israel“ in *Organizzazioni di tendenza e formazione universitaria: Esperienze europee e mediterranee a confronto*, ed. Antonio G. Chizzoniti (Bologna: Il Mulino, 2006), p. 236.

²⁰⁰ On Zionism as a settler-colonial project, see Patrick Wolfe, „Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native“, *Journal of Genocide Research* 8, no. 4 (2006): 387–409; and Ilan Pappé, *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine* (Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2006).

²⁰¹ Bar-Ilan University, „About the Security Branch Department at Bar-Ilan University“, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://mzbb.biu.ac.il/about>.

²⁰² American Friends of Bar-Ilan University, „Strengthening Israel through Diplomacy and Negotiation“, accessed June 5, 2026, afbiu.org/begin-sadat-center-strategic-studies.

²⁰³ See Bar-Ilan University, „BINA Report 2025“, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.digipage.co.il/projects/2026/biu/bina/20/>.

BIU Nanotechnology Institute (BINA), „Innovation in Chip Development Elbit – BINA“, January 20, 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://nano.biu.ac.il/node/9056>.

3.3.2 Activities in Illegally Occupied Territories

BIU played a foundational role in establishing an Israeli university in an illegal settlement. In 1982, BIU created the „College of Judea and Samaria,” later Ariel University, located in the West Bank settlement of Ariel. The institution remained under BIU's academic umbrella until it received independent status in 2004.²⁰⁴

Israeli settlements in the occupied territory violate international law, as affirmed by UN Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016), which states that the settlements have no legal validity and constitute a flagrant violation under international law.²⁰⁵ By establishing an academic institution in the illegal settlement of Ariel, BIU directly participated in the creation and maintenance of an illegal occupation infrastructure.

The settlement of Ariel, where BIU established its branch campus, is one of the largest Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Its presence has significantly restricted Palestinian access to land and resources in the surrounding area.²⁰⁶ As Maya Wind documents in *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, Israeli universities serve as „outpost campuses” designed to anchor settlement expansion and Palestinian dispossession – a pattern exemplified by BIU's role in the founding of Ariel University.²⁰⁷

Bar-Ilan University's complicity in the illegal occupation extends beyond its role in the founding of Ariel University. The university's Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology actively participates in archaeological excavations in the occupied West Bank that serve to legitimise and expand illegal settlements.²⁰⁸ The Advisory Committee on Sensitive Collaborations of Erasmus University Rotterdam has documented a history of BIU excavations in Occupied Seilun, Khirbet al-Mazra'a, Hirbet Jib'it, Wadi er-Rashash and Khirbet Tibnah.²⁰⁹

²⁰⁴ Times Higher Education, „Ariel University,” accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/ariel-university>.

²⁰⁵ United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2334, S/RES/2334 (2016), accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.un.org/webcast/pdfs/SRES2334-2016.pdf>.

²⁰⁶ Stop the Wall, „Ariel West Settlement: Israel's colonial Wild West expands its grip on Palestinian land”, 2 April 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://stopthewall.org/2025/04/02/ariel-west-settlement-israels-colonial-wild-west-expands-its-grip-on-palestinian-land/>.

²⁰⁷ See Maya Wind, *Towers of Ivory and Steel: How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom* (London: Verso, 2024), chapter 2 („Outpost Campus”). While Humboldt-University does not have a formal institutional agreement with Ariel University, documented contacts exist. In January 2025, a researcher from Ariel University was invited to present at the Digital Classicist Seminar, organized by the Berliner Antike-Kolleg in cooperation with Humboldt University. This indicates that, beyond formal partnerships, academic exchanges with individuals from institutions located in illegal settlements have occurred, raising questions about the consistency of HU's position on collaborations with institutions in occupied territory. See Berliner Antike-Kolleg, „Newsletter Januar 2025,” https://www.berliner-antike-kolleg.org/services/newsletter/ausgaben/2025_januar.html.

²⁰⁸ Maya Wind, *Towers of Ivory and Steel: How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom* (London: Verso, 2024), p. 28.

²⁰⁹ Erasmus University Rotterdam, Advisory Committee on Sensitive Collaborations, Advice on the collaborations with Israeli Universities, paragraph 2.2, May 25, 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.eur.nl/en/media/2025-05-20250526-advice-collaborations-israeli-universities-publication>.

3.3.3 Cooperations with Israeli Weapons Manufacturers and the Military

BIU maintains extensive, publicly documented collaborations with the Israeli military (IDF), the Ministry of Defence and the arms industry.²¹⁰ Its Security Forces Division offers tailored academic tracks for members of the IDF, police, security forces (including the Shin Bet), government ministries and the defence industries.²¹¹ This entanglement is evidenced by hackathons with the IDF's elite *Yahalom* combat engineering unit²¹², a biotechnology hackathon co-sponsored by Elbit Systems and the Ministry of Defence²¹³ and a research partnership between BIU's Nanotechnology Institute and Elbit Systems on chip technology and silicon photonics.²¹⁴ In April 2025, BIU received the „Minister of Defence Award of Recognition“ for supporting reservist soldiers, with NIS 50 million invested in the „Academic Armor“ programme.²¹⁵

Elbit Systems – BIU's primary arms industry partner – has been documented as supplying munitions used by the IDF in densely populated areas of Gaza. The American Friends Service Committee and Amnesty International have documented Elbit Systems role as a primary supplier of weapons and surveillance systems to the Israeli military, with products used in attacks on civilian infrastructure in Gaza.²¹⁶

The Shin Bet – Israel's internal security service, with which BIU maintains a dedicated academic department – has been the subject of severe scrutiny by the UN Committee Against Torture. In its November 2025 concluding observations, the Committee documented „the application of a de facto State policy of organised and widespread torture and ill-treatment“ that has „gravely intensified since 7 October 2023,“ including allegations of severe beatings, sexual violence, waterboarding, denial of medical care, and the torture of children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.²¹⁷

The Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) decision of June 2025 recognised the deeply problematic nature of this close interrelation between BIU and the Israeli military and security apparatus. EUR froze all collaborations with BIU, citing its „structural entanglement with the State of Israel and IDF“ and „direct involvement in structural violations of human rights and/or international humanitarian law (including war crimes).“²¹⁸

²¹⁰ Bar-Ilan University, „Defense-Tech: Israel's Quiet Frontline of National Security“, June 9, 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.biu.ac.il/en/article/583601>; The Association of Civil-Military Studies in Israel, „Educational institutions“, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.civil-military-studies.org.il/en/review-of-research-institutes-en/educational-institutions/>.

²¹¹ Bar-Ilan University, „מיקום ודרכי הגעה | המדור לזרועות הביטחון“, <https://mzb.biu.ac.il/node/113> (Security Forces Unit offices). Notably, key institutional information regarding the Security Forces Division is available only in Hebrew and does not appear in the English-language version of the university's website – a pattern consistent with what scholars have identified as a strategy of whitewashing the institution's more problematic engagements for international audiences.

See also The Jerusalem Post, „Partner will award scholarships to students who were injured during the war“, November 25, 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.jpost.com/consumerism/article-874941>.

²¹² The Alexander Kofkin Faculty of Engineering, Bar-Ilan University, „Coming home from Gaza puts life in proportion“, June 25, 2024, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://engineering.biu.ac.il/en/node/12812>.

²¹³ The Alexander Kofkin Faculty of Engineering, Bar-Ilan University, „Sign Up for the Biothon, the Biotech Hackathon“, April 27, 2023, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://engineering.biu.ac.il/en/node/11810>.

²¹⁴ Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology & Advanced Materials, Bar-Ilan University, „Innovation in Chip Development Elbit - BINA“, January 14, 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://nano.biu.ac.il/node/9056>.

²¹⁵ Bar-Ilan University, „BIU Honored with Minister of Defense Award of Recognition for Outstanding Support of IDF Reservists“, April 29, 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.biu.ac.il/en/article/583438>.

²¹⁶ American Friends Service Committee, „Companies Profiting from the Gaza Genocide“, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://afsc.org/gaza-genocide-companies>.

Amnesty International, „Global: Confronting the global political economy enabling Israel's genocide, occupation and apartheid“, September 18 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/09/global-political-economy-enabling-israels-genocide-occupation-apartheid/>.

²¹⁷ United Nations Committee Against Torture, Concluding Observations on the Sixth Periodic Report of Israel, CAT/C/ISR/CO/6, adopted 25 November 2025, paragraph 28. Accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/committee-against-torture-concluding-observations-on-the-sixth-periodic-report-of-israel-report-cat-c-isr-co-6/>.

²¹⁸ Erasmus University Rotterdam, Advisory Committee on Sensitive Collaborations, Advice on the collaborations with Israeli Universities, paragraph 2.2, May 25, 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.eur.nl/en/media/2025-05-20250526-advice-collaborations-israeli-universities-publication>.

3.3.4 Normalization and Propaganda

Beyond direct military collaboration, Bar-Ilan University actively participates in Israeli public diplomacy efforts designed to normalise the occupation and counter international legal scrutiny.

The Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies (BESA) at BIU functions as an institutional vehicle for advocacy on behalf of Israeli state policies. Its research minimises allegations of genocide, dismisses Palestinian refugee claims, and inverts the framework of settler-colonialism to accuse Palestinians of the very charge leveled against Israel.²¹⁹ In July 2025, BESA published a 300-page report arguing that allegations of genocide in Gaza are factually unsubstantiated.²²⁰ BESA has also published papers advocating for the dismantlement of UNRWA, the relief and human development agency, that provides most medical and nutritional aid to Palestinians.²²¹ Furthermore, in a 2017 paper, BESA stated that the term „settler-colonialism“ should be applied to Palestinians rather than Israelis.²²²

These publications explicitly advocate for policies violating international law, including the continued occupation of the West Bank and the use of disproportionate force against civilians, positioning the BESA Centre as an academic-facing propaganda arm of the Israeli right wing.

By maintaining active institutional collaborations with BIU – including the Erasmus+ Worldwide agreement – HU Berlin participates in the normalisation of an institution systematically complicit with the occupation, settlement enterprise and military apparatus. As the BDS movement’s anti-normalisation guidelines explain, normalisation „means dealing with or presenting something that is inherently abnormal, such as oppression and injustice, as if it were normal.“²²³ By treating BIU as a routine academic partner, HU signals that an institution deeply embedded in the Israeli military and settlement enterprise can operate as if there were no occupation, no apartheid, no ongoing Nakba.

The active Erasmus+ Worldwide agreement is of particular concern. It facilitates direct student and staff mobility to BIU directly violating PACBI criteria 5 and 11, which identify study abroad schemes in Israel as part of the Israeli propaganda effort and subject to boycott.²²⁴

²¹⁹ For an overview of BESA’s mission, see American Friends of Bar-Ilan University (AFBIU), „Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies,” accessed June 5, 2026, <https://afbiu.org/begin-sadat-center-strategic-studies> (the center advances a „realistic, conservative and Zionist agenda”).

²²⁰ Danny Orbach, Jonathan Boxman, Yagil Henkin, and Jonathan Braverman, *Debunking the Genocide Allegations: A Reexamination of the Israel-Hamas War (2023-2025)*, Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, July 2025, <https://besacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/213hebweb2.pdf#42>, <https://besacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Debunking-final-updated-12.5.2026WEB.pdf>.

²²¹ Adi Schwartz, *Dismantle UNRWA, BESA Center Perspectives Paper No. 528*, July 14, 2017, <https://besacenter.org/dismantle-unrwa/> <https://besacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/528-Dismantle-UNRWA-Schwartz-final.pdf>.

Efraim Karsh, *The Privileged Palestinian „Refugees”*, BESA Center Mideast Security and Policy Studies No. 149, May 15, 2018, <https://besacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/149-MONOGRAPH-Privileged-Palestinian-Refugees-Karsh-WEB.pdf>.

Alex Joffe, *Palestinian Settler-Colonialism*, BESA Center Perspectives Paper No. 577, September 3, 2017, p. 1 and 3. Accessed June 5, 2026, <https://besacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/577-Palestinian-Settler-Colonialism-Joffe-final.pdf>.

²²² Alex Joffe, *Palestinian Settler-Colonialism*, BESA Center Perspectives Paper No. 577, September 3, 2017, p. 1 and 3. Accessed June 5, 2026, <https://besacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/577-Palestinian-Settler-Colonialism-Joffe-final.pdf>.

²²³ BDS Movement, „The BDS Movement’s Anti-Normalization Guidelines Explained,” October 29, 2022, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.bdsmovement.net/news/bds-movement-anti-normalization-guidelines>.

²²⁴ Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI), „Guidelines for the International Academic Boycott of Israel,” criteria 5 and 11, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://bdsmovement.net/pacbi/academic-boycott-guidelines>.

The Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) decision of June 2025 provides a critical precedent. EUR froze all institutional collaborations with BIU after an independent investigation found „credible indications“ of its „direct involvement in structural violations of human rights and/or international humanitarian law“ with respect to both its activities in Occupied Territory and its entanglement with the Israeli military.²²⁵ The advisory committee recommended that EUR suspend collaborations until BIU provides evidence that the risk of involvement has subsided – effectively placing the burden of proof on the university.²²⁶ HU has not undertaken a similar investigation.

The EUR Advisory Committee explicitly considered BIU's efforts „in overcoming polarisation (science diplomacy),“ acknowledging that BIU „does engage in activities building bridges between communities“,²²⁷ such as the Project for Arab-Jewish Dialogue. However, the same committee concluded that these efforts do not mitigate the university's structural entanglement with the Israeli military and its involvement in violations of international law.²²⁸

In January 2026, the Presidium of HU was among the signatories of a joint declaration by Berlin university officials rejecting academic boycotts of Israeli institutions.²²⁹ While this statement reflects the position of the university's leadership, it does not constitute a formal institutional decision that would preclude the establishment of an independent review committee – a step that EUR took based on the recommendation of its Advisory Committee on Sensitive Collaborations.

United Nations Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese has explicitly called on universities to sever ties with Israeli institutions, stating that the ICJ's advisory opinion obliges „everyone, member states, united nations, and private institutions including universities, not to engage, not to assist in any possible way“ Israel's unlawful occupation.²³⁰ This call is reinforced by the UN's recognition of „scholasticide“ – the systematic destruction of Palestinian education infrastructure in Gaza – which UN experts have documented as „an intentional effort to comprehensively destroy the Palestinian education system.“²³¹ While Israeli universities have remained largely silent on the destruction of Palestinian higher education, HU's continued institutional collaboration with BIU risks complicity through normalisation in the very violations that UN experts have condemned.²³²

²²⁵ Erasmus University Rotterdam, Advisory Committee on Sensitive Collaborations, Advice on the collaborations with Israeli Universities, Mai 25, 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.eur.nl/en/media/2025-05-20250526-advice-collaborations-israeli-universities-publication>.

See also Erasmus University Rotterdam, EUR freezes institution-wide collaborations with Bar-Ilan University, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and University of Haifa, June 5, 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.eur.nl/en/news/eur-freezes-institution-wide-collaborations-bar-ilan-university-hebrew-university-jerusalem-and>

²²⁶ Ibid.

²²⁷ Advisory Committee on Sensitive Collaborations, Advice on the collaborations with Israeli Universities, Mai 25, 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.eur.nl/en/media/2025-05-20250526-advice-collaborations-israeli-universities-publication>.

²²⁸ Ibid.

²²⁹ Stellungnahme für die Zusammenarbeit mit Wissenschaftler*innen sowie akademischen Einrichtungen in Israel – gegen akademische Boykotte – vom 21.01.2026, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScxyhKpBE1-cle2d1IHsS8r9BIFDuZbYduGhvr4VeBG7eQA/viewform?pli=1>.

See also Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Stellungnahme für die Zusammenarbeit mit israelischen Wissenschaftler*innen und Wissenschaftseinrichtungen, January 23, 2026, <https://www.hu-berlin.de/nachrichten/detail/stellungnahme-fuer-die-zusammenarbeit-mit-israelischen-wissenschaftlerinnen-und-wissenschaftseinrichtungen>.

²³⁰ Academics for Palestine, „We asked Francesca Albanese about Academic Boycott“, February 18, 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://academicsforpalestine.dk/we-asked-francesca-albanese-about-academic-boycott/>.

²³¹ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, „UN Experts Deeply Concerned over 'Scholasticide' in Gaza,“ press release, April 18, 2024, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/un-experts-deeply-concerned-over-scholasticide-gaza>.

²³² For documentation of Bar-Ilan University's entanglement with the Israeli military and security apparatus, see the previous chapters.

For the silence of Israeli universities on the destruction of Palestinian higher education, see Maya Wind, *Towers of Ivory and Steel: How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom* (London: Verso, 2024), chapter 6 („Academia Against Liberation“), which documents how Israeli universities have „remained silent over the decades as Israeli policies have continued to stifle Palestinian universities“ and how „there is currently no movement in Israeli universities campaigning to sever ties with the Israeli military and security state for its repeated violations of the inalienable Palestinian right to education“.

By continuing to collaborate with BIU – and by publicly rejecting academic boycotts – HU not only normalises a complicit institution but also exposes itself to the risk of indirect involvement in violations of international law. As the EUR advisory committee made clear, maintaining institutional ties with an entity „systemically entangled in, contributing to, condoning, or unduly benefiting from“ such violations exposes the collaborating university to this risk.²³³ The EUR concluded that collaboration with BIU „puts the EUR in a position in which it may become indirectly connected to these violations, which would in turn seriously compromise the fundamental values and academic responsibilities of the EUR.“²³⁴ By failing to assess the specific institutional risks posed by its partnership with an entity documented as systemically entangled with the Israeli military, settlement enterprise, and security apparatus, HU places itself in a position where it may become indirectly connected to the very violations of academic freedom, human rights, and international law that its own declaration claims to defend.

3.4 Weizmann Institute of Science

3.4.1 Structure and History of the Weizmann Institute of Science

The following paragraph is aimed to provide a basic understanding of the framework in which the university operates and therefore connects to the systemic oppression of Palestinians by Israel.

Structure

The Weizmann Institute of Science is primarily a research institution that conducts basic scientific research and offers graduate-level education. The institute hosts specialised centres such as the *Helen and Martin Kimmel Centre for Archaeological Science*.²³⁵ Beyond the faculties, the institute comprises a range of educational and research centres that will be discussed in subsequent chapters.

Code of Conduct

In terms of governance, the Weizmann Institute does not operate under a single formal constitution but instead relies on a framework of internal policies and regulations. Among these is a Code of Ethical Conduct which sets out general expectations for students and staff, including adherence to international law. More specific institutional policies are often grounded in Israeli national law.²³⁶ For example, regulations concerning freedom of speech restrict campus protests if the organising group or the subject of the demonstration is classified as terrorist under the Israeli Counter-Terrorism Law of 2016.²³⁷

²³³ Erasmus University Rotterdam, Advisory Committee on Sensitive Collaborations, Advice on the collaborations with Israeli Universities, May 25, 2025, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.eur.nl/en/media/2025-05-20250526-advice-collaborations-israeli-universities-publication>

²³⁴ Ibid.

²³⁵ 'The Helen and Martin Kimmel Center for Archaeological Science', Weizmann Institute of Science, accessed 28 March 2026, <https://centers.weizmann.ac.il/kimmel-arch/>.

²³⁶ 'Code of Ethical Conduct', Weizmann Institute of Science, accessed 28 March 2026, <https://www.weizmann.ac.il/RGP/content/Code-of-Ethical-Conduct>.

²³⁷ 'Freedom of Speech', 4 June 2025, https://www.weizmann.ac.il/wsos/PoliciesAndRegulations/sites/feinberg.PoliciesAndRegulations/files/e_0104_freedom_of_speech_new_1.pdf.

This law has been criticised by international human rights organisations and the United Nations for its vague legal definitions and potential implications for civil society organisations.²³⁸

History

According to the institute's own account, it was founded in 1934 in Rehovot by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, who later became the first president of Israel.²³⁹ The Weizmann Institute, just as the Technion in Haifa and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem contributed to the Nakba by providing their campuses for military bases as well as their equipment and scientific knowledge to develop weapons and strategies for state-building. Later, scientists from the Weizmann Institute and the Technion laid the foundation for the development of Israel's weapons manufacturers like Rafael Advanced Defence Systems that operate until today.²⁴⁰

3.4.2 *Activities in Illegally Occupied Territories*

The scientific archaeology unit of the Weizmann Institute regularly collaborates with the Israel Antiquities Authority. In 2021 Haaretz, an Israeli daily newspaper, reported that together they excavated Dead Sea scrolls from Wadi Murabba'at in the illegally occupied West Bank. These archaeological artifacts are protected as part of Palestine's cultural Heritage under international law and therefore not subject to Israeli control.²⁴¹

3.4.3 *Cooperation with Israeli Weapon Manufacturers and the Military*

The Weizmann Institute of Science has close links to Israel's major weapons manufacturers and provides its research to them and the military. Students at the institute regularly interact with representatives of the weapon industry and the university supported the weapon industry with financial aid, since they have been active in Gaza from October 2023.

Rafael Advanced Defence Systems

Weizmann Institute played a central role in the foundation of one of Israel's biggest weapons manufacturers, Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, with which it has close institutional links until today. They, for example, work together in the field of quantum science.²⁴²

²³⁸ 'Israel's "Terrorism" Designation an Unjustified Attack on Palestinian Civil Society – Bachelet', Pressemitteilung, United Nations, Geneva, 26 October 2021, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/10/israels-terrorism-designation-unjustified-attack-palestinian-civil-society>.

²³⁹ 'History', Weizmann Institute of Science, accessed 28 March 2026, <https://www.weizmann.ac.il/pages/about-institute/history>.

²⁴⁰ Maya Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel: How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom* (Verso, 2024).

²⁴¹ Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*.

²⁴² 'A Unique Nuclear Property Propels Quantum Computing into New Research and Applicative Directions', Weizmann Wonder Wander Science News and Culture, 26 August 2021, <https://wis-wanderweizmann.ac.il/space-physics/spinning-threads-quantum-memory>.

Elbit systems

The Weizmann Institute also regularly collaborates with Elbit Systems. They share knowledge in so-called "Brainstorming sessions" to "accelerate joint development".²⁴³ In that context, The Times of Israel quoted the Weizmann Institute in October 2024 on plans to work with Elbit Systems.²⁴⁴ The company has also shared its resources, like in 2022 when Elbit provided the Weizmann Institute with \$16 million contract to supply a space telescope.²⁴⁵

Kiryat Weizmann

A lot of this cooperation is taking place in the science park *Kiryat Weizmann* which is located right next to the campus. It hosts facilities of Rafael, Elbit Systems and its subsidiary El-Op, as well as other private companies to commercialise scientific discoveries.²⁴⁶

Yeda

Over 60 years ago the institute founded a company called Yeda which specialises in making inventions profitable on a broader market.²⁴⁷ For instance, UltraSight, a company linked to Yeda's technology transfer activities, is developing AI-powered ultrasound for cardiac sonography, that is now being used by IDF soldiers in the field.²⁴⁸

AMOTech club

Student initiatives have also engaged with representatives of the weapon industry. For example, the AMOTech club at the Weizmann Institute²⁴⁹ hosted an event in 2022 with AccuBeat, which develops software for drones and other war vehicles²⁵⁰, and in 2023 with Elbit Systems and Rafael Advanced Defence Systems.²⁵¹

Financial Aid

In December 2023 the Weizmann Institute published a list of new benefits consisting of special grants and free Credit Points for students on active military service during the genocide in Gaza, called the "Iron Swords" war by Israeli officials and institutions.²⁵²

Further military ties

Even before entering university, young Israeli high school students can participate in a programme offered by the Davidson Institute, the educational arm of the Weizmann Institute, that combines preparation for the military service with science education.²⁵³ Another partner institution of the Weizmann Institute is the Sheba Medical Centre, that also keeps close ties to the military by training medical personnel specifically for working in the IDF. Furthermore, it recently formed an official partnership with the Friends of the IDF to focus on trauma therapy for IDF soldiers.²⁵⁴

²⁴³ 'Scientific Brainstorming Session with Elbit Systems Ltd', Weizmann Institute of Science, 5 July 2023, <https://www.weizmann.ac.il/bina/news/scientific-brainstorming-session-elbit-systems-ltd>.

²⁴⁴ Rossella Tercatin, 'From Heart Tissue to DNA Samples, Weizmann Scientists Mourn Work Vaporized in Iran Attack', The Times of Israel, 19 June 2025, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/from-heart-tissue-to-dna-samples-weizmann-scientists-mourn-work-vaporized-in-iran-attack/>.

²⁴⁵ 'Elbit Systems Awarded a \$16 Million Contract to Supply a Space Telescope to the Weizmann Institute of Science', Elbit Systems, Haifa, Israel, 26 January 2022, <https://www.elbitsystems.com/news/elbit-systems-awarded-16-million-contract-supply-space-telescope-weizmann-institute-science>.

²⁴⁶ Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*.

²⁴⁷ 'Technology Transfer', Pressemitteilung, Weizmann Wonder Wander Science News and Culture, accessed 28 March 2026, <https://wis-wander.weizmann.ac.il/books/technology-transfer>.

²⁴⁸ Fred Pennic, 'Israel Defense Forces to Utilize UltraSight's PoCUS Devices in Combat', HIT Consultant, 24 October 2023, <https://hitconsultant.net/2023/10/24/israel-defense-forces-to-utilize-ultrasights-pocus-devices-in-combat/>.

²⁴⁹ Nitzan Kahn et al., 'About Us', AMOTech, accessed 29 March 2026, <https://www.weizmann.ac.il/amotech/>.

²⁵⁰ Inbar Zohar, 'A Spotlight on LightSolver & AccuBeat', Flyer, 28 December 2022, <https://www.weizmann.ac.il/amotech/sites/amotech/files/A%20spotlight%20on%20LightSolver%20and%20AccuBeat%20abstracts.pdf>.

²⁵¹ Nitzan Kahn et al., 'R&D in the Defense Industry in Israel', Events, 21 June 2023, <https://www.weizmann.ac.il/amotech/events/rd-defense-industry-israel>.

²⁵² Prof. Gilad Perez, '2023/2024 Academic Year Opening Update and Adjustments for Students Following the "Iron Swords" War', Announcement, 4 December 2023, https://www.weizmann.ac.il/wsos/sites/feinberg/files/uploads/fgs_update_04dec2023_-_update_and_adjustments_for_students_following_the_iron_swords_war.pdf.

²⁵³ 'Davidson Institute of Science Education', n.d., accessed 29 March 2026, <https://www.weizmann.ac.il/magazine/Davidson-2024/Davidson-2024.pdf>.

²⁵⁴ 'Sheba and FIDF Unite: Advancing Mental Health Care In Israel', Sheba Global, 4 February 2024, https://sheba-global.com/sheba-and-fidf-unite-advancing-mental-health-care-nationally/?__cf_chl_tk=DvgmrF27Gs9A5e.PK3plTeYZjkUSI90lLeNWnQqwrFw-1774785950-1.0.1.1-1wszfMSFrSuhmTyboSmTk1Ez5RiVeWRmk8YA32sOwL8.

3.5 Kinneret College on The Sea of Galilee

3.5.1 Structure and History of the Institute

Kinneret Academic College is located on the southwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret/Lake Tiberias). Established in 1965 as the *Emek HaYarden Regional College*, the institution was founded by the Emek HaYarden Regional Council.²⁵⁵ The council administers the kibbutzim and other rural communities located along the Jordan River and the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. Before the inauguration of its permanent campus in 1974, Kinneret College operated as a secondary school from the Avraham Haft Youth Center in Samakh.²⁵⁶ In 1983, it established a preparatory programme that combined academic study with agricultural work in neighbouring kibbutzim, including Afkim, Masada, Degania Alef and Degania Bet. Although this practical component has since been discontinued, it illustrates the historically close relationship between the college and the surrounding settlements.

From the beginning of the twentieth century, the Jordan Valley became one of the principal sites for the establishment of Jewish agricultural settlements. In 1910, Degania Alef, located on the southern shore of the Sea of Galilee, became the first kibbutz in Palestine and served as a model for the collective agricultural settlements that subsequently spread across the Jordan Valley and other parts of Palestine. Supported by institutions such as the Jewish National Fund (JNF), which purchased land for Jewish settlement, kibbutzim functioned as instruments of agricultural colonisation and demographic consolidation. Following the principles of Kibbush HaAvoda („Conquest of Labour”) and Kibbush HaKarka („Conquest of Land”) the JNF’s acquisition of land and productive resources was tied to economic and political conditions, including the exclusion of Palestinian labour and penalties for kibbutzim that employed Palestinians.²⁵⁷ By displacing Palestinians from their land and assuming control of their agricultural production, kibbutzim engaged in Palestinian dispossession and expulsion. This process has been described as a form of primitive accumulation that underpinned Zionist economic growth and strengthened Zionist territorial claims²⁵⁸ creating the material conditions preceding the crimes of 1948.²⁵⁹

By the time the United Nations proposed the partition of Palestine in 1947, the geographical distribution of Jewish settlements had become an important factor in defining the borders of the proposed Jewish state. The subsequent depopulation of Palestinian towns and villages surrounding the Sea of Galilee, such as Al-Dalhamiyya²⁶⁰ or Samakh, was consolidated during the Nakba of 1948.²⁶¹ By early May 1948, Zionist settlers informed the Jewish National Fund that the surroundings of the Sea of Galilee had been emptied of their “Arab” inhabitants.²⁶²

²⁵⁵ Kinneret Academic College on the Sea of Galilee, Kinneret Academic College, accessed 5 July 2026, <http://www.kinneret.ac.il/>.

²⁵⁶ Kinneret Academic College on the Sea of Galilee, Kinneret Academic College, accessed 5 July 2026, <http://www.kinneret.ac.il/>.

²⁵⁷ Abdo, Nahla. “Colonial Capitalism and Agrarian Social Structure: Palestine: A Case Study.” *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 26, no. 30, 1991, pp. PE73–84. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41498499>. Accessed 5 July 2026.

²⁵⁸ Decolonize Palestine, “Redwashing”, accessed 5 July 2026, <https://decolonizepalestine.com/rainbow-washing/redwashing/>.

²⁵⁹ Decolonize Palestine, “Redwashing”, accessed 5 July 2026, <https://decolonizepalestine.com/rainbow-washing/redwashing/>.

²⁶⁰ Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestine Question – Palquest. “al-Dalhamiyya — النالهمية.” Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.palquest.org/en/place/16801/al-dalhamiyya>.

²⁶¹ Palestine Remembered, “Map of the Destroyed & Depopulated Villages In Tiberias District”, accessed 5 July 2026, <https://www.palestineremembered.com/Tiberias/index.html>.

²⁶² All That Remains: The Palestinian Villages Occupied and Depopulated by Israel in 1948 Walid Khalidi

²⁶² Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestine Question – Palquest. “al-Dalhamiyya — النالهمية.” Accessed July 5, 2026. <https://www.palquest.org/en/place/16801/al-dalhamiyya>.

From the 1970s onwards, the Judaisation of the Galilee²⁶³ was not only implemented through the establishment of Jewish settlements but also through the strategic expansion of state institutions, including universities, which functioned as instruments of regional demographic and territorial planning rather than politically neutral centres of higher education.²⁶⁴ In this context, Kinneret Academic College has expanded from a regional teaching institution into a multidisciplinary college with programmes in engineering, social sciences, humanities, water technologies and regional studies. It has established research institutes focused on archaeology, security studies and Land of Israel Studies. The inauguration of the Kinneret Innovation Centre represents a further institutional expansion, embedding the college within a network of public, quasi-state, philanthropic and private industry actors. Founded in 2018 by Kinneret Academic College in partnership with Zemach Industries and Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael–Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF)²⁶⁵, the Centre brings together organisations historically implicated in land acquisition, settlement establishment and dispossession through the language of climate technologies, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship

3.7 University of Haifa

3.7.1 Discrimination against Palestinians

There are various levels at which the University of Haifa discriminates against Palestinians. Firstly, there have been several cases of students that were suspended because of online content after October 7th.³⁰⁷ Secondly, there are structural challenges for Palestinian students to attend Haifa University. For example, there has been a long-lasting legal battle sustained by Adalah - The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel in terms of the university's housing policy. For years the university granted Israeli students that fulfil their military service additional points in the application process. As Palestinian students are not obliged nor tend to do military service, this puts them at a disadvantage.³⁰⁸ Not being able to live on campus is especially difficult for Palestinian students because the infrastructure and public transport in between campuses and Palestinian villages have been underdeveloped due to insufficient governmental investments. When the students tried to protest this injustice, they were faced with disciplinary hearings.³⁰⁹

3.7.2 Settlements and the Project of "Judaization"

After the Nakba and the founding of the State of Israel, leaders of the Zionist movement coined the term "Judaization", which describes their efforts to expand Jewish settlements throughout the land.³¹⁰ As shown in the previous chapters, the universities played a big part in the displacement campaigns and their ideological justification.

Archaeology

Like others, the *Zinman Institute of Archaeology at the University of Haifa* participated in excavations in the oPt. One example is the archaeological site Ir David in Jerusalem and others in surrounding Palestinian neighbourhoods, that are managed by *Elad*.³¹¹

Mitspim

A different project created at the University of Haifa is called *mitspim* (Hebrew for "lookouts") which consists of strategic Jewish settlements on hilltops in the Galilee to isolate Palestinian villages and strengthen Jewish-Israeli control in the region. Haifa's academics underlined the state ideology by warning of "the low ratio of Jews as compared to Palestinians" in the Galilee.³¹² These *mitspim* communities, that primarily consist of white Ashkenazi Jews, have not only discriminated against Palestinians but also Ethiopian Jewish-Israelis and Mizrahi Jews. In so-called "admissions committees", applications by Mizrahim to live in these settlements have been largely rejected because they "were deemed unsuitable".³¹³

³⁰⁷ 'Protecting Scholars and the Freedom to Think, Question, and Share Ideas'; Scholars at Risk, n.d., accessed 12 June 2026, <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2023-10-10-university-of-haifa/>.

³⁰⁸ 'Adalah Submits Petition to District Court Challenging Haifa University's Discriminatory Student Housing Policy'; Adalah The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, 31 October 2005, <https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/6371>.

On military service: Wind et al. *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, p. 146.

³⁰⁹ Wind, *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, p. 154.

³¹⁰ Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*.

³¹¹ Uri Blau, 'Exclusive: Documents Reveal Decades of Close Cooperation between JNF and Elad', *+972 Magazine*, 19 October 2020, <https://www.972mag.com/exclusive-jnf-elad-jerusalem/>.

'Elad Association', *Jerusalem Story*, accessed 20 June 2026, <https://www.jerusalemstory.com/en/lexicon/elad-association>.

³¹² Maya Wind, 'Settler Universities: Israeli Higher Education and the Ongoing Nakba', *Society for Cultural Anthropology*, 5 November 2024, <https://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/settler-universities-israeli-higher-education-and-the-ongoing-nakba>.

³¹³ Jen Marlowe, 'Israel's Mizrahi Activists Are Fighting the Racist Nation-State Law', *The Nation Magazine*, 27 May 2020, <https://www.thenation.com/article/world/israel-racism-mizrahi-palestinians/>.

3.7.3 Collaboration with the Military

The University of Haifa claims to be the „home to IDF’s Military Academic Complex” and to offer education for „the largest number of IDF officers and security personnel”.³¹⁴ Likewise the university president, Prof. Ron Robin, shared with the Israel National News in 2018: „We are proud to open our doors to the members of the Israel Defence Forces and to be the academic home of Israel’s defence and security forces.[...]”.³¹⁵ This statement came after the university was appointed by the Israeli Defence Ministry to organise a consistent academic education for IDF soldiers. The relevant courses will take place at the Gilot military base, which is not only an extension of the university³¹⁶, but also serves as the headquarters for Unit 8200.³¹⁷ This means that since 2018 all three military colleges – the National Security College (MABAL), the Command and Staff College (PUM), and the Tactical Command College – have been institutionally connected with the University of Haifa. These institutions provide training for high ranking IDF officers in the Israeli Air Force and the navy and military intelligence.³¹⁸ Additionally, the University of Haifa offers the ideological justification for Israel’s military operations. For example, the Ethical Doctrine for Combating Terror was composed at the National Security College and has since been a guideline for pre-emptive military attacks that are internationally condemned as war crimes.³¹⁹

³¹⁴ 'Welcome to the UNIVERSITY of HAIFA' Flyer, n.d., accessed 12 June 2026, https://www.uni-haifa.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/UofH_Info_Sheet_04-12-2019_3_PRESS.pdf.

³¹⁵ 'University of Haifa Wins Tender for Military Colleges', Israel National News Arutz Sheva, 25 June 2018, <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/247962>.

³¹⁶ Sarah Levi, 'University of Haifa to Be First College to Grant Degrees to Officers', The Jerusalem Post, 26 June 2018.

³¹⁷ Gianluca Pacchiani, 'Nasrallah: Our Main Target Was Gilot Base, Home to Unit 8200', The Times of Israel, 25 August 2024, https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/nasrallah-our-main-target-was-gilot-base-home-to-unit-8200/.

³¹⁸ 'University of Haifa to Lead Israel's Military Colleges', Heights: University of Haifa Magazine, 2018, <https://magazine.haifa.ac.il/index.php/winter-2018/113-university-of-haifa-to-lead-israel4>.

³¹⁹ Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*.

3.8 Ben-Gurion University

3.8.1 Embeddedness in Settlement Ambitions

Ben-Gurion University was founded in 1969, two years after the 1967 war that led to Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Sinai Peninsula and the Golan heights – with the West Bank and Golan Heights remaining occupied up to this day. Located in the Naqab region (Negev in Hebrew), that was historically populated by Palestinian Bedouin indigenous communities, and ethnically cleansed during the Nakba and the following years, its establishment can be seen as part of Israel's ambitions to assert its dominance in the region by establishing a Jewish ethnic majority.³²⁰

After the expulsion of 80-85% of the Palestinian Bedouin indigenous communities in 1948, the state pursued a policy of dispossession and forced urbanisation, transforming lands previously owned by Palestinian Bedouins of the Naqab into state property and refusing recognition of remaining villages, de-facto illegalising them.³²¹ Even today, although Palestinian citizens constitute 35% of the Naqab's population, they live on only 3,5% of its territory.³²² Villages of Palestinian Bedouin indigenous communities are regularly subject to state demolition and face significant barriers to basic infrastructure and education.³²³

According to Maya Wind, settlement ambitions influence the universities politics to this day, as demonstrated by its expansion in the form of satellite campuses, partnerships with local R&D centres that allow graduates to remain in the region after graduation as well as links to the "Ayalim Association" – an association that proclaims the "reinforcing [of] Zionist activity in the Negev, Galilee and Israel's social periphery" as one of its main goals.³²⁴

Ayalim Association was founded by two students in 2002.³²⁵ In 2011, protest flared up at the university after the association gained permission to appear in classes and advertise its nearby Jewish-only student villages that serve to stimulate settlement in the area.³²⁶ According to Wind, the association remains present on campus.³²⁷

The universities embeddedness in state-led settlement ambitions also shines through statements given by the Universities President Daniel Chamowitz who declared in 2024 that "[i]n the 1960s, David Ben-Gurion envisioned a Hebrew Oxford in the Negev, at a point where, in Beersheba, there were more camels than people", concluding that BGU would hence be "the most important university for the development of Israel if you believe that the Negev is necessary for the future of our country".³²⁸ Following through with this policy, the department of mechanical engineering states proudly that most of its students have stayed in the area after graduation.³²⁹

³²⁰ Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, p. 77-78.

³²¹ Ismael Abu-Saad and Cosette Creamer, 'Socio-Political Upheaval and Current Conditions of the Naqab Bedouin Arabs', in *Indigenous (In)Justice: Human Rights Law and Bedouin Arabs in the Naqab/Negev* (2012), p. 28, 29.

³²² Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, p. 78.

³²³ Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, p. 70.

Abu-Saad and Creamer, 'Socio-Political Upheaval and Current Conditions of the Naqab Bedouin Arabs'

Amnesty International, *Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians - Cruel System of Domination and Crime against Humanity*, p. 28-29.

³²⁴ Ayalim Association, 'Gap Year Programs', accessed 29 March 2026, <https://www.ayalim.org.il/copy-of-%D7%A9%D7%A0%D7%AA-%D7%A9%D7%99%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%AA>

Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, p. 80-81.

³²⁵ Ben Sales, *Israeli Group Aims to Help Arabs - and Contain Them*, 11 December 2024, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-group-aims-to-help-arabs-and-contain-them/>.

³²⁶ Sarah Benton, *University Charged with Racism for Backing Zionist Settlement Recruiters*, *Jews for Justice for Palestinians*, 23 June 2011, <https://jffp.com/university-charged-with-racism-for-backing-zionist-settlement-recruiters/>

Ilana Koriel, *Lecturers at Ben Gurion University Protest against "Settlements within the Green Line"*, *Association des Universitaires pour le Respect du Droit International en Palestine*, 28 June 2011, <https://aurdip.org/lecturers-at-ben-gurion-university/>

Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*.

³²⁷ Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, 81.

³²⁸ Jerusalem Post Staff, *BGU Developed Israel's South. After Oct. 7, It's Ready to Do It Again*, 17 January 2024, <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-781438>.

³²⁹ Department of Mechanical Engineering, 'About', Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, accessed 29 March 2026, <https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/engn/me/Pages/aboutEng.aspx>.

3.8.2 Military Ties

BGU is deeply entrenched in the Israeli military-industrial complex. Through long-term partnerships but also its technology transfer company BGN Technologies the institution encourages knowledge exchange with the weapon's industry and the Israeli military.

The Gav Yam Technology Park

Central to facilitating these ties is the Gav-Yam Technology Park. Founded in 2013, the park is located in walking distance to the *Marcus Family Campus* in Beersheba³³⁰, clustering Research and Development centres of Elbit Systems³³¹, Rafael Advanced Systems³³² and IDF technological and intelligence Units including Unit 8200³³³ – the IDF's elite intelligence division, which was involved in the development of the *Lavender* and *Gospel* Systems.³³⁴

The University declares having been “partner in the initiative and the establishment” of the park, alongside the Be'er-Sheva Municipality as well as the real-estate companies KUD International LLC and Gav-Yam Company.³³⁵ Knowledge exchange “between academia and industry” being the self-proclaimed goal of these facilities, weapon manufacturers and the military are described as “exciting entrepreneurial companies” on the universities website.³³⁶

The university hence lends infrastructural and knowledge-based resources to companies and institutions that are most likely directly involved in the facilitation of war crimes. In addition to this, the project also supports settlement ambitions by attracting a highly educated population to the region. In that regard, the undertaking of “redefin[ing] the local job market, attracting a critical mass of hi-tech and bio-tech employment opportunities to Israel's southern region”, is also specifically used to advertise the park.³³⁷

³³⁰ 'Maps', Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, accessed 29 March 2026, <https://www.bgu.ac.il/en/general/maps/>.

³³¹ Elbit Systems, *Where Robots Go to Play*, Elbit Systems, 28 March 2024, <https://www.elbitsystems.com/blog/where-robots-go-to-play>.

³³² Shoshanna Solomon, 'Ben Gurion Researchers, Israel Defense Firm Rafael Join Forces on Cyber, AI', *The Times of Israel*, 29 January 2019, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ben-gurion-researchers-israel-defense-firm-rafael-join-forces-on-cyber-ai/>.

³³³ John Reed, Unit 8200: Israel's Cyber Spy Agency, 10 July 2015, <https://www.ft.com/content/69f150da-25b8-11e5-bd83-71cb60e8f08c?syn-25a6b1a6=1>.

³³⁴ The AI-based system *Lavender* was used during Israel's "Sword of Iron" genocidal mission to identify Gazans allegedly belonging to militant factions as military targets – practically developing kill lists for the military personnel. In the early stages of the Genocide the system clocked as many as 37 000 Palestinians as potential militants. While no requirement existed to double-check this information, the potential militants were systemically targeted while being in their homes meaning that entire families were being subjected to these attacks.

Yuval Abraham, 'Lavender: The AI Machine Directing Israel's Bombing Spree in Gaza', 3 April 2024, <https://www.972mag.com/lavender-ai-israel-army-gaza/>.

³³⁵ 'Ben-Gurion Advanced Technologies Park', Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, accessed 29 March 2026, <https://www.bgu.ac.il/en/general/atp/>.

'About BGU', Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, accessed 29 March 2026, <https://www.bgu.ac.il/en/general/about-bgu/>.

As part of the companies' profile, Gav-Yam describes itself as "in its early days [...] engaged in the establishment of industrial and employment zones as part of the Zionist vision [...] supporting the growth and prosperity of the State of Israel". see: 'About Gav-Yam', Gav-Yam-Negev, <https://gav-yam.co.il/en/about/>.

³³⁶ 'Ben-Gurion Advanced Technologies Park', Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, accessed 29 March 2026, <https://www.bgu.ac.il/en/general/atp/>.

³³⁷ Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, 'Ben-Gurion Advanced Technologies Park'.

BGN Technologies

BGN Technologies, the “technology transfer company” of BGU, facilitates the commodification of research at a large scale, further encouraging partnerships between the university as well as companies in the Gav Yam Technology Park and beyond.³³⁸ In 2019, the university announced a long term collaboration with Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, facilitated through BGN Technologies in a variety of fields including “cybersecurity, smart mobility, robotics and artificial intelligence”.³³⁹ The company’s website lists the Start-Up “Sightec (Israel) Ltd.” as an exemplary “success story” of past collaboration.³⁴⁰ “Sightec (Israel) Ltd.” is specialised in visual autonomy software and drone-development, advertising its products as “combat-proven”, implicating its usage in Israeli military operations.³⁴¹ According to Maya Wind, BGN Technologies further cooperates with Elbit Systems, Israeli Aerospace Industry (IAI) and the US-American weapon’s manufacturer Lockheed Martin.³⁴²

Homeland Security Institute

BGU’s “Homeland Security Institute” can be understood as the last central pillar of the university’s involvement in the military industry. This institute, dedicated to the development of security technologies and strategies, undertakes research ranging from cyber security, remote sensing to autonomous vehicles and communications.³⁴³ Thereby it collaborates with multiple Israeli weapon manufacturers, such as Elbit Systems, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Ariel Photonics as well as the ministry of defense and the IAI.³⁴⁴

2.8.3. Support of the Genocidal War/ Operation “Swords of Iron”

During the genocidal war on Gaza, coined operation “Swords of Iron” by the military, BGU proved itself supportive of students joining the IDF. Instead of supporting those deciding to not partake in the extensive and systemic violations of international law undertaken by the IDF, the Universities President, Daniel Chamowitz, affirmed that “our commitment is that no one will be left behind because of their reserve duty”.³⁴⁵ Indeed, BGU has provided enrolled students that were called up for reserve duty with a grant of 1200 NIS (\$300) and a postponement of their rental fees if they were living in university dormitories as well as other benefits.³⁴⁶

³³⁸ Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, ‘Ben-Gurion Advanced Technologies Park’.

³³⁹ Solomon, ‘Ben Gurion Researchers, Israel Defense Firm Rafael Join Forces on Cyber, AI’, Ben-Gurion University Technology Transfer, ‘BGU and Rafael Sign Strategic Research Collaboration’, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, 30 January 2019, https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/bgn/Pages/news/bgu_rafael.aspx.

³⁴⁰ ‘Success Stories and Startups’, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, <https://bgn.bgu.ac.il/success-stories1/>.

³⁴¹ Sightec Technologies, ‘Product’, n.d., accessed 29 March 2026, <https://sightec.com/product/>.

³⁴² Wind et al., *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, 110.

³⁴³ Homeland Security Institute, ‘Mission’, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, accessed 29 March 2026, <https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/hsi/Pages/mission.aspx>.

³⁴⁴ Homeland Security Institute, ‘Collaborations’, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, accessed 29 March 2026, https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/hsi/Pages/international_collaborations.aspx.

³⁴⁵ ‘BGU Developed Israel’s South. After Oct. 7, It’s Ready to Do It Again’, Jerusalem Post, The Jerusalem Post, 17 January 2024, <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-781438>.

³⁴⁶ Gavriel Fiske, ‘Israel Universities Step up to Support Students in Reserves, War Effort’, Times of Israel, 7 November 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-universities-step-up-to-support-students-in-reserves-war-effort/>.

4. Adlershof Technology Park

4.1 Plans to establish an “IAI Berlin Aerospace & Defence Innovation Center” in Adlershof

On the 11th of June 2026, the State of Berlin announced in a press release that Berlin’s current mayor Kai Wegner and Boaz Levy, the CEO of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), had signed an agreement to establish an “IAI-Berlin Aerospace & Defence Innovation Centre”.³⁴⁷ This branch office of the second largest Israeli weapon producer is planned to open in the “Technology Park” in Adlershof – in close proximity to the Humboldt University’s natural sciences campus.³⁴⁸

The self-proclaimed goal of this project is to secure the IAI’s support for start-ups in the areas of “Aerospace, Defence, Security, and Dual-Use Technologies” and “strengthen cooperation among industry, policymakers, researchers, and investors”.³⁴⁹ In addition to this, the aim is also to establish local production facilities.³⁵⁰ This risks further complicity of the HU in Israeli crimes, at the very least by fostering informal knowledge exchange between university faculty and students and the company staff.³⁵¹ Due to the lack of a civil clause there may also be a risk of formal and direct cooperation with the company.

4.2 IAI and its Complicity in Crimes under International Law and the Unlawful Occupation

In its 2025 report “Pull the Plug on the Political Economy Enabling Israel’s Crimes”, Amnesty International enumerates the company among a list of 15 for which the organisation has collected credible evidence for its support to the genocide, as well as to upholding the system of apartheid and the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands.³⁵² Together with Elbit Systems and Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, Amnesty International describes that the weapon manufacturer stands out for its deep connections to the Israeli military and long involvement of the “security operations” in the oPt.³⁵³ IAI itself praises its cooperation with the IDF as a “uniquely integrated partnership”. As part of such, the company mentions that IAI personnel would be frequently embedded on military bases to provide “real-time support” to IAI’s military technology. These close ties to the military would provide for a “tight feedback loop between battlefield and development floor”.³⁵⁴

As a consequence for this entrenchment in illegal military operations, Amnesty International calls for states and public institutions to use their leverage and ensure that these companies are barred to from any activity that allows them to bring military or service goods to the market “including but not limited banning their participation in arms and security equipment fairs, government meetings, contracts, and participation in research grants and activities with public bodies related to military/ security goods and services”.³⁵⁵

³⁴⁷ Presse- und Informationsamt des Landes Berlin, ‘Gründung Eines Innovationszentrums Für Luft- Und Raumfahrt Und Verteidigung: Berlin Und IAI Unterzeichnen Absichtserklärung’, Press release, 11 June 2026, <https://www.berlin.de/rbmskz/aktuelles/pressemitteilungen/2026/pressemitteilung.1680924.php>.

³⁴⁸ Matthias Monroy, ‘Israels Staatlicher Rüstungskonzern Soll in Berlin Produzieren’, Nd-Aktuell.De, 13 June 2026, <https://www.nd-aktuell.de/artikel/1200372vereinbarung-mit-kai-wegner-israels-staatlicher-ruestungskonzern-soll-in-berlin-produzieren.html>.

³⁴⁹ ‘The State of Berlin and IAI Sign Strategic Memorandum of Understanding to Establish a New Innovation Center for Aerospace & Defense and to Expand IAI’s Industrial Presence Through Local Production’, Israel Aerospace Industries, 14 June 2026, <https://www.iai.co.il/press/the-state-of-berlin-and-iai-sign-strategic-memorandum-of-understanding-to-establish-a-new-innovation-center/>.

³⁵⁰ Presse- und Informationsamt des Landes Berlin, ‘Gründung Eines Innovationszentrums Für Luft- Und Raumfahrt Und Verteidigung: Berlin Und IAI Unterzeichnen Absichtserklärung’.

³⁵¹ Presse- und Informationsamt des Landes Berlin, ‘Gründung Eines Innovationszentrums Für Luft- Und Raumfahrt Und Verteidigung: Berlin Und IAI Unterzeichnen Absichtserklärung’.

³⁵² Amnesty International, *Pull the Plug on the Political Economy Enabling Israel’s Crimes* (2025), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol40/0289/2025/en/>, p. 4.

³⁵³ Amnesty International, *Pull the Plug on the Political Economy Enabling Israel’s Crimes*, p. 7.

³⁵⁴ ‘Frontline Innovation: How IAI’s Partnership with the IDF Enables Real-Time Success’, Israel Aerospace Industries, <https://www.iai.co.il/news/frontline-innovation-how-iais-partnership-with-the-idf-enables-real-time-success/>.

³⁵⁵ Amnesty International, *Pull the Plug on the Political Economy Enabling Israel’s Crimes*, p. 7.

Similarly, the UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese, mentions the company in her 2025 report From economy of occupation to economy of genocide among those that “enable the denial of self-determination and other structural violations in the occupied Palestinian territory, including occupation, annexation and crimes of apartheid and genocide, as well as a long list of ancillary crimes and human rights violations [...]”³⁵⁶ As a consequence, the UN Special Rapporteur urges Member States to prevent any trade agreements or investment relations with these companies and impose sanctions as well as urging corporate entities to cease all business activities and end relationships.³⁵⁷

4.3 HU’s Embeddedness in the “Technology Park” and Risk of Complicity

The Technology Park at Adlershof comprises around 1300 companies, multiple faculties of the HU, as well as research institutions on 4,6km². This clustering of research and industry in one place is explicitly designed to enhance exchange between the two sectors, a goal set out as such on the park’s website: “Business and Science in Adlershof: Short Distances, Unique Synergies, Fruitful Networks”.³⁵⁸

For example, informal exchange is fostered via the “ST3AM-Workspaces”: co-working spaces that aim at creating a “community” in Adlershof, by providing a space for “aspiring entrepreneurs, students and project groups from research institutes and companies” to cross paths and connect.³⁵⁹

Besides this, the university itself undertakes active efforts to connect students with local companies. This comprises initiatives such as the “Campus Club Adlershof”, a collaboration between the “Centre for Career Development” of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and WISTA Management, as well as the “Humboldt Founders Club”. These programmes aim respectively at fostering “exchange between students, researchers, employees and entrepreneurs” and connect entrepreneurs from HU and beyond by inviting entrepreneurs for career advice or organising networking events and Lunch Breaks.³⁶⁰

Beyond this, students might also come into contact with the company by means of internships, whether they are facilitated by the HU or not. Central to promoting exchange between research and industry on an institutional level is the HU subsidiary “Humboldt Innovation”. “Humboldt Innovation” facilitates the commercialisation of research, through licensing and by giving support to start-ups.³⁶¹ It is not apparent on the website if any ethical guidelines are used to evaluate whether a patent may be licensed by a company or not. Hence, with the establishment of

³⁵⁶ Francesca Albanese, *From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide* (Human Rights Council of the United Nations, 2025), p. 2.

³⁵⁷ Albanese, *From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide*, p. 26.

³⁵⁸ ‘Der Technologiepark Adlershof’, Adlershof.De, <https://www.adlershof.de/wirtschaft-wissenschaft/uebersicht>.

³⁵⁹ Amnesty International, *Pull the Plug on the Political Economy Enabling Israel’s Crimes*, p. 7.

Francesca Albanese, *From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide* (Human Rights Council of the United Nations, 2025), p. 2.

Albanese, *From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide*, p. 26.

‘Der Technologiepark Adlershof’, Adlershof.De, <https://www.adlershof.de/wirtschaft-wissenschaft/uebersicht>.

‘Gründungsprogramme/ Coworking’, Wista.De, accessed 23 June 2026, <https://www.wista.de/services/business-gruender>.

‘Beziehungsarbeit: Wie Das ST3AM-Community-Management Innovationsgemeinschaften Aufbaut’, Wista.De, <https://www.wista.de/aktuelles/news/beziehungsarbeit>.

³⁶⁰ ‘Campus Club Adlershof’, Hu-Berlin.De, <https://fakultaeten.hu-berlin.de/de/mnf/wisskar/center-for-career-development-adlershof/campus-club-adlershof>.

‘Humboldt Founders Club’, Humboldt-Innovation.De, <https://humboldt-innovation.de/de/startupservice/humboldt-founders-club>.

‘Gründungsprogramme/ Coworking’, Wista.De, accessed 23 June 2026, <https://www.wista.de/services/business-gruender>.

³⁶¹ ‘Vermarktung Und Shops’, Humboldt-Innovation.De, accessed 22 June 2026, <https://humboldt-innovation.de/de/shops>.

the IAI in Adlershof — and thus its integration into the cluster of companies and research institutes—there might be an increased risk that HU research will be licensed by companies that collaborate with the Israeli weapon manufacturer or even the IAI itself. Such formal cooperation with the company would constitute a direct violation of the recommendations set out by Amnesty International and the UN Special Rapporteur mentioned above, making the HU directly complicit in the crimes of genocide and apartheid and support of the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands.

5. Conclusion

This report has examined the institutional ties between HU and Israeli academic institutions, assessing the extent to which these partnerships implicate HU in violations of international law including the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory, the system of apartheid and the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The findings demonstrate that Israeli universities are not neutral institutions but are deeply embedded in the military, security and settlement enterprise of the Israeli state. By maintaining active collaborations—through Erasmus+ agreements, joint research projects, doctoral programmes, and institutional partnerships—Humboldt University participates in the normalisation of these structures and risks complicity in violations of human rights and international law that its own mission statement claims to defend.

Israeli universities were built upon, and continue to sustain, the project of settler colonialism. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI) was constructed on land confiscated from the Palestinian village of Al-Issawiyeh, with 90% of its territory now under Israeli control; its Mount Scopus campus functions as a settlement. Bar-Ilan University (BIU) played a foundational role in establishing Ariel University, an illegal settlement in the West Bank. The Kinneret Academic College is located in the Jordan Valley, heartland of early Zionist colonisation and its Innovation Centre partners with the Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF), historically involved in land acquisition and the exclusion of Palestinian labour. The University of Haifa advanced the „Judaisation“ of the Galilee through its „Mitspim“ programme, establishing hilltop settlements to isolate Palestinian villages. Ben-Gurion University (BGU) was founded in the Naqab desert—a region from which 80–85% of the Palestinian Bedouin indigenous population were ethnically cleansed—and remains embedded in settlement ambitions through ties to the Ayalim Association, which promotes Jewish-only student villages.

Israeli settlements in occupied territory violate international law, as affirmed by UN Security Council Resolutions 2334 (2016), 446 (1979) and 465 (1980).³⁶² The German government and the European Union have repeatedly condemned settlement expansion as illegal.³⁶³

Archaeology studies at Israeli universities serve territorial expansion and in turn the erasure of Palestinian history. HUJI's Institute of Archaeology conducts excavations in the occupied West Bank without Palestinian Authority approval, in violation of the 1954 Hague Convention, and participates in the „City of David“ excavations in Silwan—managed by the settler organisation Elad—which promotes exclusive Jewish claims while erasing Arab and Islamic history. BIU's Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology systematically excavates in occupied territory, leading Erasmus University Rotterdam to conclude that BIU engages in „a structural infringement of the right to self-determination.“ The Weizmann Institute collaborates with the Israel Antiquities Authority on excavations of the Dead Sea Scrolls at Wadi Murabba'at in the occupied West Bank, removing cultural heritage protected under international law. The University of Haifa's Zinman Institute similarly participates in excavations in occupied East Jerusalem.

Israeli universities are integrated into the training and operational structures of the IDF and intelligence services. HUJI hosts the Havatzalot (intelligence) and Talpiot (R&D/engineering) military programmes, with cadets in uniform and training in campus-based military facilities. Tel Aviv University (TAU) hosts the Erez Programme—described as an Israeli „West Point“—where soldiers reside in dormitories, wear uniforms, and follow a military curriculum; the programme is funded by the Ministry of Defence and imposes restrictions on academic staff, infringing academic freedom. TAU also hosts the Galim and Arazim programmes for cyber and intelligence personnel. The University of Haifa is the „academic home“ of the IDF, hosting all three military colleges—the National Security College (MABAL), the Command and Staff College (PUM), and the Tactical Command College—on the Gllot military base, the headquarters of Unit 8200. BGU hosts IDF technological and intelligence units in the Gav-Yam Technology Park. BIU's Department for Security Forces offers tailored programmes for Shin Bet, police, and defense industry personnel. The Technion offers the Psagot and Alonim programmes for soldiers.

³⁶² United Nations Security Council, Resolution 446, S/RES/446 (1979), 22 March 1979, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-181021/> (declaring settlements illegal)

and Resolution 465, S/RES/465 (1980), 1 March 1980, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-183760/> (calling upon all States not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements).

³⁶³ See European External Action Service (EEAS), „Israel/Palestine: Statement by the Spokesperson on the recent Israeli decision for new settlements“, April 10, 2026, https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/israel/palestine-statement-spokesperson-recent-israeli-decision-new-settlements_en (condemning settlements as „illegal under international law“).

See also German Federal Foreign Office, „The Federal Foreign Office on the situation in the West Bank“, June 26, 2025, <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/2724836-2724836>. The German Basic Law (Art. 25) further stipulates that the general rules of international law shall take precedence over federal law.

The entanglement with the arms industry is systematic. Elbit Systems—Israel's largest defence contractor, whose munitions have been used in densely populated areas of Gaza—maintains partnerships across multiple universities: the Technion (on electronic detection devices used in the Separation Wall and electro-optics research, with grants of up to half a million dollars; the Chairman of Elbit stated, „The Technion is woven into Elbit's DNA"); TAU (through the Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology); BIU (on chip technology and silicon photonics, hackathons, and the „Academic Armor" programme, for which BIU received the Minister of Defence Award in April 2025); BGU (via Gav-Yam Technology Park, BGN Technologies, and the Homeland Security Institute); and the Weizmann Institute (on bio-inspired defence materials, with Elbit providing a \$16 million space telescope; the Kiryat Weizmann science park hosts Elbit and Rafael facilities). Rafael Advanced Defence Systems—which produces Spike missiles and Spark drones used in Gaza—collaborates with the Technion (software development), TAU (through its venture capital arm), BGU (cybersecurity, robotics, and AI), and the Weizmann Institute (quantum science). Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) collaborates with HUJI through Yissum on quantum computing and with BGU through BGN Technologies. HUJI's technology transfer company Yissum supports start-ups with military applications, including joint ventures with IAI. TAU Ventures invests in military-affiliated companies such as Xtend, whose AI-guided drone systems are used in Gaza. The Technion has developed technologies used against Palestinians, including the D9 remote-controlled bulldozer, stealth and surveillance drones, the „Scream" sonic device, and AI tools for social media screening targeting Arabic-language content.

The planned „IAI Berlin Aerospace & Defence Innovation Centre" in Adlershof—signed on 11 June 2026 by Berlin's mayor and IAI's CEO—poses a direct ethical risk. Amnesty International has identified IAI among 15 companies with „credible evidence of its support for genocide, apartheid, and the illegal occupation." The company boasts a „uniquely integrated partnership" with the IDF, embedding personnel on military bases for „real-time support" and a „tight feedback loop between battlefield and development floor." The UN Special Rapporteur has included IAI among companies enabling „denial of self-determination" and urged states to prevent trade and investment relations with such companies. The IAI centre is not an isolated case; it is part of a broader trend of militarisation in Germany—from police forces deploying Palantir surveillance technologies to new laws expanding domestic security powers. This is not just about Palestine, but about a deeper transformation of German society that should concern everyone: the creeping normalisation of military and surveillance infrastructure within public institutions including universities. The Adlershof Technology Park—housing HU's natural sciences campus and 1,300 companies—is designed for exchange between

research and industry. Through co-working spaces, networking programmes, and HU's commercialisation subsidiary Humboldt Innovation, researchers and students may encounter IAI. Without a civil clause prohibiting collaboration with companies involved in violations of international law, HU risks formal or informal co-operation—potentially licensing research to IAI—which would constitute direct complicity in genocide, apartheid and illegal occupation.

Israeli universities produce legal frameworks justifying violations of international law. TAU's Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) has developed doctrines of „disproportionate force“ and a „hierarchy of human life“ prioritising Israeli soldiers over Palestinian civilians—doctrines implemented in Gaza since 2008 and continuing until today. BIU's Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies (BESA) denies genocide allegations and advocates for the dismantling of the UNRWA. The University of Haifa's Comper Centre trains „unofficial ambassadors of Israel“ through its „Ambassadors Online“ course, classifying criticism of Israel as antisemitic and recruiting Palestinian students for propaganda purposes. TAU's Lowy International School task force spreads misinformation denying the genocide and apartheid.

All examined universities suppress Palestinian voices and systematically discriminate against Palestinian students and faculty. HUJI suspended and arrested Professor Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian after she signed a call for a ceasefire ; she faced threats, a smear campaign, and torture during arrest. A lecture organised by FU/HU with her was cancelled; HU has not addressed her treatment. TAU has expelled Palestinian students and had others imprisoned for online solidarity; it restricts Palestinian student activities and denies Arabic-speaking students equal access. A professor publicly advocated removing Gaza's civilian population through starvation or extermination—with no institutional condemnation. The Technion imposes sanctions almost exclusively on Palestinian students. The University of Haifa suspends Palestinian students without investigation, involves police against them, and maintains housing policies disadvantaging those who have not served in the military. BIU maintains ties with the Shin Bet—described by the UN Committee Against Torture as implementing „a de facto State policy of organised and widespread torture and ill-treatment“ since 7 October 2023.

Kinneret Academic College offers degrees in „Water Industry Engineering“ in partnership with Mekorot, Israel’s national water company—listed by the UN for illegal activities in occupied territories. Mekorot controls West Bank water, providing only 75% of promised water to Palestinians while supplying illegal settlements with an unlimited supply. In Gaza, Mekorot supplied half of potable water before 7 October 2023; after Israel cut supply, availability fell below emergency minimums. A joint HU-HUJI research project (2021–2024) on water management policy involved Mekorot and the Israel Water Authority as stakeholders, giving HU a direct tie to a company accused of aiding genocide through water deprivation.

Dozens of European universities have severed, suspended, or frozen institutional ties, research collaborations and exchange programmes with Israeli universities following the events which began in October 2023. In the Netherlands, Erasmus University Rotterdam froze collaborations with BIU, the HUJI and the University of Haifa after independent investigations found direct involvement in human rights violations; the University of Amsterdam, Tilburg University and Radboud University have also suspended partnerships. In Belgium, Ghent University, the University of Antwerp, the Université Libre de Bruxelles and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel have taken similar steps. In Spain, dozens of universities—including the University of Barcelona—have severed ties with Israeli partners deemed complicit in the war in Gaza. In Ireland, Trinity College Dublin and University College Cork have suspended collaborations. In Italy, several institutions, including the University of Milan, the University of Pisa, and the Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa, have followed suit. In Switzerland, the University of Geneva has also suspended institutional agreements. These suspensions largely target institutional agreements and joint research projects, while most of these universities continue to allow individual collaborations with Israeli scholars and welcome Israeli students on an individual basis. However, the pattern is clear: across Europe, universities are recognising that institutional partnerships with Israeli academia cannot continue as if there were no occupation, no apartheid, no genocide. Humboldt University has not conducted similar investigations into any of the institutions examined in this report. Instead, HU publicly denounced academic boycotts of Israeli institutions in January 2026—exposing a double standard: HU swiftly implemented an institutional boycott of Russian academic institutions within weeks of the invasion of Ukraine, but has continued and even intensified collaborations with Israeli institutions that are systemically entangled in violations of international law.

The findings of this report demand not only institutional change but also collective action. We call on students, academics and staff at Humboldt University to refuse participation in any research or exchange projects with Israeli academic institutions and other complicit entities and to pressure the university administration to implement the demands set out below. The normalisation of occupation, apartheid, genocide and militarisation will only end when academic communities speak up for justice and refuse to be instruments of oppression. The time for silence has passed; the time for action is now.

Demands

Based on the findings of this report, we demand that Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin:

1. Terminate all partnerships, Erasmus+ agreements, joint research projects, and exchange programmes with Israeli academic institutions complicit in violations of international law.
2. Oppose the establishment of the „IAI Berlin Aerospace & Defense Innovation Center“ in Adlershof and prohibit any formal or informal collaboration with the company.
3. Introduce a civil clause into the university's constitution explicitly prohibiting involvement in research with military applications and any cooperation with companies or institutions complicit in violations of international law, safeguarded by a committee with student and staff representation.
4. Establish an independent evaluation committee to assess HU's institutional ties with Israeli universities, following the precedent of Erasmus University Rotterdam, and make recommendations on each partnership.
5. Establish partnerships with Palestinian educational institutions to demonstrate HU's commitment to academic freedom and the right to education for all.
6. Publicly condemn the genocide in Gaza, the system of apartheid, and the illegal occupation perpetrated by Israel, and acknowledge the complicity of the German state and German academic institutions in sustaining these structures.
7. Protect academic freedom and withdraw all repressive measures taken against students and staff who express solidarity with Palestine.
8. Ensure greater student and staff participation in all matters concerning the university's institutional partnerships and ethical commitments.

6. Glossary

Apartheid state

The term “apartheid” was originally used to refer to a political system in South Africa which explicitly enforced racial segregation, and the domination and oppression of one racial group by another. It has since been adopted by the international community to condemn and criminalise such systems and practices wherever they occur in the world.³⁶⁴

The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories- B’Tselem- defines apartheid as the organising principle of a regime that systematically cements the supremacy of one group over another through laws, practises and state violence. Rather than governing the entire area between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River as a single space, Israel fragments the territory into separate units where Palestinians are accorded different, inferior rights depending on their location, while Jewish citizens enjoy uniform rights across the region. This system is maintained through four primary mechanisms: exclusive immigration rights for Jews, the expropriation of land for Jewish settlements while crowding Palestinians into enclaves, severe restrictions on Palestinian movement, and the denial of rights to political participation for Palestinians under occupation.³⁶⁵

Apartheid is a violation of international law, a grave violation of internationally protected human rights and a crime against humanity under international criminal law.³⁶⁶

Ashkenazi

Ashkenazi Jews are Jews whose ancestors had migrated from the Roman Empire and settled in Central and Eastern Europe, not to be confused with Sephardi Jews who are those that settled in Spain and Portugal. Later a lot of them also migrated to North America.³⁶⁷

The identity ‘Ashkenazim’ emerged, not in central and Eastern Europe, but rather outside it, in places where Yiddish speaking Jews encountered other communities which spoke other languages and followed different customs. Such locales of encounter were varied and included places such as Amsterdam, London, Venice, and Salonica. In such contexts, the diversity of Yiddish speaking Jewish identities was condensed into one, under the name *Ashkenazim*.³⁶⁸

The simple dichotomy of the Jewish world to *Ashkenazim* and *non-Ashkenazim* (*Sephardim*, *Mizrahim*, etc.) is widely accepted in popular imagination as well as in the scholarship. More often than not, these categories are taken as given and trans-historical. But like all categories of identity, ‘Ashkenazim’ is a constructed, historical, and contingent category.³⁶⁹

DDR&D/Mafat

The Directorate of Defence, Research and Development (DDR&D or known by its Hebrew acronym MAFAT) is a joint administrative body of the Israel Ministry of Defence and the IDF. It leads the development and direction of weapons and technological infrastructure from early stage research to full scale development. Its strong connections to academia, Israeli security bodies and defence industries (such as Elbit, Rafael, the IAI), international partners and start-ups allow for a constant flow of resources between the sectors and fast-tracked military research and development.

The proclaimed mission of DDR&D is „the preservation of the technological superiority and qualitative military edge of the State of Israel“. In line with this mission, the Directorate together with over 300 startups embrace “innovation, speed, and efficiency within the defence system while strengthening the Israeli ecosystem”.³⁷⁰

AI systems developed under MAFAT’s oversight, such as *Gospel*, *Lavender*, and *Where’s Daddy?*, have been identified as central enablers of civilian casualties and potential war crimes in Gaza.³⁷¹ UN experts note that the use of AI and related military directives have led to an unprecedented toll on the civilian population, housing, vital services and infrastructure.³⁷²

“Lavender”, an AI-driven decision support system, developed under MAFAT oversight, created an untested and undisclosed AI-powered database which is responsible for drawing up kill-lists of as many as 37,000 targeted Palestinians, with minimal human verification and a reported error rate of about 10 percent.³⁷³ Other systems, such as *Gospel*, enabled an increased target generation from 50 targets per year in a manual process to an automated production of up to 100 targets per day.³⁷⁴

³⁶⁴ ‘ISRAEL’S APARTHEID AGAINST PALESTINIANS’, Amnesty International, 1 February 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/>.

³⁶⁵ ‘A Regime of Jewish Supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This Is Apartheid’, B’Tselem, 12 January 2021, https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid.

³⁶⁶ ‘Qu’est-Ce Que l’apartheid?’, AmnestyFr, 29 July 2025, <https://www.amnesty.fr/reperes/apartheid/>.

³⁶⁷ ‘Was Sind Aschkenasim Oder Aschkenasische Juden?’, Jewish Chamber Orchestra Munich, n.d., accessed 25 June 2026, <https://jcom.de/blogs/news/was-sind-aschkenasim-oder-aschkenasische-juden>.

³⁶⁸ Yair Wallach, *The Ottoman Production of Ashkenazi Identity* (2025), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1080/1462169X.2025.2577066>.

³⁶⁹ Yair Wallach, *The Ottoman Production of Ashkenazi Identity*.

³⁷⁰ DDR&D Turning Visions Into Missions; DDR&D, accessed 25 June 2026, <https://ddrd-mafat.mod.gov.il/en/about>.

³⁷¹ Ashley M., ‘Automated Warfare Raises Alarms Over AI-Driven Targeting in Gaza’, Vanguard News Group, 26 December 2025, <https://davisvanguard.org/2025/12/ai-warfare-human-rights/>.

³⁷² ‘Gaza: UN Experts Deplore Use of Purported AI to Commit “Domicide” in Gaza, Call for Reparative Approach to Rebuilding’, United Nations, 15 April 2024, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/gaza-un-experts-deplore-use-purported-ai-commit-domicide-gaza-call>.

³⁷³ ‘AI-Assisted Genocide’: Israel Reportedly Used Database for Gaza Kill Lists’, Al Jazeera, 4 April 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/4/ai-assisted-genocide-israel-reportedly-used-database-for-gaza-kill-lists>.

³⁷⁴ Khaldoun Kheili, ‘AI and Israel’s Dystopian Promise of War without Responsibility’, Center for International Policy, 8 April 2024, <https://internationalpolicy.org/publications/ai-and-israels-dystopian-promise-of-war-without-responsibility/>.

Elbit Systems

Elbit Systems is Israel's largest defence contractor, supplying the Israeli military with drones, munitions, electronic warfare systems, and command-and-control technology recently deployed in Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen and Iran. The company derives most of its revenue from government defence agencies, primarily the Israeli Ministry of Defence and the U.S. Department of Defence. Amid the ongoing assault on Gaza, Elbit's sales to the Israeli Ministry of Defence surged by 50% to \$2 billion in 2024.³⁷⁵

A central part of Elbit's strategy involves actively promoting „dual-use“ research partnerships with Israeli universities. The company advocates for a „paradigm shift“ in which civilian academic advancements—particularly in artificial intelligence, autonomy, and materials science—are systematically transferred into military applications.³⁷⁶ This model allows Elbit Systems to access top-tier academic talent and innovation while providing researchers and students with direct pathways into the defence industry. This approach effectively blurs the line between civilian education and military development, integrating academic institutions into the production of technology used for occupation and warfare.³⁷⁷

Genocide

The term was first described by Raphaël Lemkin in 1944. His considerations were a result of the Holocaust, but he also took other previous cases of the targeted killing of specific groups of people into consideration. Later he helped develop the legal definition of genocide.³⁷⁸ This was enshrined in the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* in 1948. There it says that genocide can present through different specific actions that are intended „to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group“.³⁷⁹ Therefore in December 2023, South Africa filed a case before the International Court of Justice, claiming that Israel broke its responsibility towards the Convention through its military campaign in Gaza.³⁸⁰

Hasbara

„Hasbara“ (Hebrew: הסברה, roughly meaning „explanation“ or „public diplomacy“) refers to efforts by the Israeli government, organisations and private advocates designed to shape international public opinion in favour of Israeli policies and justify its actions. With a budget of 630 million Euro for 2026³⁸¹, the Israeli government extends the battlefield to social media channels throughout the world. This includes spreading misinformation, undermining official international organisations such as the IPC (in the case of the famine report from August 2025) or the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) and accusing them of being a „front for Hamas“. Through Hasbara, Israel amplifies these messages through a network of surrogates, including NGOs and courted influencers, while leveraging digital warfare tactics like bot networks and algorithmic flooding to drown out Palestinian voices and independent journalism.³⁸²

Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the EU's flagship research and innovation programme, with a budget of €93.5 billion over a seven-year period (2021–2027).³⁸³ Israel has been associated with Horizon Europe since 1996 and signed the participation agreement in 2014, aiming to deepen research cooperation focusing on „mutual priorities such as the twin green and digital transitions, public health as well as ground-breaking innovation.“³⁸⁴

Despite the Commission's emphasis on the sole purpose of the funds being civil applications, Horizon Europe funded several projects relating to defence entities in Israel.³⁸⁵ For example, the Xtend project, funded in 2020, developed drone navigation systems later used in the Gaza Genocide.³⁸⁶

³⁷⁵ 'The Companies Supplying Weapons to Israel's Attack on Gaza', Who Profits Research Center, 17 December 2023, <https://www.whoprofits.org/publications/report/170?the-companies-supplying-weapons-to-israel-s-attack-on-gaza>.

³⁷⁶ 'Elbit Systems', Who Profits Research Center, accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.whoprofits.org/companies/company/3794>.

³⁷⁷ Who Profits Res. Cent., 'The Companies Supplying Weapons to Israel's Attack on Gaza'.

³⁷⁸ 'Definitions of Genocide and Related Crimes', United Nations, accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.un.org/en/genocide-prevention/definition>.

³⁷⁹ General Assembly resolution 260 A (III), 'Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide', United Nations, 9 December 1948, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-prevention-and-punishment-crime-genocide>.

³⁸⁰ Sharon Weill, 'Israel on Trial', JusticeInfo.Net, 26 January 2024, <https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/127634-israel-on-trial.html>.

³⁸¹ 'Wie Sich Israel Heute Der Welt Erklärt', Deutschlandfunk, 22 June 2026, <https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/hasbara-wie-sich-israel-heute-der-welt-erklaert-100.html>.

³⁸² Maria Flannery, 'The New Front of War: Inside Israel's Digital "hasbara" Offensive', EurovisionNews, 12 September 2025, <https://spotlight.ebucb/p/the-new-front-of-war-inside-israels>.

³⁸³ 'WHAT IS HORIZON EUROPE?', Horizon, accessed 25 June 2026, <https://horizon-eu.eu/>.

³⁸⁴ 'Israel', European Commission, accessed 25 June 2026, https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/europe-world/international-cooperation/association-horizon-europe/israel_en.

³⁸⁵ 'EU Funds Flow to Israeli Defense Sector', Follow the Money - Platform for Investigative Journalism, 2 June 2025, <https://www.ftm.eu/newsletters/bureau-brussels-eu-funds-israel-defense-sector>.

³⁸⁶ "Xtend - "Extending Reality Skywards"", European Commission, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.3030/887959>.

Israel Aerospace Industries

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) is an Israeli state-owned major aerospace and aviation manufacturer with production focusing on aerial and astronautic systems for both military and civilian use.³⁸⁷ The company's Heron and Heron TP (Eitan) drones have been heavily utilised for reconnaissance and targeted killings, with IAI's CEO stating in late 2023 that these systems played a "pivotal role" in Israel's attacks on Gaza.³⁸⁸ It also manufactures remotely operated bulldozers (RobDozers) used to demolish Palestinian homes and infrastructure in Gaza.³⁸⁹

Despite EU regulations prohibiting military applications in its research funds, IAI has received millions in European funding through participating in 15 projects financed by the European Defence Fund and eight projects financed by Horizon Europe.³⁹⁰ In June 2026, IAI signed an agreement with Berlin's Mayor Kai Wegner to establish an „IAI-Berlin Aerospace & Defence Innovation Centre" in Adlershof, aiming not only at fostering research, but explicitly also enhancing local production.³⁹¹

Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)

The IDF is the military of the State of Israel. According to their mission statement they serve to defend and protect Israel and its citizens while following fundamental values like patriotism and human dignity. They stress that "[e]very individual is of inherent value, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, nationality, gender or status".³⁹² We described in length in the report how IDF soldiers are accused of having committed war crimes in Gaza like sexual violence and torture. However in the West Bank, they also support violent settlers instead of protecting Palestinians.³⁹³

"*Breaking the Silence*" is an organisation of Israeli military veterans who collect and share testimonies about their experiences serving in the occupied Palestinian territories since 2000. They aim to expose the routine mistreatment of Palestinians and the moral impact of military control over civilian life, challenging the idea that such incidents are rare. The group seeks to spark public debate within Israeli society, which they argue often ignores or denies these realities and ultimately to push for an end to the occupation. They publish carefully verified, often anonymous testimonies and run public events and tours to raise awareness of conditions on the ground.³⁹⁴

Mizrahi

Mizrahi is a politico-sociological term that was coined with the creation of the State of Israel. It translates as „Easterner" in Hebrew and comprises Jews that migrated from the Middle East and North Africa to Israel. Their ancestors belonged to Jewish communities with deep cultural ties in the region that pre-date Christianity and Islam.³⁹⁵

When they first migrated to Israel they experienced a lot of discrimination, because a lot of them still identified as Arab-Jews, an identity that didn't have space in the Zionist vision of Israel. Part of them therefore joined Palestinians in their struggle against the new European leaders of the land.³⁹⁶

Others assimilated and developed a more Israeli nationalist identity. Until today there are persisting socioeconomic gaps between Ashkenazim, who have achieved high levels of education and earnings, and their Mizrahi counterparts, who have never caught up with them. Even though Mizrahim make up the majority of Jewish-Israeli citizens, Ashkenazim are still predominant in the government and other positions of power.³⁹⁷

Nakba

The 15th of May marks the day of remembrance of the forced expulsion and displacement of 750,000 Palestinians and the destruction of more than 500 towns and villages during the creation of the State of Israel in 1948.³⁹⁸ Palestinian homes have either been settled and renamed, completely destroyed and covered up or left in ruins. They never received compensation for their losses and have been denied the right to return.³⁹⁹ The Nakba (Arabic for *catastrophe*) is more than a historical event, it is the ongoing reality of Palestinians in which they face "forced displacement, denial of their right of return and systematic attacks on the institutions, places, and collective memory that sustain their identity and rights as refugees".⁴⁰⁰

³⁸⁷ 'IAI and the Security of Israel', IAI, accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.iai.co.il/about/history/>.

³⁸⁸ 'Introducing the IAI Heron Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAS)', The Jerusalem Post, 22 November 2023, <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-774574>.

³⁸⁹ 'Dual-Use Tech: The Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) Example', Privacy International, 10 November 2025, <https://privacyinternational.org/report/5703/dual-use-tech-israel-aerospace-industries-iai-example>.

³⁹⁰ Simone De La Feld, 'EU Funds Israel's Arms Giant, but Assures: "No Funds for the War in Gaza"', Euronews, 12 June 2025, <https://www.euronews.it/en/2025/06/12/eu-funds-israels-arms-giant-but-assures-no-funds-for-the-war-in-gaza/>.

³⁹¹ Matthias Monroy, 'Israels Staatlicher Rüstungskonzern Soll in Berlin Produzieren', N24, 13.6.2026, accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.nd-aktuell.de/artikel/1200372vereinbarung-mit-kai-wegner-israels-staatlicher-ruestungskonzern-soll-in-berlin-produzieren.html>.

³⁹² 'Our Mission & Our Values', Israel Defense Forces, accessed 27 June 2026, <https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/our-mission-our-values/>.

³⁹³ Emma Graham-Harrison and Quike Kierszenbaum, 'Settler-Only IDF Units Functioning as "Vigilante Militias" in West Bank', The Guardian, Jerusalem, 30 January 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jan/30/settler-only-idf-units-functioning-as-vigilante-militias-in-west-bank>.

³⁹⁴ 'The Organization', Breaking the Silence, accessed 27 June 2026, <https://www.breakingsilence.org.il/about/organization>.

³⁹⁵ Rabbi Rachel M. Solomin, 'Who Are Mizrahi Jews?', My Jewish Learning, n.d., accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/who-are-mizrahi-jews/>.

³⁹⁶ Sigal Samuel, 'The Untold Story of Arab Jews — and Their Solidarity with Palestinians', Vox, n.d., accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.vox.com/world-politics/24122304/israel-hamas-war-gaza-palestine-arab-jews-mizrahi-solidarity>.

³⁹⁷ Shane Burley and Ben Lorber, 'The Dilemmas of the Mizrahi Left in the Israeli Protest Movement', 972 Magazine, 28 March 2023, <https://www.972mag.com/smdar-lavie-israeli-protests-mizrahi/>.

³⁹⁸ 'The Nakba at 78: Creating, Re-Creating, and Erasing the Palestinian Refugee Issue', Adalah's News, 15 May 2026, <https://mailchi.mp/adalah/news-15-may-2026>.

³⁹⁹ 'Marking the 77th Anniversary of Nakba', Amnesty International Australia, 15 May 2025, <https://www.amnesty.org.au/nakba-day-77th-anniversary-we-must-listen-to-palestinian-voices-and-take-action/>.

⁴⁰⁰ Adalah's News, 'The Nakba at 78: Creating, Re-Creating, and Erasing the Palestinian Refugee Issue'.

Occupation

In 1967 Israel occupied Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. This means that the regions where Palestinians were expelled to in 1948 were being further settled by Jewish-Israelis and controlled by a permanent military presence, stripping Palestinians of many of their basic rights.⁴⁰¹ In 2024 the International Court of Justice ruled that this occupation is illegal under International Law and urged Israel to withdraw all of its military forces and civilian settlements. Furthermore, the Court stated that Israel should end its "control of borders, natural resources, air space and territorial waters of the occupied territory".⁴⁰²

RAFAEL Advanced Defense Systems

RAFAEL Advanced Defence Systems Ltd is an Israeli state-owned company founded in 1948 as the Ministry of Defence's primary research and development laboratory.⁴⁰³ RAFAEL's business model relies heavily on "live testing" of its weapons and technology in occupied Palestinian territories, as war fighters are deeply embedded in the IDF.⁴⁰⁴ The company has marketed its systems as "battle-proven" based on their use in Gaza, Lebanon and other conflict zones.⁴⁰⁵ In a report issued by Amnesty International in September 2025, the company appears, together with the IAI and Elbit Systems, among those whose "goods and services [...] contribute to maintaining Israel's illegal occupation in the OPT, and its crimes of apartheid against all Palestinians whose rights it controls and its genocide against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip".⁴⁰⁶

Separation Wall

2002, in the context of the 2nd Palestinian *Intifada* (Uprising), Israel started building a separation wall from the north to the south of the West Bank and around Jerusalem. While claiming the purpose of the wall is defensive, the construction doesn't just separate Israel from the occupied territory, it is mostly built on Palestinian land driving cuts through villages and communities. While thousands of Palestinians will be separated from healthcare services and other essential infrastructure, the wall is designed to support the establishment of more Israeli settlements.⁴⁰⁷

Settler Colonialism

The aim of settler colonialism is to claim land through different tactics. Inherent is the permanent settlement by a foreign population, sometimes claiming to be indigenous to the land and being the first population to settle there. In some cases, they would use the argument of "*terra nullius*" which means that there were essentially only animals and plants on the land and no human civilisation. A different, but sometimes coexisting narrative, can be that the people living on that land weren't cultivating it and therefore have no right to it, as only the settler will be able to develop it. Xenophobic narratives often play a big role in that.⁴⁰⁸ Apart from that settler colonialism has the function to deal with social problems within their country of origin. Often, they are cast out for political, religious or class reasons. This is why they start building a new society elsewhere even through strengthening the economic power of the nation that discriminated them.⁴⁰⁹

Swords of Iron

After the October 7th attack by Hamas, the Israeli military launched operation "Swords of Iron". The declared goal was to eradicate Hamas to ensure Israel's safety. What unfolded was a military campaign that is classified as genocide by many experts, the UN and human rights organisations. While surveys show that most of Israeli society supports this operation, it has also sparked nationwide protest, because the military didn't focus on freeing the hostages.⁴¹⁰

⁴⁰¹ 'Israel's Occupation of Palestinian Territory', Amnesty International, accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/projects/israels-occupation-of-palestinian-territory/>.

⁴⁰² 'ICJ Opinion Declaring Israel's Occupation of Palestinian Territories Unlawful Is Historic Vindication of Palestinians' Rights', Amnesty International, 19 July 2024.

⁴⁰³ 'Our Story', Rafael, accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.rafael.co.il/our-story/>.

⁴⁰⁴ 'Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd', International Astronautical Federation, accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.iafastro.org/membership/all-members/rafael-advanced-defense-systems-ltd.html>.

⁴⁰⁵ Sujoud Awais, "Rafael": A Weapon That Feeds on Wars and Thrives on the Blood of Genocide, NoonPost English, 11 June 2025, <https://english.noonpost.com/p/rafael-a-weapon-that-feeds-on-wars>.

⁴⁰⁶ Amnesty International, Pull the Plug on the Political Economy Enabling Israel's Crimes, p. 7.

⁴⁰⁷ Israel and the Occupied Territories: The Place of the Fence/Wall in International Law (Amnesty International, n.d.), accessed 25 June 2026, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/016/2004/en/>.

⁴⁰⁸ Patrick Wolfe, 'Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native', Journal of Genocide Research, ahead of print, 21 December 2006, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1080/14623520601056240>.

⁴⁰⁹ Sai Englert and Jonny Jones, 'Settler Colonialism and the Birth of Global Capitalism', Rs21, 7 November 2023, <https://revsoc21.uk/2023/11/07/settler-colonialism-and-the-birth-of-global-capitalism/>.

⁴¹⁰ Ofer Shelah et al., 'Until Victory - Swords of Iron', INSS, 6 March 2024, <https://www.inss.org.il/publication/victory/>.

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