

“Israel is intentionally causing death, starvation and serious injury, using starvation as a method of war and inflicting collective punishment on the Palestinian population (...). Israel’s warfare in Gaza is consistent with the characteristics of genocide.”

UN Special Committee, 14.11.2024¹

Munich, 17.11.2024

To the presidents of TUM and LMU,

as students and employees of TU Munich and LMU Munich, we expect the university’s administration to uphold its commitment to respect international law and human rights, as well as fundamental rights. It is essential not only to maintain and respect these obligations, but also to ensure they extend to the universities and institutions that TU Munich and LMU partners with.

We have found concerning evidence that TUM is engaging in research projects that are affiliated with Israeli weapons companies as the report will show. We have also found evidence that both TUM and LMU are collaborating with universities that are violating international law (See ICJ ruling²). These are just two of many examples why it is imperative that TUM and LMU reaffirm their commitment to international law and human rights. Following the example set by many universities worldwide, such as the University

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[https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/11/un-special-committee-finds-israels-warfare-methods-ga-za-consistent-genocide](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/11/un-special-committee-finds-israels-warfare-methods-gaza-consistent-genocide)

² <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/264/25/pdf/n2426425.pdf> (Archived on the 30.10.2024)

of Ghent³, the University of Bergen⁴, Trinity College Dublin⁵, Université Libre de Bruxelles⁶, and many more, we believe in the importance of scrutinizing our academic collaborations to ensure they align with these principles. No university should be contributing to violations of international law. As such, the aforementioned universities have taken decisive steps to reassess their relationships with Israeli partners, guided by their commitment to human rights and international law. By conducting a meticulous review and halting collaborations where necessary, they have set a precedent for ethical academic conduct. We urge LMU and TUM to adopt a similar approach, ensuring that our institution does not directly or indirectly support activities that violate international

³ **Belgium's University of Ghent (Belgium):** is severing ties with three Israeli educational or research institutions which it says no longer align with UGent's human rights policy, its rector said. Source: Reuters and University of Ghent Website. URL: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/belgiums-ghent-university-severs-ties-with-three-israeli-institutions-2024-05-17/> ; <https://www.ugent.be/en/news-events/cooperation-with-israeli-partners-update-31-may-2024> (Archived on the 30.10.2024)

⁴ **University of Bergen (Norway):** ended its cooperation agreements with Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design after it created a workshop on campus to design and sew uniforms and gear for the Israeli military. Source: University of Bergen Website. URL: [https://kunstavisen.no/artikkel/2024/uib-avslutter-avtale-med-israelsk-kunstakademi#:~:text=Universitetet%2520i%2520Bergen%2520\(UiB\)%2520besluttet.v%C3%83%C2%A6re%2520mulig%2520%C3%83%C2%A5%2520s%C3%83%C2%B8ke%2520p%C3%83%C2%A5](https://kunstavisen.no/artikkel/2024/uib-avslutter-avtale-med-israelsk-kunstakademi#:~:text=Universitetet%2520i%2520Bergen%2520(UiB)%2520besluttet.v%C3%83%C2%A6re%2520mulig%2520%C3%83%C2%A5%2520s%C3%83%C2%B8ke%2520p%C3%83%C2%A5) (Archived on the 30.10.2024)

⁵ **Trinity College Dublin (Ireland):** agrees to divest from Israeli firms and establish a task force to review ties with Israeli academic institutions after student protests: *"Trinity will complete a divestment from investments in Israeli companies that have activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and appear on the UN blacklist," it said. "Trinity will endeavour to divest from investments in other Israeli companies."* Source: Guardian. URL.: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/may/08/trinity-college-dublin-agrees-to-divest-from-israeli-firms-after-student-protest> (Archived on the 30.10.2024)

⁶ **The Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium):** the ULB said that it would suspend ties with both Israeli and Palestinian universities until *"their respective university authorities make a clear commitment to the demands made by the International Court of Justice ... and the unconditional release of the Israeli hostages"*. Source: University website. URL: <https://actus.ulb.be/fr/actus/international/lulb-suspend-ses-accords-et-projets-de-recherche-avec-les-universites-israeliennes> (Archived on the 30.10.2024)

law and human rights and to uphold and implement the ICJ advisory opinions from 2004 and 2024.

Therefore, we, as students and employees at LMU and TUM, call for an **immediate end to all research activities affiliated with Israeli weapons companies or involving individuals affiliated with Israel's military-industrial complex.**

Furthermore, we are calling for a thorough **investigation into all of our universities' partnerships with Israeli universities and institutions** due to the ongoing **violations of international law** against the Palestinian and Lebanese people, during which the partnerships should be suspended. Since we found all Israeli universities TUM and LMU collaborate with to be highly militarized, we demand an immediate investigation and suspension of all ties until the investigation is completed.

In the attached Report, we will present why there are reasonable grounds to believe that certain collaborations with Israeli institutions present a possible violation of International Law. Therefore, all collaborations with Israeli institutions must be suspended until thoroughly investigated and made public.

Our key points are as follows:

- 1. Immediate end of any research activities that involve Israeli weapons companies or individuals associated with the Israeli military, or are funded by the Israeli military and/ or Israeli arms companies.**

According to the ICJ⁷ and several non-governmental organizations⁸:

⁷ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/264/25/pdf/n2426425.pdf> [4. (c), page 6] (Archived on the 30.10.2024)

⁸ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/09/ngos-call-on-all-un-member-states-to-adhere-to-the-icj-advisory-opinion-on-the-unlawfulness-of-israels-occupation/> (Archived on the 30.10.2024)

“all states are called upon complying with their obligations under international law not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by Israel’s illegal presence in the (cf. Occupied Palestinian) Territory, including by taking steps towards ceasing the importation of any products originating in the Israeli settlements, as well as the provision or transfer of arms, munitions and related equipment that may be used in the Territory”.

Based upon this, universities should also immediately cease the importation of scientific knowledge to institutions, companies or subjects involved in the development of military technology that might be used in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Reaffirming the illegality of Israeli settlements and their associated regime, as well as all other measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the City of Jerusalem and of the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a whole, and rejecting in this regard any attempt at demographic or territorial change in the Gaza Strip, including any actions that reduce the territory of the Gaza Strip, which constitutes an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

2. Immediate disclosure of all current and past military research activities that involve Israeli universities, institutions and companies.

The students and employees of the university demand full transparency over our university’s involvement in military research and any collaborations with Israeli institutions. As this report will show, all Israeli universities are deeply embedded in the Israeli military-industrial complex. We thus demand our universities to fully disclose their research activities with Israeli institutions, including private companies.

3. Case-by-case investigation

Considering the current situation in Gaza and Lebanon and to ensure that LMU and TUM remain consistent with their values and ethical commitments, we demand a case-by-case investigation of all Israeli universities, institutions, and collaborations involving Israeli companies or other non-academic partners, especially those for which we have provided evidence of being directly or indirectly involved in violations of

international law and violent illegal occupation.

This investigation should cover the actions of Israeli universities regarding:

1. research activities and potential ties to the current violations of international law and war crimes against Palestinians;
2. institutional ties to the Israeli military and to the Israeli Defense Ministry and their activities in violation of international law;
3. universities that support students who participated or are participating in Operation Swords of Iron, starting October 2023;
4. discrimination by Israeli universities against their Palestinian students after 7 Oct 2023;
5. active participation in the occupation and annexation of Palestinian territories and TU's and LMU's possible participation in the violation;
6. failing to distinguish in dealing with Israel and the territory occupied since 1967, in violation of the UN Resolution 2334⁹ (2016)

4. Suspend Ties During Investigations

In light of the ample evidence provided in the following report, we demand that ties with the Israeli universities and institutions suspected of breaking international law, be suspended for the duration of the investigation. This temporary suspension is necessary to ensure that TU Munich and LMU Munich do not inadvertently support activities that violate international law and human rights and contribute to the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people. Following the example set by other European and international universities, which took decisive steps to reassess and suspend their relationships with Israeli partners in light of their ethical commitments, we believe that TUM and LMU should also guarantee its commitment to respect international law and basic human rights for all. By suspending collaborations during the investigation, the university

⁹ UN Resolution 2334 <https://press.un.org/en/2016/sc12657.doc.htm> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

administration ensures that our institution would have maintained integrity and upheld international law.

If the investigations confirm violations of international law, human rights law, or direct or indirect participation in the occupation of Palestinian territories, ties should be permanently severed. This decisive action will demonstrate TUM and LMU adherence to the principles of human rights and international law.

5. To maintain transparency and accountability:

- The results of the investigation should be made public.
- All points in the report (i.e. the evidence provided) **must** be addressed and the answers to **each point** should be included in the results.

This will ensure that the TUM and LMU community and its stakeholders are fully informed of the findings and the rationale behind any decisions made regarding the university's partnerships. Transparency in this process will reinforce trust and uphold the university's reputation for their commitment to international law.

6. Take the international institutions and NGOs into account for the investigation

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

- **International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on the Wall (2004):**

“In sum, the Court finds that,[...] The construction of such a wall accordingly constitutes breaches by Israel of various of its obligations under the applicable international humanitarian law and human rights instruments.”¹⁰

¹⁰ International Court of Justice: <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/131/1677.pdf> (pages 11-12)

- **International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Illegality of Occupation, Annexation, and Apartheid (2024):**

“Israel has an obligation to put an end to those unlawful acts. In this respect, Israel must immediately cease all new settlement activity. Israel also has an obligation to repeal all legislation and measures creating or maintaining the unlawful situation, [...], as well as all measures aimed at modifying the demographic composition of any parts of the Territory.”¹¹

In this case, TUM and LMU’s partner university Hebrew University is in direct breach of international law according to the ICJ’s opinion.

“The Court is of the view that Member States are under an obligation not to recognize any changes in the physical character or demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the territory occupied by Israel on 5 June 1967, including East Jerusalem, except as agreed by the parties to the conflict through negotiations and to distinguish in their dealings with Israel between the territory of the State of Israel and the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967.”¹²

Germany is a Member State of the United Nations. By allowing exchange programs with Universities that are located in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 TUM and LMU as public legal bodies of Germany are effectively breaking international law.

- **International Court of Justice order (2024)**

In a significant ruling on January 26, 2024, the ICJ ordered Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent acts of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. This ruling serves as a critical reminder of the international community's obligations under the Genocide Convention, placing pressure not only on Israel

¹¹ International Court of Justice
<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-sum-01-00-en.pdf>

¹² International Court of Justice, 19.07.2024; Link:
<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-sum-01-00-en.pdf>

but also on other states and public institutions to uphold their commitments to prevent genocide. The ICJ's decisions convey a clear message that failure to act on these obligations could undermine the credibility of international law and institutions tasked with protecting human rights:

“The State of Israel shall, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention, in particular:

- (a) killing members of the group;
- (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group”¹³

- **United Nations General Assembly resolution, (2024)**

On 19. September 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a non-binding resolution, demanding that Israel end its "**unlawful presence**" in the Occupied Palestinian Territory within one year. The resolution demands that Israel “brings to an end without delay its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory... and do so no later than 12 months”, and “comply without delay with all its **legal obligations under international law**”¹⁴.

By including the findings and testimony of these prominent organizations, TUM and LMU can ensure a thorough and unbiased investigation. This approach is not only consistent with the university's commitment to international law and human rights, but also upholds the integrity and ethical standards expected by its students and the global academic community. In the attached report, we provide sufficient evidence to warrant an investigation into the University's partnerships with institutions that violate one or more of the above rulings.

¹³ <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203454> (Archived on 24.06.2024)

¹⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154391> (Archived on 24.06.2024)

“Military Research & Defense in Israel would not exist without the universities. They carry out all the basic scientific investigation, which is then developed either by defense industries or the army,”¹⁵

- Prof. Isaac Ben-Israel, Professor at Tel Aviv University

Report

Collaborations of TUM and LMU with Israeli institutions and possible breaches of international law

This report examines the connections between the Technische Universität München (TUM) and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) and the heavily militarized universities in Israel. It is shown that the majority of partner institutions are integral to the Israeli industrial-military complex, thereby contributing to the numerous human rights violations observed over the past years. As of November 2024, the Israeli military has killed about 43,391 people in Gaza, in addition to 732 in the West bank¹⁶. In May 2024, the UN estimated more than 10,000 people to be buried under the rubble in Gaza¹⁷.

¹⁵ page 4, 2009

https://english.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/media_server/TAU%20Review%202008-09.pdf (Archived on 02.11.2024)

¹⁶ [Home Page | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory](#)

¹⁷ [10,000 people feared buried under the rubble in Gaza | The United Nations Office at Geneva](#)

According to one estimation published by the Lancet, the true figure of death toll since October 2023 is around 186,000, and more than 90,000 have sustained injuries in the Gaza Strip, which is a small area measuring merely 363 square kilometers¹⁸. According to Doctors without Borders, “Israel’s military has systematically dismantled hospital after hospital”¹⁹. Palestinians suffer catastrophic injuries such as amputations, crushed limbs and severe burns; approximately 32% of those killed are children²⁰. Already in October 2023, the Amnesty International Secretary General stated:

“In their stated intent to use all means to destroy Hamas, Israeli forces have shown a shocking disregard for civilian lives. They have pulverized street after street of residential buildings killing civilians on a mass scale and destroying essential infrastructure, while new restrictions mean Gaza is fast running out of water, medicine, fuel and electricity.”²¹

Already on October 12th 2023, UN experts stated that Israel’s strikes on Gaza amount to collective punishment²².

¹⁸ United Nations, 16.09.2024: Briefing by the UN Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza, Sigrid Kaag, to the Security Council
<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/sigrid-kaag-securitycouncil-briefing-16sep24/> (Archived on 02.11.2024)

¹⁹ Doctors without borders, 24.07.2024: Five Facts about the war in Gaza.
<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/five-facts-about-war-gaza> (Archived on 02.11.2024)

²⁰ Doctors without borders, 24.07.2024: Five Facts about the war in Gaza.
<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/five-facts-about-war-gaza> (Archived on 02.11.2024)

²¹ Amnesty International, 20.10.2023, Damning evidence of war crimes as Israeli attacks wipe out entire families in Gaza.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/damning-evidence-of-war-crimes-as-israeli-attacks-wipe-out-entire-families-in-gaza/> (Archived on 02.11.2024)

²² 12.10.2023, Reuters. UN experts say Israel's strikes on Gaza amount to 'collective punishment'
<https://www.reuters.com/world/un-experts-say-israels-strikes-gaza-amount-collective-punishment-2023-10-12/> (Archived on 02.11.2024)

Table of Contents

[Preface: The special case of Bavarian Universities: Military institutions by law?](#)

1. [The Technion - The Israel Institute of Technology.](#)
 - 1.1 [Why Technion University is problematic.](#)
 - 1.1.1 [Technion's ties to Israeli military, Israeli defense Ministry and the ongoing violation of human rights and international law.](#)
 - 1.1.2 [Research and academic activities with ties to the violations of Palestinian human rights.](#)
 - 1.2 [LMU and TUM's potential direct participation in the human rights violations happening in Gaza.](#)
 - 2.2.1 [Institute of Flight System Dynamics / TUM.](#)
 - 2.2.2 [Ben Asher and TUM.](#)
 - 1.2.3 [TUM and Technion: Creating Missiles together \(Cornetto Project\).](#)
 - 1.2.4 [The Israel Aerospace Conference at Technion: hosting high-ranking representatives of the Israeli Military - and TUM professors.](#)
 - 1.2.5 [TUM's collaboration with Technion's Aerospace department is a possible violation of international law.](#)
 - 1.2.6 [TUM and Technion: Collaborations in the field of Communications Engineering.](#)
 - 1.2.7 [Technion: An official partner university of TUM.](#)
2. [Tel Aviv University](#)
 - 3.1 [Why Tel Aviv University is problematic.](#)
 - 3.1.1 [Tel Aviv Professors making genocidal statements.](#)
 - 3.1.2 [Ties to the Israeli military, Israeli defense Ministry and the ongoing violation of human.](#)
 - 3.1.3 [The Institute for national security studies \(INSS\).](#)
 - 3.1.4 [Research and academic activities with ties to the current violations](#)

Preface

The special case of Bavarian Universities: military institutions by law? The “Bavarian Civil Clause-Ban”

Many German universities want to prevent research results from being used by the military through adopting civil clauses. Thus, around 70 universities in Germany have self-imposed civil clauses (“Zivilklausel”) that prohibit research for military purposes and the use of research results by the military. They pledge that teaching, research, and studying should serve exclusively peaceful purposes, thereby contributing to a sustainable, peaceful, and democratic world²³.

However, in Bavaria, not a single university has ever adopted a civil clause for which there is no official reason. It is speculated that it is due to Bavaria's role as an economic hub, particularly for defense companies²⁴. Moreover, the Bavarian government now has officially **banned** the implementation of civil clauses by law: no university in Bavaria can pledge to only do research for peaceful purposes and thus any university in Bavaria can be involved in military research. The draft law from February 2024 states, “through the new regulation, such civil clauses are explicitly prohibited.”²⁵. As a result, no Bavarian university is permitted to pledge that its research will only be used for peaceful purposes, effectively allowing military-related research in the region. This law seeks to ensure that universities cannot block the military use of their research, despite the fact that no such civil clauses had previously existed in Bavaria.

Mandatory cooperation of Bavarian Universities with the Military: the “Kooperationsgebot”

Bavaria plans to be the first federal state with a new law requiring universities to cooperate with the military²⁶. This new law is intended to make Bavaria even more

²³ Liste aktueller Zivilklauseln sortiert nach dem Datum ihres Bestehens. URL:

<http://zivilklausel.de/bestehende-zivilklauseln#29H> (Archived on 02.11.2024).

²⁴ Frey, Christian (2024): Bayerns Universitäten müssen für das Militär forschen. In: Augsburgener Allgemeine. 16.04.2024. URL:

<https://www.augsburger-allgemeine.de/bayern/landespolitik-bayerns-universitaeten-muessen-fuer-das-militaer-forschen-id70442901.html>. (Archived on 02.11.2024)

²⁵ Draft of the new law (02.2024): Gesetzentwurf der Staatsregierung Gesetz zur Förderung der Bundeswehr in Bayern. URL:

<https://www.bayern.de/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Entwurf-Gesetz-zur-Foerderung-der-Bundeswehr.pdf> (20.06.2024). (Archived on 02.11.2024)

²⁶ Beham, Sarah (2024): Kooperation von Unis mit Bundeswehr: Kritik und Knackpunkte. In: BR. 17.04.2024.

attractive to the army and the defense industry. The state government also wants to mandate a "cooperation requirement" between universities and the Bundeswehr with the law. If "for reasons of national security" it is necessary, there should even be an obligation to cooperate²⁷.

The increasing militarization will intensify the cooperation between universities, the army and weapons companies. In Bavaria and thus also in Munich, however, universities have long been engaged in military research due to the absence of civil clauses.

In the face of Bavaria's close academic, cultural and economic ties to Israel it is therefore particularly urgent to review the role of Bavaria's universities - particularly TUM and LMU - in the ongoing violations of international law.

URL: <https://www.br.de/nachrichten/bayern/kooperation-von-unis-und-bundeswehr-kritik-und-knackpunkte,UADToAL> (14.06.2024). ([Archived](#) on 02.11.2024)

²⁷ Süddeutsche Zeitung (2024): Bayern will Hochschulen Zusammenarbeit mit Militär vorschreiben. In: SZ. 23.01.2024. URL: <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/bayern/bundeswehr-bayern-zusammenarbeit-unis-schulen-1.6337446> ([Archived](#) on 02.11.2024)

1. The Technion - The Israel Institute of Technology

1.1 Why is Technion University problematic ?

1.1.1 Technion's ties to the Israeli military, Israeli Defense Ministry and the ongoing violation of human rights and international law:

Technion University serves as a backbone of the Israeli military-industrial complex by maintaining close relationships with major arms manufacturers such as the Israeli-government owned Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Israeli Aerospace Industries and Elbit Systems, sparking international outrage due to the company's involvement in "violations of international humanitarian law"²⁸. The university hosts regular events inviting high-ranking individuals and companies from the Israeli military, such as the Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Sciences²⁹, sponsored by the leading Israeli weapons companies Rafael and Elbit Systems, and attended by representatives of TU Munich, as this report will outline below. Technion serves as a venue for significant military events, including the Israeli Conference for Applied Rocket Propulsion, which involves participation from the Ministry of Defense and various arms manufacturers³⁰. Additionally, these companies frequently organize events across different faculties at Technion^{31,32}. The president of Technion openly recognizes the substantial backing provided by weapons manufacturers through the awarding of prizes to representatives of leading weapons companies³³.

²⁸ Check Source, Haaretz:

<https://www.haaretz.com/2009-09-12/ty-article/u-s-pension-fund-giant-confirms-divestment-from-israel-firm/0000017f-ef07-da6f-a77f-ff0fd5280000> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

²⁹ <https://iacas.technion.ac.il/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/IACAS-2024-Cloud-Program.pdf> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³⁰ <https://aerospace.technion.ac.il/events/the-first-israeli-conference-for-applied-rocket-propulsion/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³¹ <https://aerospace.technion.ac.il/events/focus-on-the-industry-elbit/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³² <https://ece.technion.ac.il/industrial-affiliate-program/our-partners/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³³ In 2023, the CEO of the weapons company Elbit Systems received a prize "Technion Guardian" by the president of the Technion, recognizing the arms company's "generous support" for research, lecture halls, sports halls, projects, and more:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/elbitsystems_bezalel-butzi-machlis-president-and-ceo-activity-7073597984222982145-WfmL (Archived on 03.11.2024)

The university contributed heavily to developing military technologies used in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and maintains a high level of support to the Israeli military in the following ways:

- **Close ties to the weapons company Elbit Systems:**

According to the Israeli newspaper *+972 Magazine*, Technion has close ties to Elbit Systems, which is “Israel’s largest publicly traded arms and security company responsible for 85 percent of drones used by the Israeli military, as well as the electronic surveillance system on Israel’s separation wall in the West Bank”³⁴.

- **Joint research center with Elbit Systems:**

In 2008, Technion opened a center for developing electro-optics in partnership with Elbit systems, one of the largest Israeli weapons companies^{35, 36}. Elbit uses vision systems in its helmet-mounted displays for pilots in combat aircraft³⁷. According to *+972 Magazine*, Technion “specifically trains students to work in Elbit”³⁸.

- Technion has developed a course on **marketing the Israeli weapons industry** to the international market for export³⁹.
- Technion has numerous joint academic programs with the Israeli military⁴⁰.
- **Close ties to the Israeli Air Force:**
Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has maintained a long-standing relationship with

³⁴ <https://www.972mag.com/top-israeli-university-marketing-countys-arms-industry-to-the-world/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³⁵ <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1027664/000091068008000462/f6k06152008.htm> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³⁶ <https://web.archive.org/web/20110108122020/http://www.hayadan.org.il/elbit-donate-laboratory-to-the-technion-1606085/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³⁷ <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1027664/000091068008000462/f6k06152008.htm> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³⁸ <https://www.972mag.com/top-israeli-university-marketing-countys-arms-industry-to-the-world/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³⁹ <https://www.972mag.com/top-israeli-university-marketing-countys-arms-industry-to-the-world/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

⁴⁰ <https://web.iem.technion.ac.il/programm/alonim-excellence-program/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

Technion, primarily because the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering at Technion plays a crucial role in producing a steady stream of graduates who contribute to IAI⁴¹. Furthermore, alumni from Technion's aerospace program have taken on engineering roles within the Israeli Air Force as well as in various sectors of the Israeli space and satellite industries.

- **Close ties to Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd⁴²:**

As a large Israeli state-owned weapons manufacturer, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems produces missiles, drones, and other weapons systems for the Israeli military that has been involved in the current war.

- **Technion University's military departments:**

- **The Advanced Defence Research Institute (ADRI) / Center for Security Science and Technology (CSST):**

According to ADRI, their aim is to educate engineers and scientists “who would lead the IDF”⁴³. They host “student competitions”, where representatives of the IDF form the jury⁴⁴, and award projects such as “Performing War Game Simulations”⁴⁵. ADRI offers Master's programmes specifically to IDF officers⁴⁶.

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

- **Technion developed the remote-controlled Caterpillar D-9 bulldozer:**

According to Technion, the university has developed the Caterpillar D9

⁴¹ <https://publications.ats.org/aerospace-engineering/PDF.pdf> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

⁴² [The Technion: Protecting Israel for 100 Years - American Technion Society](#) (Archived on 03.11.2024)

⁴³ <https://adri.technion.ac.il/our-aim/>

⁴⁴ <https://adri.technion.ac.il/undergraduate-student-competition-on-defense-and-security-ideas/> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁴⁵ <https://adri.technion.ac.il/winners-cat/undergraduate-en/> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁴⁶ <https://adri.technion.ac.il/systems-engineering-se-classes-for-idf-officers/> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

Bulldozer^{47, 48}. This remote-controlled bulldozer is being used by Israel to demolish Palestinian homes to make way for illegal settlements^{49, 50}. According to one military officer, the Israeli military doubled its order for D-9s after they “performed remarkably during operation Cast Lead [the invasion of Gaza]”⁵¹. According to the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, “the remote-controlled D9 bulldozer (...) has been used in the Gaza war. The D9 is remotely operated by a screen and joystick to carry out missions to expose ground and demolish buildings without jeopardizing soldiers”⁵².

- **The Scream:** According the Israeli newspaper + *972 Magazine*, Electro-Optics Research & Development, a subsidiary of the university, manufactured the “Scream”, which is an acoustic system that creates sound that are unbearable to humans at distances up to 100 meters^{53, 54}. Also called the “Shofar”, which is a non-lethal crowd control weapon, used to suppress non-violent demonstrations in the occupied Palestinians territories⁵⁵.
- **The stealth drone:** As part of the Technion Autonomous Systems Program (TASP), students at The Technion developed the “Stealth drone” which can fly up to 1850 miles and carry two 1100-pound “smart bombs”. TASP also developed the “Dragonfly” drone whose 9-inch wing span makes it small enough to “easily enter rooms through small windows and to send back photos from a miniature

⁴⁷ Technion University Website, 2003. a

⁴⁸ 972 Mag [Top Israeli university marketing country's arms industry to the world - +972 Magazine \(Archived on 05.11.2024\)](#)

⁴⁹ Haaretz,

<https://web.archive.org/web/20221207112202/https://www.haaretz.com/2004-06-16/ty-article/the-un-vs-caterpillar/0000017f-e88c-df2c-a1ff-fed9dec0000> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁵⁰ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2004/11/21/israel-caterpillar-should-suspend-bulldozer-sales> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁵¹ Jerusalem Post: Check source. URL:

<https://www.jpost.com/israel/black-thunder-unmanned-dozers-to-play-greater-role-in-idf> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁵² Haaretz, <https://archive.fo/P6mAQ#selection-2103.0-2103.411>

⁵³

https://web.archive.org/web/20140929060324/https://whoprofits.org/sites/default/files/weapons_report-8.pdf (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁵⁴ [Top Israeli university marketing country's arms industry to the world - +972 Magazine \(Archived on 05.11.2024\)](#)

⁵⁵ [Top Israeli university marketing country's arms industry to the world - +972 Magazine \(Archived on 05.11.2024\)](#)

camera” according to the American Technion Society’s website⁵⁶

- **In a statement, the president of Technion himself admits to Technion’s involvement in the military:**

"Engineers who graduated from the Technion were responsible for the development and production of the armored vehicles used by the IDF today, as well as all missile defense systems. To this day, 80\% of the engineers working on the Iron Dome are our graduates. The microelectronics industry also started here, and this is just a partial list"⁵⁷

Furthermore, Technion supports soldiers who are participating in “Operation Swords of Iron”. The President of Technion stated:

“I assume we still have over 1,000 who are still called up, and it's important to understand how we cope with this fact and how we assist them when they return. There are a lot of officers here, a lot of combat unit veterans, it has always been like that”; “It is important for us that each of our reservists know that the entire Technion has joined the cause and committed to supporting them⁵⁸.

1.2 TUM’s potential contribution to violations of international law and human rights violations happening in Gaza.

1.2.1 Institute of Flight System Dynamics (TUM) and their ties to the Israeli Military:

The Institute of Flight System Dynamics at TUM, is specialized in the design of drones

⁵⁶

https://web.archive.org/web/20130201010929/http://www.ats.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=6455&security=1&news_iv_ctrl=1522 (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁵⁷

<https://www.israelhayom.com/2024/02/08/there-are-many-very-good-technological-universities-but-people-feel-that-we-have-something-different-here/> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁵⁸

<https://www.israelhayom.com/2024/02/08/there-are-many-very-good-technological-universities-but-people-feel-that-we-have-something-different-here/> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

and trajectories. The Institute is the host of the “Forum Munich Aerospace” where the focus lies on air warfare⁵⁹, where representatives from the military and weapons companies give presentations on topics such as “Artificial intelligence – opportunities and limitations for military aviation” or “Future Combat Air Systems” or “From Hollywood to the future battlefield”⁶⁰.

This Institute has maintained a close relationship with Technion’s Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, led by **Prof. Joseph Ben-Asher**, producing many research papers together and collaborating on various research projects. Joseph Ben-Asher, Professor at the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering at Technion University, was a visiting researcher at the Institute of Flight System Dynamics at TUM from 03/2019 to 09/2019⁶¹. Furthermore, he is frequently invited to TUM for guest lectures and seminars^{62, 63, 64, 65}.

1.2.2 Ben-Asher and TUM:

About Joseph Ben-Asher:

- Joseph Ben-Asher, according to Technion’s homepage, is an established **specialist in “missile guidance, ballistic missile defense, optimization techniques, optimal control theory, flight dynamics and control, flexible structures**

⁵⁹ The Forum Munich Aerospace is a yearly conference which invites representatives from the military and military companies such as the head of “Head of Future Air Combat Systems bei Airbus D&S”. <https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/forum-munich-aerospace/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶⁰ <https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/forum-munich-aerospace/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶¹ <https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/staff-members/prof-joseph-ben-asher/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶² Guest Seminar Ben asher, March 2024

<https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/guest-seminar-by-prof-joseph-ben-asher-from-technion-israel-institute-of-technology-haifa/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶³ Guest Seminar Ben Asher, 2015: <https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/ben-asher-flight-trajectory-optimization/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶⁴ Guest Lecture Ben Asher, 2017: https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/category/lectures_exams/page/3/ (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶⁵ Guest Lecture Ben asher, 2016:

<https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/guest-seminar-high-speed-navigation-using-time-optimal-path-primitives-by-prof-joseph-z-ben-asher/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

dynamics and control”⁶⁶. According to Ben-Asher himself, he has been working as an engineer in the Israeli Defense Industry for more than 20 years⁶⁷.

- **Joseph Ben-Asher & Israeli Military Industries:**

Ben-Asher worked for IMI Systems, Israeli Military Industries⁶⁸, which was later acquired by Elbit Systems in 2018. IMI Systems, had provoked international outrage for its production of prohibited cluster munition, before being acquired by Elbit. A detailed Human Rights Watch report on Israel’s use of cluster munition, which according to HRW violated international humanitarian law, exposed IMI’s role in the production⁶⁹. Cluster Munitions, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, “kill and injure large numbers of civilians”⁷⁰. Ben-Asher’s publications in military research date back more than two decades: while being affiliated with IMI, Joseph Ben-Asher published a book in 1998 called “Advances in Missile Guidance Theory”⁷¹.

- **Joseph Ben-Asher & the Weapons company Wales Ltd:**

After his time at Israeli Military Industries (IMI), Ben-Asher switched to the Israeli weapons company Wales Ltd. Joseph Ben-Asher’s activity at Wales Ltd. dates back to 2009⁷², where he published a paper together with Dror Cohen, the manager of Wales Ltd⁷³. At the “International Conference on Integrated Air Missile Defence” 2023, Ben-Asher, representing Wales Ltd., gave

⁶⁶ <https://aerospace.technion.ac.il/person/ben-asher-joseph-2/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶⁷

<https://yanai.net.technion.ac.il/%D7%A4%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%A4-%D7%99%D7%95%D7%A1%D7%99-%D7%91%D7%9F-%D7%90%D7%A9%D7%A8-%D7%94%D7%A4%D7%A7%D7%95%D7%9C%D7%98%D7%94-%D7%9C%D7%94%D7%A0%D7%93%D7%A1%D7%AA-%D7%90%D7%95%D7%99%D7%A8/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶⁸ See “Author”: Joseph Ben Asher was” formerly with Israel Military Industries and Tel-Aviv

University”. [Optimal Control Theory with Aerospace Applications - Ben-Asher, Joseph Z - Dussmann - Das Kulturkaufhaus](#) (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶⁹

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2008/02/16/flooding-south-lebanon/israels-use-cluster-munitions-lebanon-july-and-august-2006> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁷⁰ <https://www.icrc.org/en/law-and-policy/cluster-munitions> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁷¹ <https://www.buecher.de/artikel/buch/advances-in-missile-guidance-theory/21682153/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁷² Paper published by Ben-Asher and Wales Ltd. manager Dror Cohen: [Allocation of Radar Tracking Resources by Direct Optimization | Journal of Aerospace Information Systems](#)

⁷³ https://rocketreach.co/wales-ltd-management_b7916965c5f8063c (Archived on 06.11.2024)

a presentation about “Scramjet Vehicle Optimal Trajectories”⁷⁴. In total, five representatives of Wales Ltd. gave presentations at this conference, with titles such as “Hypersonic Weapons”⁷⁵, and “The Impact of Missiles Sophistication”⁷⁶.

Ben-Asher has been a frequent visitor and collaborator at TUM for many years; his latest work with members of TUM was published in August, 2024⁷⁷. Together with Technion University’s aerospace department, TUM professors, students and researchers, have collaboratively published numerous research papers.

It is particularly notable that in the acknowledgement section of one of the papers, authors from TUM and Ben-Asher *et al.* thank a representative from Israel’s state-owned weapons company Rafael: “The authors wish to thank [REDACTED] of Rafael for editing the paper and for this useful comments”⁷⁸.

1.2.3 The Israel Aerospace Conference at Technion: hosting high-ranking representatives of the Israeli Military - and TUM

Joseph Ben-Asher, a high-ranking representative of the Israeli military industry and a researcher of missiles and weapons, and TUM’s Department of Flight System Dynamics share a long history of collaborative research. This close collaboration did not stop or decrease since 7th October 2023. On the contrary, in 9 May 2024, TUM, together with

⁷⁴ Ben-Asher was a speaker at the 16th 3AF Integrated Air and **Missile Defence** conference, representing Wales Ltd.

https://www.3af-integratedairmissiledefence.com/images/DOCUMENTS/IAMD2023_PRELIMINARY_PROGRAMME.pdf (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁷⁵

https://www.3af-integratedairmissiledefence.com/images/DOCUMENTS/IAMD2023_PRELIMINARY_PROGRAMME.pdf (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁷⁶

https://www.3af-integratedairmissiledefence.com/images/DOCUMENTS/IAMD2023_PRELIMINARY_PROGRAMME.pdf (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁷⁷

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/382946942_Approximation_of_Closed-Loop_Sensitivities_in_Robust_Trajectory_Optimization_under_Parametric_Uncertainty (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁷⁸ Diepolder, J., Gabrys, A., Schatz, S., Bittner, M., Rieck, M., Grüter, B., Holzapfel, F. (TUM), Ben-Asher, J.Z. (Technion). (2016). *Flight Control Law Clearance using Worst-Case Inputs*.

http://www.icas.org/ICAS_ARCHIVE/ICAS2016/data/papers/2016_0073_paper (Archived on 06.11.2024)

Joseph Ben-Asher of Technion/Wales weapons company, was represented at the 63rd Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Science, an event sponsored by the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and Israel's leading weapons manufacturers RAFAEL and Elbit Systems⁷⁹. Next to two representatives of the weapons company Elbit and three representatives of the arms company Rafael, Ben-Asher of Technion and TUM hosted a session on "Data, AI and Autonomy"⁸⁰. This is not the first time that TUM has been represented at this Israeli military conference. TUM is found on the conference's program in 2023⁸¹, 2017⁸² and 2020⁸³⁸⁴.

Ben-Asher has been a frequent visitor and collaborator at TUM for many years; his latest work with members of TUM was published in August, 2024⁸⁵. Together with Technion University's aerospace department, TUM professors, students and researchers, have collaboratively published numerous research papers.

It is particularly notable that in the acknowledgement section of one of the papers, authors from TUM and Ben-Asher *et al.* thank a representative from Israel's

⁷⁹ Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) is wholly owned by the Israeli government. The IAI produces drones, fighter jets, missiles, avionics, and space-based technologies.

⁸⁰ <https://iacas.technion.ac.il/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/IACAS-2024-Cloud-Program.pdf> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁸¹ <https://www.proceedings.com/content/074/074324webtoc.pdf>

⁸² B. Grüter, M. Bittner, M. Rieck, J. Diepolder, F. Holzapfel, "Bi-level Homotopic Aircraft Sequencing Using Gradient-Based Arrival Time Assignment and Direct Optimal Control", in **57th Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Sciences, IACAS 2017**. <https://portal.fis.tum.de/en/publications/bi-level-homotopic-aircraft-sequencing-using-gradient-based-arriv> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁸³ J. Diepolder, J. Z. Ben-Asher, P. Pipek, F. Holzapfel, "Optimal Control Based Flight Control Law Clearance Using Generalized Polynomial Chaos", in **60th Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Sciences (IACAS), 2020**. <https://portal.fis.tum.de/en/publications/optimal-control-based-flight-control-law-clearance-using-generalized-polynomial-chaos> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁸⁴ <https://www.proceedings.com/content/055/055146webtoc.pdf>

⁸⁵ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/382946942_Approximation_of_Closed-Loop_Sensitivities_in_Robust_Trajectory_Optimization_under_Parametric_Uncertainty (Archived on 06.11.2024)

state-owned weapons company Rafael: “The authors wish to thank [REDACTED] of Rafael for editing the paper and for this useful comments”⁸⁶.

The list of research papers TUM produced in collaboration with Ben-Asher is following:

- **(2024)**. Approximation of Closed-Loop Sensitivities in Robust Trajectory Optimization under Parametric Uncertainty. <https://www.mdpi.com/2226-4310/11/8/640>
- **(2023)**. COLIBRY - A Counter Optimization Library for MATLAB. <https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/10.2514/6.2023-2584>
- **(2023)**. Robust eVTOL Trajectory Optimization Under Uncertainties – Challenges and Approaches. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1742-6596/2514/1/012002>
- **(2022)**. Continuous Integration of Optimal Control Based Flight Control Law Clearance. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357596992_Continuous_Integration_of_Optimal_Control_Based_Flight_Control_Law_Clearanc
- **(2021)**. Continuous Integration of Optimal Control Based Flight Control Law Clearance. <https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/abs/10.2514/6.2022-1895>
- **(2020)**. Bi-level Cross Entropy Method and Optimal Control for Air Traffic Sequencing and Trajectory Optimization. <https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/10.2514/6.2020-1590>
- **(2020)**. Flight Control Law Clearance Using Worst-Case Inputs Under Parameter Uncertainty. <https://doi.org/10.2514/1.G005236>
- **(2020)**. Optimal Control Based Flight Control Law Clearance Using Generalized Polynomial Chaos. Presented at the 60th Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Sciences (IACAS). <https://mediatum.ub.tum.de/node?id=1710990>
- **(2019)**. Trajectories for a Mobile Robot with Bounded Accelerations in the Presence of a Wall or a Bounded Obstacle. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/Time_Optimal_Trajectories_for_a_Mobil

⁸⁶ Diepolder, J., Gabrys, A., Schatz, S., Bittner, M., Rieck, M., Grüter, B., Holzapfel, F. (TUM), Ben-Asher, J.Z. (Technion). (2016). *Flight Control Law Clearance using Worst-Case Inputs*. http://www.icas.org/ICAS_ARCHIVE/ICAS2016/data/papers/2016_0073_paper (Archived on 06.11.2024)

[e Robot With Acceleration and Speed Limits in the Presence of an Obstacle](#)

- (2016). Flight Control Law Clearance using Worst-Case Inputs.
http://www.icas.org/ICAS_ARCHIVE/ICAS2016/data/papers/2016_0073_paper
- (2021). Time Optimal Trajectories for a Mobile Robot with Acceleration and Speed Limits in the Presence of an Obstacle.
https://asmedigitalcollection.asme.org/Time_Optimal_Trajectories_for_a_Mobile_Robot_With_Acceleration_and_Speed_Limits_in_the_Presence_of_an_Obstacle

1.2.4 TUM and Technion: The Cornetto Project:

On Technion's website, the University presents a project called "Project Cornetto". The Project Objective is also laid out on the website: "This missile is designed to be a reusable platform for testing and studying different guidance systems inside the missile and tracking systems on the ground"⁸⁷. The missile's requirements are described in detail; the missile should "achieve the longest distance possible", it should reach a height of 1500 meters by a ballistic launch, and, for this report most importantly:

"The missile should fit the launcher designed by TUM University"⁸⁸.

Again, the Institute for Flight System Dynamics at TUM was involved in this project.

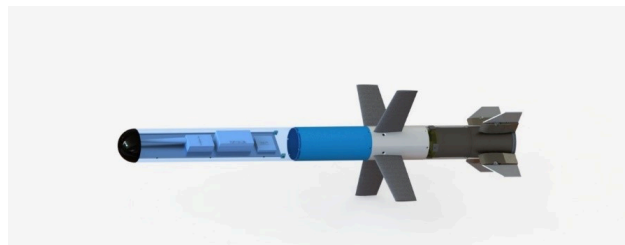


Figure 4: The "Project Cornetto" Missile, a collaborative project between TUM and Technion University

⁸⁷ <https://aerospace.technion.ac.il/projects/project-cornetto-second-year/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁸⁸ <https://aerospace.technion.ac.il/projects/project-cornetto-second-year/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

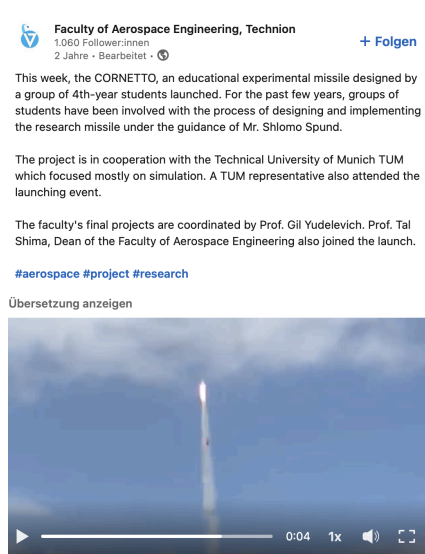
Missile Requirements:

- ➔ Reach the height of at least 1500 [m] by a ballistic launch, with a given propellant (with roll control).
- ➔ The missile should achieve the longest distance possible by gliding and keeping controlled route with guidance.
- ➔ The missile needs to be aerodynamically stable and withstand all the anticipated loads during flight.
- ➔ Traced from the ground with the help of navigation systems.
- ➔ The missile should fit the launcher designed by TUM University.
- ➔ The nose of the missile will carry different payloads.
- ➔ The missile will have salvaging system, making it reusable.

Figure 5: Screenshot of Technion’s Website listing the Missile requirements: “The missile should fit the launcher designed by TUM University”.

In 2022, the missile was finally launched. On a post on LinkedIn, the Aerospace Faculty of Technion clearly states:

“The project is in cooperation with the Technical University of Munich TUM”⁸⁹.



⁸⁹

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/carmella-cohen-62028a193_corneto-an-educational-experimental-missile-activity-6920311198743724033-eoLJ/?t=%7Bseek_to_second_number%7D (Archived 13.11.2024 <http://archive.today/C4dyz>)

In 2020, the Cornetto missile project was presented at a Leading Israeli military conference, the “Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Science”⁹⁰. The conference is organized by representatives of the core pillars of the Israeli military-industrial complex:

The Israeli Air Force, the Israeli Ministry of Defense, Elbit Systems, RAFAEL, Israel Aerospace Industries, according to the conference’s website.

Furthermore, TUM was also represented in the military conference programme with its own contribution.

1.2.5 Conclusion: TUM’s collaboration with Technion’s Aerospace department is a possible violation of international law:

Any collaboration with the militarized Technion University, and specifically with its highly militarized aerospace department led by the high-ranking missiles expert Joseph Ben-Asher, presents a **possible violation of international law and human rights**. Due to Ben-Asher’s long time activity for Israeli weapons companies, his deep involvement with the Israeli military and his continuous academic contribution to the production of arms, any collaborative research with him poses the risk of being applied for the production of weapons which can be used against Palestinians, which presents a possible violation of international law.

TUM’s collaboration with Technion’s Aerospace department goes against the ruling of the International Court of Justice: “The USA, UK, Germany and other EU states must signal their respect for the Court’s legally binding decision and do everything in their power to uphold their obligation to prevent genocide”^{91, 92}. TUM, as a legal body, should follow the recommendation by the ICJ and

⁹⁰ <https://www.proceedings.com/content/055/055146webtoc.pdf>

⁹¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/01/israel-must-comply-with-key-icj-ruling-ordering-it-do-all-in-its-power-to-prevent-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza/>

⁹² ICJ Ruling: <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203447>

immediately suspend its to the Department for Aerospace Engineering at Technion University until collaborative research projects are fully investigated for their potential violations of international law and human rights.

1.2.6 TUM and Technion: Collaborations in the field of Communications Engineering:

Technion University and TU Munich maintain a strong partnership in the field of Communications Engineering. In 2018, the Institute for Communications Engineering at TU Munich collaborated with Technion to host a workshop called the “2018 Workshop on Coding, Cooperation, and Security in Modern Communication Networks” (COCO). This event was held at Technion and was organized by professors from Ben Gurion University, Technion, and TU Munich. Furthermore, representatives from Israeli military companies such as Rafael and ELBIT Systems participated in the workshop⁹³. Furthermore, numerous individuals from Ben-Gurion University, Technion, and Hebrew University also took part in the program. The workshop's website provides the following introduction to the event:

“On December 10-11, 2018, ██████████ of Ben Gurion University, ██████████ of the Technion, and ██████████ of the TUM Institute for Communications Engineering are organizing the 2018 Workshop on Coding, Cooperation, and Security in Modern Communication Networks (COCO 2018).”⁹⁴

TUM's department for Communications Engineering is also collaborating with Technion's DNA Storage Lab at the Henry and Marilyn Taub Faculty of Computer Science at the Technion. The project description (in short) is: “Computational, Chemical and Biotechnology Solutions to Improved DNA Data Storage: from In-Product Information and Cryptography to Long-Term Archiving”⁹⁵.

At the department “Henry and Marilyn Taub Faculty of Computer Science” at Technion,

⁹³

<https://www.ce.cit.tum.de/en/lnt/events/events-2018/2018-workshop-on-coding-cooperation-and-security-in-modern-communication-networks-coco/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁹⁴

<https://www.ce.cit.tum.de/en/lnt/events/events-2018/2018-workshop-on-coding-cooperation-and-security-in-modern-communication-networks-coco/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁹⁵ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101115134> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

which TUM collaborates with for this project, students are regularly awarded fellowships funded by Elbit Systems^{96,97}. The Faculty organizes periodic "recruitment days", in collaboration with arms manufacturers, including Rafael and Elbit Systems⁹⁸, advertised as follows: "RAFAEL representatives will meet you in Ulman Building on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 between 12:00-14:00, and will offer you various jobs."⁹⁹.

According to Technion University itself, "computer science graduates are sought out by Israel's leading defense companies"¹⁰⁰.

1.2.7 Technion: An official partner university of TUM:

- TUM has an agreement with Technion, students from all kinds of departments can apply. Additionally, students can apply for a 3-12 month research stay¹⁰¹.

2. Tel Aviv University

2.1 Why is Tel Aviv University problematic ?

2.1.1 Tel Aviv Professors making genocidal statements:

- **Professor calling for mass extermination in northern Gaza. Here is a quote by Prof. Uzi Rabi of Tel Aviv University:**

"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"¹⁰²

⁹⁶ <https://cs.technion.ac.il/news/view-new.php?nwid=1242> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁹⁷ <https://cs.technion.ac.il/news/view-new.php?nwid=1016> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁹⁸ <https://cs.technion.ac.il/news/view-new.php?nwid=1036> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

⁹⁹ <https://cs.technion.ac.il/news/view-new.php?nwid=808> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁰⁰ <https://ats.org/our-impact/the-technion-protecting-israel-for-100-years/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁰¹ [Global Experiences Report Page – 26 – Development Site](#)

¹⁰² <https://www.972mag.com/northern-gaza-liquidation-scenario-eiland-rabi/> (Archived on 06.10.2024)

(- Quote by Prof. Uzi Rabi, director of the department of Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University¹⁰³. LMU's department of Middle Eastern Studies specifically lists Tel Aviv University as a partner University - see page 41)

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

- The Israeli newspaper 972mag reports about the intensifying collaboration between the Israeli Military and Tel Aviv University¹⁰⁴:
“It'll turn campus into an army base’: A collaboration between the Israeli army and TAU has drawn backlash from faculty and Palestinian students decrying the militarization of academia.”
- Tel Aviv University's venture capital firm, TAU Ventures, boasts of investing in Xtend¹⁰⁵, which provides systems to deploy armed drones that have been used in Israel's current potential war crimes.¹⁰⁶

“Four days after October 7th, the IDF chose Xtend as one of their core partners in the war against Hamas. Since then, their team has put its former activities on hold and redirected energies to supporting the IDF 100%.”¹⁰⁷.

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

¹⁰³ <https://isgap.org/fellow/professor-uzi-rabi/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.972mag.com/tau-army-militarization-palestinian-students/> (Archived on 17.11.2023)

¹⁰⁵ https://www.linkedin.com/posts/tau-ventures_xtend-our-portfolio-company-is-one-of-the-activity-7187760918267654144-Z92v/ (Archived on 22.08.2024)

¹⁰⁶ <https://afsc.org/gaza-genocide-companies> (Archived on 16.09.2024)

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/skrkv9u8t> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

funding round.”¹⁰⁸. “Xtend will use the funds to further develop AI operating system that allows humans to manage teams of drones and robots for defense and civilian purposes”¹⁰⁹.

- **Tel Aviv University & Elbit Systems:**

TAU cooperates with Elbit Systems in multiple fields including autonomous drone navigation and nanoscience¹¹⁰¹¹¹. Elbit Systems is one of the primary suppliers of weapons and surveillance systems to the Israeli military and has been actively contributing to the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian population:

“Elbit-made MPR 500 multi-purpose bombs are being used by Israel in its attacks on the Gaza Strip. Designed for use in “densely populated urban warfare,” [Israel Defense] these bombs contain 26,000 controlled fragments for “high kill probability.” Elbit says that these 500-pound bombs are as powerful as U.S.-made 2,000-pound MK-84 bombs”¹¹²

- Tel Aviv University has a joint research center with the Israeli Air Force, “Elrom Center” which was established in 2022. According to Jerusalem Post, the center is part of the IAF’s vision

“to harness scientific knowledge for the benefit of the Air Force, encouraging creative and critical thinking and accelerating the incorporation of innovation into world views of the Air Force.” “The academic research carried out at the Center will “help in the development and adaptation of the Air Force’s operational concepts, combat doctrines, and power- building processes.”¹¹³

¹⁰⁸

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-developer-of-vr-drone-system-used-by-idf-in-hamas-war-raises-40m/> (Archived on 22.08.2024)

¹⁰⁹ *ibid.*

¹¹⁰ https://web.archive.org/web/20240129235401/https://tilabs.tau.ac.il/Our_Partners_Already/ (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹¹¹ <https://web.archive.org/web/20240219121318/https://english.tau.ac.il/nanoscience/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹¹² <https://afsc.org/gaza-genocide-companies> (Archived on 16.09.2024)

¹¹³ https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-691357#google_vignette (Archived on 07.11.2024)



Figure 6: Israeli Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Amikam Norkin (left) and Tel Aviv University President Professor Ariel Porat (right). Credit: Israel Hadari/Tel Aviv University.

2.1.3 The Institute for national security studies (INSS):

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

The INSS is credited with developing the Dahiya Doctrine, also known as the doctrine of disproportionate force. This doctrine, adopted by the Israeli military, **advocates for the destruction of national infrastructure and the infliction of intense suffering on the civilian population.** In a Publication made on October 2, 2008 - still in the INSS website to this day - Gabi Siboni calls for the use of a "force that is disproportionate to the enemy's actions and the threat it poses. Here are some excerpts from the paper:

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

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

“in Lebanon, attacks should both aim at Hizbollah’s military capabilities and should target economic interests and the centers of civilian power that support the organization.”¹¹⁴.

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

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

“The new academic course follows another initiative of the Lowy International School: a task force initiated by international students to assist Israel’s national effort to tell the war’s true and tragic story to the world.”¹¹⁵

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

“The ICC decision is the epitome of absurdity.”¹¹⁶

“When people say Israel is an apartheid state they truly have no idea what they are talking about.”¹¹⁷

2.1.5 Support for students who participated or are participating in Operation Swords of Iron, starting October 2023:

- Tel Aviv University funded “care packages” for soldiers involved in the ongoing human rights violation and possible war crimes in Gaza.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁴

<https://www.inss.org.il/publication/disproportionate-force-israels-concept-of-response-in-light-of-the-second-lebanon-war/> (Archived on 15.10.2023)

¹¹⁵ <https://web.archive.org/web/20240107065306/https://international.tau.ac.il/war-course> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹¹⁶ <https://www.instagram.com/p/C7PX4WRtnkK/> (Archived on 22.08.2024)

¹¹⁷ <https://www.instagram.com/p/C71gQx0NxXR/> (Archived on 27.08.2024)

¹¹⁸ <https://web.archive.org/web/20240425203812/https://international.tau.ac.il/lone-soldiers>

- Tel Aviv University has actively supported its students who have been called up for reserve duty in the Israeli military during Operation Swords of Iron. The university announced that each of the estimated 5,239 students serving in the reserves would receive a grant of NIS 1,000 (\$250) as an initial measure to help ease their financial burden. This support extends beyond financial aid, as the university also provides academic adjustments to accommodate the students' military commitments and ensures that those serving in combat or combat-support units receive substantial additional grants¹¹⁹.

2.1.6 Discrimination to its Palestinian students after 7 Oct 2023:

- Use of Arabic has sometimes even been forbidden on campus, as have displays of the Palestinian flag¹²⁰.
- In an interview made with a member of the Hadash party in Israel and a representative of the Hadash student group at Tel Aviv University, the following testimony was given:

“At the beginning of the war, a lot of Palestinian students who posted on Instagram and Facebook against the war or in support of the people in Gaza were expelled from the university , and some of them were even sent to prison.”¹²¹

- The presence and activities of Israeli military soldiers on campus have raised concerns among Palestinian students. The university's collaboration with the military to host a program for officer training has been criticized for potentially increasing political tensions and militarization on campus. According to 972 mag Palestinian students have expressed fears that the visibility of uniformed soldiers and the emphasis on military studies could exacerbate feelings of insecurity and

¹¹⁹ <https://english.tau.ac.il/news/grants-31-10-23> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹²⁰ <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-f4bff4830000> (Archived on 11.01.2024)

¹²¹ <https://www.transnational-strike.info/2024/06/05/neither-the-river-nor-the-sea-interview-from-tel-aviv-university/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

discrimination¹²².

2.2 LMU & TUM's collaborations with Tel Aviv University

2.2.1 TUM and Tel Aviv University: The Autonomous Boat Project, funded by RAFAEL, mentored by former Israeli Air-Force Members:

- Ongoing Student exchange program: TUM students are invited to join an engineering project at Tel Aviv University, a project funded by the Israeli state-owned weapons company RAFAEL.
- In July 2024, Fraunhofer Institute (FI) posted a call for applications directed at TUM Mechanical Engineering students for joining a collaborative project between FI, TUM and Tel Aviv University, for building an “Autonomous Boat”¹²³¹²⁴.
- This Autonomous Boat will use Computer Vision and a sensor to map its surroundings. The project starts in November 2024¹²⁵.
- The Autonomous Boat project at Tel Aviv University is funded by the Israeli state-owned weapons manufacturer RAFAEL, according to the project's website¹²⁶.
- The Website also lists the mentors for this Robot-Boat: One of them has lead System engineering groups in the Israeli Air Force and “later in Elbit systems for 10 years”¹²⁷. Elbit Systems is Israel's biggest military and arms company.
- Another mentor is equally affiliated with the Israeli Military. According to the project website, “He worked as a Hardware Engineer at the prestigious Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. He is a retired Colonel in the Israeli Air Force, serving 24 years. He retired as the Head of Technological Department.”¹²⁸

¹²² <https://www.972mag.com/tau-army-militarization-palestinian-students/> (Archived on 17.11.2023)

¹²³ <https://www.lz-sis.de/en/student-exchange-program.html#1319492117> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹²⁴ The Project Website of the Autonomous Boat is linked on the Fraunhofer Institute's call for applications website <https://www.sail-il.com/now-playing> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹²⁵ <https://www.lz-sis.de/en/student-exchange-program.html#1319492117> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹²⁶ <https://www.sail-il.com/now-playing> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹²⁷ <https://www.sail-il.com/copy-of-the-mentors-1> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹²⁸ <https://www.sail-il.com/copy-of-the-mentors-1> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

- The others mentors list Israel's state-owned weapons company RAFAEL's logo next to their biography¹²⁹.

Although Israel's attacks on Gaza have primarily been through air and ground, Israel has also launched strikes on Gaza from offshore¹³⁰. On February 21st, CNN reported that a United Nations food convoy carrying vital food supplies was hit by Israeli Naval Fire¹³¹. Due to the project's sponsors and the mentors' affiliation to the Israeli Military, there is a potential that through this collaboration, TUM is contributing to the development of highly sophisticated technology for Israeli naval warfare.

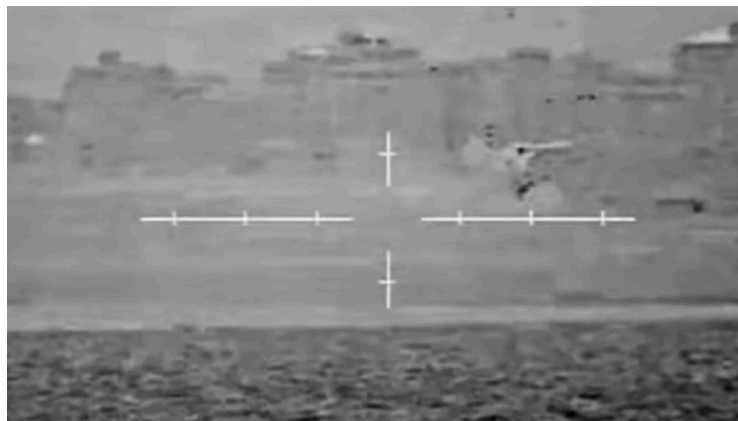


Figure 7: Grainy imagery shows the impact of naval gunfire on shore targets in Gaza. Image taken by the Israely Military¹³².

¹²⁹ <https://www.sail-il.com/the-mentors> (Archived on 11.11.2024)

¹³⁰

https://www.naval-technology.com/newsletters/israeli-navys-saar-6-corvettes-used-to-strike-gaza-ground-targets/?type=Analysis&utm_source=media-website&utm_medium=Menu&utm_content=Other_Daily_News_Articles&utm_campaign=type3_aerospace-and-defense-market&utm_medium=Menu&utm_content=Other_Daily_News_Articles&utm_campaign=type3_aerospace-and-defense-market&cf-view&cf-view&cf-closed (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹³¹

<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/02/21/middleeast/un-food-convoy-gaza-israel-strike-cmd-intl/index.html> (Archived on 14.03.2024)

¹³²

https://www.naval-technology.com/newsletters/israeli-navys-saar-6-corvettes-used-to-strike-gaza-ground-targets/?type=Analysis&utm_source=media-website&utm_medium=Menu&utm_content=Other_Daily_News_Articles&utm_campaign=type3_aerospace-and-defense-market&utm_medium=Menu&utm_content=Other_Daily_News_Articles&utm_campaign=type3_aerospace-and-defense-market&cf-view&cf-view&cf-closed (Archived on 07.11.2024)



Figure 8: The Logo of the Israeli Air Force. The Logo is listed next to the introduction of a mentor of the Autonomous Boat project, which TUM, Fraunhofer Institute and Tel Aviv University will collaborate on, starting from November 2024.



Figure 9: The Logo of Israel's state-owned weapons manufacturer, RAFAEL, which is shown on the project's website. RAFAEL is listed as a key sponsor of the Autonomous Boat Project at Tel Aviv University¹³³. RAFAEL produces high-tech equipment for Naval Warfare: "RAFAEL advanced systems include naval area soft and hard-kill defense, Electronic Warfare, missile strike systems, remote-controlled weapon stations and more."¹³⁴

2.2.2 LMU's collaboration with Tel Aviv University:

LMU states: "Collaboration between LMU and Tel Aviv University goes back many years – one example being the LMU-TAU Research Cooperation Program launched in 2017. Built around joint research projects and regular academics exchange, this strategic partnership intensifies the two universities' collaboration across all disciplines."¹³⁵

¹³³ <https://www.sail-il.com/now-playing> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹³⁴ <https://www.rafael.co.il/domain/naval/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹³⁵

- **LMU's collaboration with TAU in the field of Middle Eastern Studies ("Naher und Mittlerer Osten"); Concerning statement by TAU Professor Uzi Rabi (director Middle Eastern Studies at TAU) remarks calling for "extermination" of Northern Gaza**

"Institut für den nahen und mittleren Osten" lists 6 partner departments of Middle Eastern Studies at different universities where students can spend an Erasmus semester. Two of these Universities include Tel Aviv University as well as Hebrew University. As stated in the beginning of this chapter, the department of Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University is led by Uzi Rabi, who stated: "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"¹³⁶

- **Chair of Space Mobility and Propulsion (Lehrstuhl für Raumfahrtmobilität und -antriebe)**

In 2021, the Chair of Space Mobility and Propulsion at the Technical University of Munich (TUM) held a seminar inside Tel Aviv University on rocket combustion engine technology. This seminar focused on advancing the understanding and simulation of methane-oxygen (CH₄-O₂) combustion processes within rocket engine chambers, aiming to develop a validated, simulative approach for optimizing such engines¹³⁷. While this research holds significant potential for technological advancement in aerospace and defense industries, it also raises ethical and human rights concerns. Specifically, rocket propulsion technology, while originally developed for space exploration, can be adapted for use in missile systems, which may lead to weaponization. Given that rocket engines designed with precise, high-efficiency combustion processes can improve the range and accuracy of missiles, there is a risk that advancements from such

<https://www.lmu.de/en/newsroom/news-overview/news/lmu-president-bernd-huber-receives-honorary-doctorate-from-tel-aviv-university.html> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹³⁶ <https://www.972mag.com/northern-gaza-liquidation-scenario-eiland-rabi/> (Archived on 06.10.2024)

¹³⁷ Tel Aviv University. (2021). Seminar on Development of a Validated Simulative Approach for the Processes in CH₄-O₂ Space Engine Combustion Chambers. Tel Aviv University - Mechanical Engineering. Retrieved from <https://en-engineering.tau.ac.il/me-seminar-2.12.21>. (Archived on 07.11.2024)

research may be used in military applications that contribute to armed conflict. The use of these technologies in armed conflicts often involves complex legal and human rights considerations, especially where civilian populations are impacted.

- **The LMU-Tel Aviv University Research Cooperation Program**, established in 2017, intensifies scientific collaboration between LMU Munich and Tel Aviv University (TAU). The program supports joint research projects, workshops, postdoc research stays, and guest professorships. It fosters cooperation across diverse academic fields. The program also offers funding opportunities for research and workshops¹³⁸¹³⁹.
- **In May 2022, LMU President received an honorary doctorate from Tel Aviv University (TAU)**
He received the Honorary doctorate for “his endeavors to strengthen German-Israeli academic ties, and particularly his spearheading of a broad strategic cooperation agreement with Tel Aviv University.”¹⁴⁰

¹³⁸ <https://www.lmu.de/de/die-lmu/internationales-netzwerk/lmu-tau-research-cooperation-program/>
(Archived on 27.10.2024)

¹³⁹ <https://www.lmu.de/de/newsroom/newsuebersicht/news/so-funktioniert-moderne-wissenschaft.html>
(Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.lmu.de/en/newsroom/news-overview/news/lmu-president-bernd-huber-receives-honorary-doctorate-from-tel-aviv-university.html> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

4. Ben-Gurion University (BGN)

3.1 Why is Ben-Gurion University problematic ?

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

The Ben-Gurion University hosts the Homeland Security Institute which partners with **Elbit Systems** and **Rafael Advanced Defense Systems** as well as the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), the ministry of defense¹⁴¹, all of which are participating in the current human rights' violation and the plausible genocide:

- In 2019, Ben-Gurion University and **Rafael** signed a multi-year research collaboration deal and opened a joint research center in the Ben-Gurion Advanced Technologies Park^{142, 143} This will involve training of students on the hands of Rafael engineers and accessing classified research environments¹⁴⁴.
- Besides Rafael, **Elbit Systems** is the other weapons manufacturer that works closely with the university and is considered a partner in different projects including the Ben-Gurion Advanced Technologies Park. This park is meant to serve as a base for the IDF technology units along with transferring technologies of different companies close to the BGN campus¹⁴⁵.

¹⁴¹ https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/hsi/Pages/international_collaborations.aspx (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁴² <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ben-gurion-researchers-israel-defense-firm-rafael-join-forces-on-cyber-ai/> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁴³ https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/bgn/Pages/news/bgu_rafael.aspx (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁴⁴ <https://americansforbgu.org/bgu-and-rafael-collaborate-to-make-vehicles-safer/> (Archived on 31.10.2024)

¹⁴⁵ <https://www.gavyam-negev.co.il/en/about-the-park/> (Archived on 29.10.2024)

- When Elbit Systems opened a new lab at the Advanced Technologies Park in March 2024, the company stated that it maintained “a close relationship with academia [that] extends beyond simple collaboration. We actively transform academic research into practical applications... Students involved in our projects earn academic credit for their work, creating a mutually advantageous connection”^{146, 147}.
- **IDF-Partnership with Ben-Gurion University:** This year, Ben Gurion University, together with the IDF and the Ministry of Defense, announced the “opening of two new elite academic programs for future recruits, as part of preparations for the transfer of IDF technological units to southern Israel”¹⁴⁸.

3.1.2 Unit 8200 and Ben-Gurion University:

As stated in its president’s report 2024¹⁴⁹, Ben-Gurion University is partnered with the Israel Defense Forces’ elite intelligence division, Unit 8200, which is comparable to the US’s National Security Agency or GCHQ in the UK and is known, amongst other things, for the development of the programs “Lavender” and “The Gospel”^{150, 151}.

These Artificial Intelligence-based programs are being used for the automated generation of targets in the ongoing genocide in Gaza. According to an investigation carried out by +972mag, the programs have marked tens of thousands of Gazans for assassinations and the destruction of their homes with minimal human oversight, and personnel reportedly would spend only around “20 seconds” before authorizing the bombing of the targets suggested by Lavender¹⁵². A former Israeli intelligence officer has described the use of these programs as “essentially [facilitating] a mass

¹⁴⁶ <https://digitaler.cld.bz/BenGurion-presidents-report2024/26/#zoom=true> (Archived on 04.11.2024)

¹⁴⁷ <https://elbitsystems.com/blog/where-robots-go-to-play/> (Archived on 04.11.2024)

¹⁴⁸ <https://www.bgu.ac.il/en/news-and-articles/lightning-thunder-elite-academic-programs-idf/> (Archived on 31.10.2024)

¹⁴⁹ <https://digitaler.cld.bz/BenGurion-presidents-report2024/26/#zoom=true> (Archived on 04.11.2024)

¹⁵⁰ <https://www.npr.org/2023/12/14/1218643254/israel-is-using-an-ai-system-to-find-targets-in-gaza-experts-say-its-just-the-st/> (Archived on 29.10.2024)

¹⁵¹ <https://amp.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/03/israel-gaza-ai-database-amas-airstrikes> (Archived on 04.11.2021)

¹⁵² <https://www.972mag.com/lavender-ai-israeli-army-gaza/> (Archived on 29.10.2024)

assassination factory”¹⁵³.

The Lavender program as well as the Gospel program are likely operated from the “Advanced Technologies Park” mentioned above.

The 8200 unit has long been known for completely disregarding Palestinians’ rights, as is demonstrated in the following testimonies by officers working with the 8200 unit which were published in 2014¹⁵⁴:

“I also collected information on people who were completely innocent.”

“All Palestinians are exposed to non-stop monitoring without any legal protection.”

“The notion of rights for Palestinians does not exist at all. Not even as an idea to be disregarded.”

“Any Palestinian may be targeted and may suffer from sanctions such as the denial of permits, harassment, extortion, or even direct physical injury.”

“Any information that might enable extortion of an individual is considered relevant information. Whether said individual is of a certain sexual orientation, cheating on his wife, or in need of treatment in Israel or the West Bank – he is a target for blackmail.”

3.2 LMU and TUM’s collaborations with Ben-Gurion University.

The cities of Munich and Beer Sheva established an official partnership in 2021¹⁵⁵. In 2023 the government office RAW (Referat für Arbeit und Wirtschaft / Department for Labor and Economics) of the city of Munich ordered an intensification of academic partnerships of Munich universities with Ben Gurion University¹⁵⁶.

3.2.1 LMU’s collaboration with Ben-Gurion University:

- As a reaction to the then newly established city partnership between Munich and

¹⁵³ <https://www.972mag.com/mass-assassination-factory-israel-calculated-bombing-gaza/> (Archived on 29.10.2024)

¹⁵⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/12/israeli-intelligence-unit-testimonies> (Archived on 29.10.2024)

¹⁵⁵ <https://stadt.muenchen.de/infos/beersheva-partnerstadt.html> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁵⁶ <https://risi.muenchen.de/risi/dokument/v/7978569> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

Beer Sheva, staff from LMU said in an interview in 2022 that they were “looking forward to the partnership with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU)”, expecting that LMU “can benefit from its knowledge of the country's history, Zionism and the political figure of Ben Gurion.”¹⁵⁷. Today, Ben-Gurion University is an official partner University of the LMU¹⁵⁸. Students from all faculties of the LMU (except pharmacy, medicine and veterinary medicine) and all levels (Bachelor, Master and doctorate) can study at Ben Gurion University through LMU's exchange agreement. LMU has a specific agreement with the history department, as stated on LMU's website¹⁵⁹.

- The Center for Non-invasive Brain Stimulation Munich-Augsburg (CNBS-MA) from the LMU Klinikum has a collaboration with BGU¹⁶⁰. The physics department of LMU also worked on a research project between 2006-2010 in collaboration with BGU, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)¹⁶¹.

3.2.2 TUM's collaboration with Ben-Gurion University:

- TUM's faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology and BGU's Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering were partners in the context of a “German Israeli Project Cooperation” supported by the DFG and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The project “Fundamentals of cooperation in modern communication networks” lasted from 2018 - 2022¹⁶². The 2021 workshop “Coding, Cooperation, and Security in Modern

¹⁵⁷ <https://www.juedische-allgemeine.de/kultur/akademische-gemeinsamkeiten/> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁵⁸ <https://lmu.adv-pub.moveon4.de/report-page-2560/> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁵⁹ <https://lmu.adv-pub.moveon4.de/report-page-2560/> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁶⁰ <https://www.lmu-klinikum.de/psychiatrie-und-psychotherapie/forschung-research/working-groups/center-for-non-invasive-brain-stimulation-munich-augsburg/e79767c1099ad5ca?kumActiveTabs=2e48a546%404> (Archived on 31.10.2024)

¹⁶¹ <https://www.dfg.de/resource/blob/323288/92b23d2819f21c36867cb4cff21f866e/dip-gefoerderte-projekte-e-n-data.pdf> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁶² <https://www.dfg.de/resource/blob/323288/92b23d2819f21c36867cb4cff21f866e/dip-gefoerderte-projekte-e-n-data.pdf> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

Communication Networks” was part of that project¹⁶³.

- The Institute of Nanoelectronics at TUM and BGU worked together on the research project “Chip-based nanocompartments for the controlled release of individual molecules” funded by the DFG from 2012 - 2016¹⁶⁴.
- TUM and BGU are currently working together under the lead of the university of the German military in a big, EU-funded project that is planned to last until 2026¹⁶⁵.

¹⁶³

<https://www.ce.cit.tum.de/en/Int/events/events-2021/2021-workshop-on-coding-cooperation-and-security-in-modern-communication-networks-coco/> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁶⁴

<https://www.dfg.de/resource/blob/323288/92b23d2819f21c36867cb4cff21f866e/dip-gefoerderte-projekte-en-data.pdf> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁶⁵

<https://www.unibw.de/forschung/projekte/integrated-and-circular-technologies-for-sustainable-city-region-food-systems-in-africa-incitis-food> (Archived on 29.10.2024)

5. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

4.1 Why is Hebrew University problematic ?

4.1.1 Hebrew University's Mount Scopus Campus is located in illegally annexed East Jerusalem.

This goes against:

- **Resolution 478 (1980)**: This resolution declared Israel's 1980 Jerusalem Law, which proclaimed Jerusalem as the "complete and united" capital of Israel, as null and void. It affirmed that all legislative and administrative measures taken by Israel to alter the character and status of Jerusalem are **violations of international law and must be rescinded**. It also called on member states to withdraw their diplomatic missions from Jerusalem¹⁶⁶
- **Resolution 2334 (2016)**: This resolution reiterated that Israel's establishment of settlements in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, **has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law**. It called for an immediate and complete halt to all settlement activities and emphasized the need to distinguish in dealings between the territory of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967¹⁶⁷.

While we are aware that the original buildings of the Hebrew University are located in the area that was designated in 1948 as the "Demilitarized Zone", whose status is contested, the University has expanded significantly since the 1967 occupation, and significant parts of it fall **beyond** the "Demilitarized Zone" line and are in the Palestinian occupied territory and are effectively settlements. The expansion includes part of the Maierdsdorf Dormitories, all of the Alan Bronfman Dormitories, the Students Village, the Lerner Family Indoor Sports Complex and the Gilbert Tennis Courts¹⁶⁸.

¹⁶⁶ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/25618?ln=en&v=pdf> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁶⁷ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/853446?v=pdf> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁶⁸ <https://criticallegalthinking.com/2017/11/23/statement-against-holding-esil-at-the-hebrew-university/> (Archived on 02.05.2024)

- These parts are settlements for they are used to house the population of an occupying power in an occupied territory¹⁶⁹
- These parts are also used for the accommodation of international incoming students including TUM and LMU students.
- As a large higher education institution with thousands of students and employees, HUJ's presence in this area stimulates settler activities in East Jerusalem, especially in the adjacent neighborhoods of the French Hill, Ramat Eshkol and Sheikh Jarrah and beyond¹⁷⁰.
- HUJ Benefits from the settlement infra-structure, the transport lines, and the access roads, which are all in the occupied territory, some of which are on privately-owned Palestinian land. This infrastructure is also designed in a way to favor Israeli settlements in the area, and to the detriment of the local Palestinian population¹⁷¹.
- HUJ cooperates with the Israeli police force. For instance, they allow constant presence of policemen that surveil Palestinian territories and restrict freedom of movement of Palestinians by closing the southern entrance to Al-Isswiya neighborhood.¹⁷²

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) 2024 report:

“The court is of the view that Member States are under an obligation not to recognize any changes in the physical character or demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the territory occupied by Israel on 5 June 1967, including East Jerusalem, except as agreed by the parties to the conflict through negotiations.”¹⁷³

¹⁶⁹

<https://criticallegalthinking.com/2017/11/23/statement-against-holding-esil-at-the-hebrew-university/>
(Archived on 02.05.2024)

¹⁷⁰

<https://criticallegalthinking.com/2017/11/23/statement-against-holding-esil-at-the-hebrew-university/>
(Archived on 02.05.2024)

¹⁷¹

<https://criticallegalthinking.com/2017/11/23/statement-against-holding-esil-at-the-hebrew-university/>
(Archived on 02.05.2024)

¹⁷² <https://www.academia4equality.com/en/post/in-solidarity-with-the-residents-of-issawiyah>
(Archived on (01.11.2024)

¹⁷³ <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-sum-01-00-en.pdf>
(Archived on

Statement by the German Federal Foreign Office:

“Like its partners in the European Union, the German Government regards the building of settlements in the Palestinian territories as illegal under international law and as a major obstacle to the possibility of a two-state solution to be negotiated between Israel and the Palestinians. It calls on those involved to refrain from taking any steps that would further hinder a two-state solution.”¹⁷⁴

4.1.2 Shin Bet:

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

- “I was especially dismayed by what I did not see or hear, and what I have seen and heard all these years in military courts in Ofer and in the alleyways of Yatta and Hebron, from the methodical destruction of Palestinian society in the West Bank with temptations and threats and turning people against their siblings to the torture in the Shin Bet’s interrogation facilities. I have documented all their methods by speaking to victims, I told myself, and here they are presented to me in the guise of a perfect public relations production sponsored by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. And no one protests, speaks out against or disrupts this detestable conference”¹⁷⁵.
- “It would be appropriate to call for an academic boycott of the Hebrew University and its instructors, whether or not the ethics code forbids this, for this collaboration with the Shin Bet security service. All of my ethical, aesthetic and academic senses — as a graduate and a current student of the university — tell me that an academic institution should not collaborate with secret services

¹⁷⁴ <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/israel-west-bank/2264114> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁷⁵ <https://web.archive.org/web/20230426053857/https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/2018-04-03/ty-article-opinion/premium/what-i-saw-at-a-shin-bet-lecture-at-hebrew-university/0000017f-db1a-db22-a17f-ffbbedbb00> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

anywhere, much less in Israel, in light of its situation today”¹⁷⁶.

4.1.3 Hebrew University’s support of Israel’s military activity:

Hebrew University itself states that it directly supported the military on the ground by having “(The University) provided diverse logistics equipment to several military units”¹⁷⁷. Moreover, it provided various forms of indirect support to the IDF by providing extensive scholarships to military personnel engaged in Gaza^{178, 179}.

Since the IDF is violating human rights in Gaza and preserving the illegal settlements in the Occupied Territories, direct and indirect support to their activities goes against international law. HUJ’ technology transfer company, called Yissum, also collaborated with weapons manufacturer Lockheed & Martin¹⁸⁰, who are known to help Israel’s breaking of human rights such as surveillance in Palestinian occupied territories or killing of Palestinian civilians^{181, 182}.

4.2 LMU’s and TUM’s strategic collaborations with Hebrew University.

4.2.1 Between LMU and Hebrew University:

Student exchange agreements with Hebrew University are listed on LMU’s partner university database. LMU specifically has agreements with the medical department, history, “Naher und Mittlerer Osten”, and a overall agreement (excluding medicine and

¹⁷⁶

<https://web.archive.org/web/20230426053857/https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/2018-04-03/ty-article-opinion/premium/what-i-saw-at-a-shin-bet-lecture-at-hebrew-university/0000017f-db1a-db22-a17f-ffbbbedbb000>

¹⁷⁷ <https://campaign.huji.ac.il/help-university-community> (Archived on 28.04.2024)

¹⁷⁸ <https://campaign.huji.ac.il/help-university-community> (Archived on 28.04.2024)

¹⁷⁹ https://en.huji.ac.il/news/enhanced-financial-package-our-students-serving-idf?ref_tid=16558 (Archived on 02.05.2024)

¹⁸⁰ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/defense-giant-lockheed-to-draw-on-hebrew-u-innovations/> (Archived on 04.11.2024)

¹⁸¹ <https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-il/who-we-are.html> (Archived on 05.05.2024)

¹⁸² <https://investigate.afsc.org/company/lockheed-martin> (Archived on 30.04.2024)

pharmacy)¹⁸³. Moreover, the LMU clinic is conducting a research project sponsored by HUJ¹⁸⁴ and LMU's Institute for Near and Middle Eastern is conducting a joint research project with HUJ, called Arches-Projekt¹⁸⁵.

4.2.2 Between TUM and Hebrew University:

Hebrew University is an official partner university of TUM. Students from a long list of subject areas can apply to study and researching there¹⁸⁶.

TUM is also part of a Joint Global Research Hub which includes HUJ¹⁸⁷ and TUM is listed as a key academic partner that is part of a Joint Artificial Intelligence Hub since May 2022¹⁸⁸.

¹⁸³ <https://lmu.adv-pub.moveon4.de/report-page-2560/> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁸⁴ <https://www.lmu-klinikum.de/psychiatrie-und-psychotherapie/forschung-research/working-groups/center-for-non-invasive-brain-stimulation-munich-augsburg/e79767c1099ad5ca> (Archived on 01.11.2024)

¹⁸⁵ <https://www.naher-osten.uni-muenchen.de/forschung/arches-projekt/index.html> (Archived on 01.11.2024)

¹⁸⁶ <https://tum.adv-pub.moveon4.de/report-page-3572/> (Filter country: Israel) (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁸⁷ <https://www.tum.de/en/news-and-events/all-news/press-releases/details/tum-and-ntu-singapore-sign-flags-hip-partnership> (Archived on 01.11.2024)

¹⁸⁸ <https://international.huji.ac.il/key-academic-partners> (Archived on 01.11.2024)

5. Reichman University

5.1 Why is Reichman University problematic ?

The university is based on a large campus on the site of a former Israeli Air Force base. The University openly prides the IDF on their website with headlines such as: “The IDF as the Foundation of National Resilience”¹⁸⁹ Reichman University holds events with speakers such as the Commander of the Air Force¹⁹⁰. The university takes pride in its intertwinement with the military:

- **“The honorable Yoav Galant” - Reichman University’s pride about Yoav Galant, who the ICC issued an arrest warrant against**

In May 2024, ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan applied for arrest warrants for both Gallant and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, citing their alleged involvement in **war crimes and crimes against humanity** related to military actions in Gaza starting from October 2023.

Reichman University frequently prides the Israeli military as well as Israel’s minister of defense, Yoav Gallant: “The honorable Yoav Galant”, it says above the description of his CV¹⁹¹. Reichman University provides a welcoming stage for the Galant, who the ICC accuses of serious war crimes: in 2023 he spoke at the Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) conference held at Reichman University¹⁹². Gallant is also known for calling Palestinian “human animals” and for statements such as this one: “I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed”¹⁹³.

¹⁸⁹

<https://www.runi.ac.il/en/research-institutes/government/ips/activities/newsletter/akerman11-9-23-e/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁹⁰

<https://www.runi.ac.il/en/research-institutes/government/ips/events/2021-conference-main/norkin-vod> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁹¹ <https://ict.org.il/ourteam/the-honorable-yoav-galant/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁹²

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gallant-says-iran-building-airport-to-attack-israelis-in-southern-lebanon/> (Archived on 23.04.2024)

¹⁹³

5.1.1 Reichman University: a welcoming host for IDF leaders: The Herzliya Conference:

The Herzliya Conference is an annual summit held at Reichman University in Herzliya and organized by its Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS) to discuss matters of state security and policy¹⁹⁴.

At the Herzliya conference 2023, Reichman University was the welcoming host for following individuals:

- **Isaac Herzog**, who is known for attacking and delegitimizing the International Court of Justice ruling, calling it antisemitic and thus undermining the rule of law¹⁹⁵. He is also known for his statement where he stated that all Gazans, including civilians, are 'guilty': "[Gazans are] an entire nation out there that is responsible... This rhetoric about civilians not aware, not involved [in the October 7 onslaught] — it's absolutely not true"¹⁹⁶.
- Yoav Gallant (see above)
- Herzi Halevi, Chief of the General Staff, IDF
- Benny Gantz, Former Minister of Defense of Israel; Former IDF Chief of General Staff; Head of The National Unity
- Gen. Eyal Zamir, Director General of Israel's Ministry of Defense
- .. and many more¹⁹⁷

At the 2024 conference at Reichman University, many other participants are invited,

[https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/defense-minister-announces-complete-siege-of-gaza-no-po-
wer-food-or-fuel/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/defense-minister-announces-complete-siege-of-gaza-no-po-
wer-food-or-fuel/) (Archived on 15.10.2024)

¹⁹⁴ <http://www.herzliyaconference.org/Eng/> (Archived on 14.04.2013)

¹⁹⁵

[https://www.timesofisrael.com/a-blood-libel-herzog-says-icj-twisted-my-words-to-support-unfounded-conte-
ntion/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/a-blood-libel-herzog-says-icj-twisted-my-words-to-support-unfounded-conte-
ntion/) (Archived on 18.07.2024)

¹⁹⁶

[https://www.timesofisrael.com/a-blood-libel-herzog-says-icj-twisted-my-words-to-support-unfounded-conte-
ntion/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/a-blood-libel-herzog-says-icj-twisted-my-words-to-support-unfounded-conte-
ntion/) (Archived on 18.07.2024)

¹⁹⁷

<https://www.runi.ac.il/en/research-institutes/government/ips/herzliya-conference/hc2023/speakers/>

such as the minister of education, who infamously said about Palestinians:

“Those are animals, they have no right to exist. I am not debating they way it will happen, but they need to be exterminated.”¹⁹⁸

Another quote about the Operations Swords of Iron:

“This [attack] is not enough, there should be more, there should be no limits to the response, I said it a million times, until we see hundreds of thousands fleeing Gaza, we, the IDF has not achieved its mission, this is a phase that should happen, I am saying this cause these are instructions that were said to the IDF [. . .] I also do not want [the IDF] to get inside [Gaza] before crushing everything, I’d rather the falling of fifty buildings than one more casualty to our forces”¹⁹⁹

5.1.2 International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT):

The ICT is a conservative Israeli think tank founded in 1996 by the already mentioned Prof. Boaz Ganor and located at Reichman University.

We believe that their recent publication speak for themselves. These have been published just between July and September 2024, an exhaustive list of their articles would be a whole new report.

- Calling for the permanent military occupation of Gaza. „In real terms, there will not be a full withdrawal [from the Gaza strip] [...]Israeli direct control is required. This means an occupied area with an administrative system based on the local population in Gaza.”²⁰⁰
- Justifying the bombing of the densely populated city of Beirut in Lebanon

¹⁹⁸ (Someone please check if this source is correct!): The patriots on channel 14 episode posted October 9 2023 [27: 39 – 27:47]minutes ht- tps://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8E54R76rowCcCOn_HQf36o1RF3_oD3z4 (Archived on 17.03.2024)

¹⁹⁹ The patriots on channel 14 episode posted October 9 2023 [30:48 – 31:26]minutes https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8E54R76rowCcCOn_HQf36o1RF3_oD3z4 (Archived on 17.03.2024)

²⁰⁰ <https://ict.org.il/after-the-war-five-key-challenges-for-israel/> (Archived on 04.02.2024)

because of its "symbolism"²⁰¹

- Manufacturing consent for Israeli aggression towards countries in the region²⁰²
- Arguing for a deepening of the military control of the illegally annexed West Bank and reforming the Palestinian Authority's education system to control the narrative around Israel²⁰³.

5.2 Strategic Partnership Reichman University with LMU and TUM.

Reichman University is an official partner university by the LMU, according to LMU's partnerships database. Students from all departments can apply to study at Reichman University²⁰⁴. Reichman University is also listed as an official international partner institution of the TUM School of Management. Their list was updated in February 2024²⁰⁵.

6. European Universities that suspended collaborations with one or multiple of Israeli universities, / or are considering it

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

²⁰¹ <https://ict.org.il/recent-events-in-the-northern-arena-of-israel/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

²⁰² <https://web.archive.org/web/20241007093825/https://ict.org.il/hamasthreat-on-the-international-arena-after-the-end-of-the-war-in-gaza/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

²⁰³ <https://ict.org.il/the-escalating-security-situation-in-the-west-bank/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

²⁰⁴ <https://lmu.adv-pub.moveon4.de/report-page-2560/#> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

²⁰⁵ https://cms.mgt.tum.de/fileadmin/mgt.tum.de/international_exchange_programs/TUM_SOM_partners.pdf (Archived on 07.11.2024)

- Belgium's **University of Ghent** (Belgium): is severing ties with three Israeli educational or research institutions which it says no longer align with UGhent's human rights policy, its rector said. Additionally Ghent University implies to discontinue all ongoing institutional collaborations with Israeli universities and research institutions, since they are involved in human rights violations²⁰⁶.
- **The University of Antwerp** (Belgium) halts all institutional partner agreements with Israeli partner institutions. Existing agreements with Israeli institutions are terminated. No new ones will be initiated for now. These steps were taken because of the interrelatedness of Israeli institutions and the country's military institutions - and the ruling of the ICJ.²⁰⁷
- The **Université Libre de Bruxelles** (Belgium): the ULB said that it would suspend ties with both Israeli and Palestinian universities until "their respective university authorities make a clear commitment to the demands made by the International Court of Justice ... and the unconditional release of the Israeli hostages"²⁰⁸.
- **OsloMet** (Norway): puts the exchange agreement with the University of Haifa on hold, pledged not to enter into any new agreements with complicit Israeli universities, and will work to end procurement contracts with suppliers linked to Israel's military or illegal settlements²⁰⁹.
- **University of Southeastern Norway**: ended ties with Haifa University and Hadassah Academic College in Jerusalem. "USN's leadership is appalled by Israel's attack on Gaza's civilian population and infrastructure, and the catastrophic humanitarian situation that now prevails in Gaza. The Israeli authorities have chosen to ignore the International People's Court's statements and have not fulfilled the requirements to improve the humanitarian situation. That is the reason why we no longer want to have cooperation agreements with universities in Israel", says Rector Pia Cecilie Bing-Jonsson²¹⁰. Furthermore, the USN has decided to not buy any products that were produced in occupied territories. The students at USN go a step further and are calling for a boycott of all Israeli products²¹¹.
- **University of Bergen** (Norway): ended its cooperation agreements with Bezalel

²⁰⁶ [Cooperation with Israeli partners - update 31 May 2024 — Ghent University \(ugent.be\)](#) (Archived on 07.11.2024)

²⁰⁷ [8f8c1a7b-674d-4617-ac03-c603a1b4e375.pdf \(uantwerpen.be\)](#) (Archived on 07.11.2024)

²⁰⁸ [L'ULB suspend ses accords et projets de recherche avec les universités israéliennes - Actualités de l'ULB](#) (Archived on 30.10.2024)

²⁰⁹ [OsloMet puts exchange agreement on hold - minside](#) (Archived on 28.02.2024)

²¹⁰ <https://www.usn.no/nyhetsarkiv/avslutter-samarbeid-med-universiteter-i-israel> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

²¹¹ [USN and Gaza, what do we do? - University of South-Eastern Norway](#) (Archived on 07.11.2024)

Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem after it created a workshop on campus to design and sew uniforms and gear for the Israeli military²¹².

- **University of Stavanger** (Norway): UiS is terminating all institutional collaboration agreements with Israeli institutions, due to the war in Gaza, which is contrary to international law. Nor will UiS enter into any new agreements as long as hostilities are ongoing²¹³.

²¹² [UiB terminates agreement with Israeli art academy \(Archived on 30.10.2024\)](#)

²¹³ [UiS ends institutional cooperation with Israel | University of Stavanger \(Archived on 07.11.2024\)](#)