

# BRICUP Newsletter 105

BRICUP

British Committee for the  
Universities of Palestine

December 2016

[www.bricup.org.uk](http://www.bricup.org.uk)

[bricup@bricup.org.uk](mailto:bricup@bricup.org.uk)

## CONTENTS

### **P 1. Zionists' weapon of mass destruction against UK Left**

*Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi*

### **P 4. Settler University at Ariel uses false pretences in inviting foreign scholars**

*Information from Gush Shalom*

### **P 5. Israeli forces raid al-Quds University, damage contents of book fair for the needy**

*Information from the Ma'an news agency*

### **P 6. A groundbreaking statement by 200 European Legal Scholars Upholds the Right to BDS for Palestinian Rights**

*Information from Palestinian Boycott National Committee (BNC),*

### **P 7. Palestinian Advanced Physics School 2016**

**Arab-American University, Jenin,**

*Scientists for Palestine.*

### **P 8. Notices**

### **Zionists' weapon of mass destruction against UK Left**

*Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi*

From Blairite to far-right, the British political elite is relishing having discovered the ultimate weapon of mass destruction to try and block the growth of a movement of the left around [Labour Party](#) leader [Jeremy Corbyn](#). All it needs to do is fire off round after round of unsubstantiated assertions of antisemitism, deploying circular and often contradictory arguments. The left, so the mantra goes, has always been riddled with antisemitism. To deny this is, by definition, antisemitic. Corbyn is in denial, according to his critics. The ardent pro-Israel advocate Howard Jacobson has [accused](#) him of belonging to the “more un-self-questioning wing of British politics.” Those words are probably more applicable to [Tony Blair](#), the former prime minister and Corbyn's arch enemy. Jacobson, a novelist and academic, graciously allows in a recent opinion piece that Israel may be subjected to “fair and honest” criticism but asserts, in the face of reams of historical evidence to the contrary, that the [Zionism](#) which created and upholds the state is a “dreamy” and idealistic national liberation movement of the Jewish people that has nothing to do with conquest or colonial expansion. The clincher is Jacobson's assertion – denied by a considerable body of Jewish opinion – that anti-Zionism is equivalent to repudiating Israel's right to exist and is therefore “almost invariably” antisemitic. Case closed. There really is nothing left to say.

**“Open season on minorities”**

Where does this leave the UK as a proudly democratic society that values freedom of speech? We value it so highly that just last month (October), the Independent Press Standards Organisation – the media regulator established by UK newspapers – [ruled](#) that Kelvin MacKenzie, a former editor of The Sun, was free to denounce Channel 4 for letting a headscarf-wearing Muslim woman, Fatima Manji, report on the Nice terror attacks. Manji said this meant that it was now “open season on minorities and Muslims, in particular.”

It leaves us in an unpleasant place, following the vote to exit the [European Union](#), where upsetting Muslims and other non-whites is fine. Upsetting friends of Israel is not allowed, however – especially, but not exclusively, if they are Jewish. It’s also fine to upset Jews like me who are not Zionists. [Wes Streeting](#), a member of parliament (not a Jew), [called](#) me a “massive racist” in a tweet about an interview I did with the radio station LBC during October. But then I’m a pro-Palestinian activist who supports the [boycott, divestment and sanctions](#) (BDS) campaign inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement. Streeting evidently believes I can be discounted as a self-hating Jew.

Just to be clear, I have no time for conspiracy theorists who see Israel as the root of all evil. I do not tolerate anti-Jewish racism, whether or not it is coupled with claims of supporting justice for Palestine, as it sometimes is. Nor do my fellow campaigners in [Free Speech on Israel](#). We demand justice and security for both Palestinians and Israelis, Arabs and Jews, and we agree with the Arab-Jewish Forum’s Tony Klug who [wrote](#) in The Jewish Chronicle earlier this year: “While antisemitism is monstrous – and, like all forms of racism, should be vigorously dealt with – false accusations of antisemitism are monstrous too.” Disturbingly, the recent report on antisemitism in the UK from the Home Affairs Committee in the House of Commons gives a free pass to those making false accusations.

Released on 16 October, the report performs a service by highlighting the role of social media – in particular Twitter – in facilitating deplorable abuse and threats to individuals. It also makes the important point, ignored by most media, that the far right is behind 75 percent of all politically motivated antisemitic incidents. Its main thrust, however, is that antisemitism is rampant and tolerated in the Labour Party, the [National Union of Students](#) and elsewhere on the left and that a “new definition” of antisemitism is required so

that we can halt this alleged scourge. It is a gift to the pro-Israel, anti-Corbyn brigade who welcomed it ecstatically.

### **Moral panic**

The Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA), an intensely Zionist group, tweeted, “We could not have written this report better ourselves.” Until the current wave of moral panic, people generally knew what bigotry was and what was specific about the anti-Jewish bigotry usually called antisemitism. As the Free Speech On Israel website [says](#), language or behavior is anti-Semitic if it expresses hatred of Jews, or inflicts or incites violence against them, because they are Jews; if it stereotypes Jews on the basis of alleged negative personal characteristics such as being mean, sly and avaricious; if it links Jews to conspiracy theories about world domination of media, financial or governmental institutions; if it suggests Jews were responsible for, or fabricated, the Holocaust. Most people would also agree that it is antisemitic to implicate all Jews in the actions of the Israeli state or to accuse all Jews of embracing a single ideology – Zionism, for example. Yet no one is more determined to suggest that all Jews owe loyalty to the State of Israel, and that Zionism is part and parcel of being Jewish, than Zionists like Jacobson and the CAA. It isn’t so long ago that [Ephraim Mirvis](#), Britain’s chief rabbi, [declared](#) that Zionism was a “noble and integral part of Judaism.”

A long list of Jews including well-known figures such as the filmmaker [Mike Leigh](#), actor [Miriam Margolyes](#) and writer [Michael Rosen](#) put their names to a [letter](#) repudiating the chief rabbi’s version of their identity. Gideon Falter, the CAA’s chair, [dismissed](#) them as “a fringe assortment of British Jews” who had committed an “anti-Semitic slur” against his group. Is it any wonder that some people outraged by Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians may take the chief rabbi at his word and hold all Jews responsible for what is done in their name?

If only the report from the Home Affairs Committee had tackled this contradiction and affirmed that there are different forms of Jewish identity, different traditions to which Jews adhere, including [radical traditions](#) that have no connection with Zionism. Instead the committee promotes a “new definition” of antisemitism that does everything Falter, Streeting and company desire. If imposed on all areas of public life, as the committee proposes, opposition to their partisan approach is at risk of being criminalized.

To start with, the committee exalts its definition of antisemitism as being “based broadly on the working definition of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC).” That falsely gives the impression that the definition favored has already been approved by the European Union. The so-called working definition [appeared](#) on the EUMC website as a discussion document that was found wanting and dropped. It was originally [drafted](#) more than a decade ago by Zionist lobby groups, which have pushed it relentlessly since then. The home affairs committee report lists some of the obvious characteristics of antisemitism but muddies the waters by introducing Israel into the equation. We already have extensive evidence of how this will be used to censor debate – an academic conference [canceled](#), a theater director [pilloried](#), school children [denied](#) involvement in a literary festival. It is not only Jewish Zionists who are guilty of this kind of censorship. In the three cases mentioned, non-Jewish Conservative cabinet ministers were actively involved. The Home Affairs Committee’s “new definition” offers myriad opportunities for conflating criticism of Israel with antisemitism. As I write, Israel’s CAA friends are filing a [complaint](#) against the [School of Oriental and African Studies](#) in London for allowing writer Tom Suarez to lecture about the violent origins of the Israeli state. These are some of the more problematic examples given in the “new definition”:

*Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.*

If this is antisemitic, then Jewish organizations that uphold loyalty to Israel – as most do – will be immune from criticism for doing so. Dissenting Jews, or anyone else who wonders aloud why the [Board of Deputies of British Jews](#), which claims to represent all Jews in the country, persists in supporting Israel right or wrong, will be silenced.

*Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g. by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.*

This clause is particularly pernicious. Rights attach to human beings, not states. Asserting the right to self-determination does not give any group a right to suppress others in its name. Palestinians also have rights, including the right to protest at the injustices inflicted upon them in the name of Jewish self-determination. It is not

antisemitic for them to do so, nor for anyone else to support them. Nor is it antisemitic to identify the racism present in the origins of the Israeli state. Jacobson may call its creation an act of “dreamy” idealism – but it was almost by definition a racist endeavor since the intention was to conquer and occupy the maximum amount of land while ensuring that the fewest possible non-Jewish inhabitants remained on it. Modern Israel offers multiple examples of racism, some of it [extreme](#).

*Applying double standards by requiring of it [Israel] a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.*

In practice, what Israel’s defenders complain of is Israel being expected to abide by internationally accepted norms while other states behave as badly or worse. Israel’s critics point out that Israel is exceptionally favoured on the international scene by being allowed to get away with breaches of international law and human rights conventions without facing any sanction. It is not antisemitic to call Israel to account for those breaches.

*Using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism (e.g. claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.*

The blood libel is a horrifying medieval superstition that led to the slaughter of innocent Jews accused of using the blood of Christian children in religious rites. Today’s pro-Israel censors frequently allege “blood libel” when anyone comments on the shedding of Palestinian blood.

Veteran cartoonist Gerald Scarfe found himself in the center of a diplomatic storm when he dared to portray [Benjamin Netanyahu](#), Israel’s prime minister, cementing bleeding bodies between the slabs of a wall. To call this a blood libel distorts Jewish history and, as one Israeli commentator [argued](#) at the time, is “not antisemitic by any standard.” It is certainly antisemitic to allege, as used to happen to my mother when she was a young girl, that Jews bear the guilt of Christ’s death, or to suggest that Jews have a propensity to slaughter children. But it is not antisemitic to hold the State of Israel or its leaders responsible for the real deaths of real children caused by their forces.

*Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.*

The study of history and politics requires us to make comparisons between different societies in

different times. Nazi Germany has become the benchmark for a particularly horrifying form of racist totalitarianism. Sometimes people appalled at Israel's behavior towards Palestinians, [including](#) Jewish Israelis, reach for the worst comparison they can muster and draw Nazi parallels. It can be hurtful and may make productive debate difficult. But it is not antisemitic.

*Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel.*

It is indeed bigoted to hold Jews – or any ethnic or religious group – collectively responsible for anything. But people can hardly be blamed for believing that Jews and Israel are indivisible when most mainstream Jewish organizations are solidly aligned with Israel and Zionism. It would be far more beneficial for people who are confused about this to learn about non-Zionist Jewish traditions than to drum them out of the Labour Party for crossing a line laid down by pro-Israel partisans.

The Home Affairs Committee report calls for its seriously flawed pseudo-definition to be “formally adopted by the UK government, law enforcement agencies and all political parties, to assist them in determining whether or not an incident or discourse can be regarded as antisemitic.” There is considerable danger in this. Not only is the committee's definition a threat to the possibility of holding intelligent, informed discussion about one of the great moral and political issues of our time, it is also a potential spur to anti-Jewish sentiment because it gives the impression that debate is to be censored at the behest of a Jewish collective acting on behalf of the State of Israel. Unquestioning media bear much of the blame for obscuring the fact that many Jews are not Zionists and a great many Zionists are not Jews. While many of us Jewish dissenters have been at the forefront of defending Jeremy Corbyn in his attempts to build a grassroots socialist movement, his enemies have united to undermine him, regardless of their faith backgrounds. It is not too late to avert the threat to freedom of speech posed by the cynical political games afoot. We should start by rejecting the Home Affairs Committee's phony definition of antisemitism.

Note: We are grateful to [Free Speech on Israel](#) and [Electronic Intifada](#) for permission to republish this article.

## **Settler University at Ariel uses false pretences in inviting foreign scholars**

*Information from Gush Shalom*

The settler university at Ariel on the West Bank is about to hold what is billed as an international conference on the current situation of the Jewish People. In order to get foreign scholars to take part in this event, the Ariel University resorted to false pretences, claiming to be located in Israel – while the university administration is well aware that they are in fact located in Occupied Territory which is not, and never was, part of Israel. See link to the conference program on the Ariel University's website

<http://www.ariel.ac.il/sites/education/2016/>

Over the past week, Gush Shalom sent letters to all foreign academics whose name appeared on the conference program – most of them from Poland and Ukraine, a few from Western Europe – reading:

To Dr. /Prof. ...., University of .....

Greetings! We are writing you from Tel Aviv, on behalf of Gush Shalom (the Israeli Peace Bloc). We are writing with regard to the conference due to be held at the University of Ariel between November 27-30, on the subject “Modern Jewish Existence in a World of Threats and Hostility”, of which your name appears among the featured speakers.

The University of Ariel, like any other institute founded with the stated purpose of promoting academic learning and scientific knowledge, is obliged to keep and maintain standards of factual accuracy in its publications. Yet the conference program, in which your name and intended lecture appears, includes a glaring factual mistake – i.e., the location of the conference is given as “Ariel, Israel”.

That designation is obviously and manifestly wrong. The University of Ariel is not located in the territory of the State of Israel. Rather, it is located at a settlement enclave erected in the territory which Israel has conquered in 1967, which Israel holds under military rule over the past fifty years, and which Israel had never annexed. Not a single country in the world recognizes the territory in which Ariel is located as being part of Israel. More than that: the State of Israel itself does not recognize Ariel and the territory around it as being part of Israel.

Israeli law sets out a very specific juridical procedure which needs to be undertaken in order to apply Israeli law and sovereignty. To achieve that, the government of Israel must submit an Annexation Bill to the Knesset (Parliament), and it must be approved in three readings; then and only then does the territory in question become part of Israel under Israel's own law. It is an undisputed fact that none of the governments which ruled Israel since 1967 has seen fit to apply this procedure to the territory where Ariel is located, variously named "The West Bank" or "Judea and Samaria". That territory was and remains an Occupied Territory under International Law. To the contrary, all Israeli governments since 1967 – including the present one, under Mr. Netanyahu – have repeatedly reiterated that under some circumstances they might relinquish Israeli rule over that territory. The designation "Ariel, Israel" is a factual error – of which the university administration must be well aware.

It is important for you to know that by participating in this conference you would not only be taking part in academic activity, imparting from your knowledge and expertise to a discussion on the situation and future of the Jewish People. By participating in this conference you would also be taking a political position. Whether or not you are aware of it, by taking part in a conference at the Ariel University, under the false heading "Ariel, Israel", you would be taking sides in a hot political controversy. Indeed, you would be taking sides on the issue most deeply debated between Israel and the International Community, between Israel and the Palestinians. It is also the issue most hotly debated between the political factions and parties inside the Israeli society itself. As a person devoted to academic probity and precision, you should not act without having full information. "

Meanwhile, one of the intended participants - Dr Edyta Gawron, Assistant Professor at Institute of Jewish Studies of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland - informed Gush Shalom that she had cancelled her participation and asked the Ariel University to remove her name from the conference program.

"It was very important for us to take this action" says Adam Keller, Gush Shalom spokesperson. "We have the highest regard for scholars promoting Jewish subjects in countries like Poland and Ukraine. Not only are they serious

researchers and academics, with deserved international reputations. They are also persons of courage and probity, ready to unflinchingly uncover dark pages in the history of their own countries. Indeed, one of the intended participants in the Ariel conference gave the lecture he is to give the title 'Against Silence!' - probably unaware of the loaded connotations which the words 'Breaking the Silence' recently acquired in the Israeli political discourse. It is painful to see the good will and devoted work of such people cynically abused to promote the settler enterprise."

\*\*\*\*

### **Israeli forces raid al-Quds University, damage contents of book fair for the needy**

*Information from the Ma'an news agency*

(Nov 19, 2006)

Israeli forces stormed the campus of al-Quds University in the Jerusalem district village of Abu Dis on Saturday morning, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Education. The ministry said in a statement on Saturday that "large numbers of heavily armed" Israeli troops stormed the university campus at dawn and damaged the "contents of a book fair," which students had been organizing to help their fellow students in need.

"All books, magazines, and stationery which are being sold to needy students at low prices have been either stolen or damaged [by Israeli forces]," the statement said. The statement added that after raiding several buildings, including the main administration building, Israeli forces left the campus after three hours. An Israeli police spokesperson was not immediately available for comment.

The ministry highlighted that Israeli forces had also violently raided Palestine Technical University - Kadoorie in the northern occupied West Bank of Tulkarem on Thursday. Israeli troops broke open the main doors of a computer center at the university and damaged several computers. "In an obvious burglary that lasted more than an hour, Israeli soldiers stole electronic material and archival database off the university's security cameras," the statement said. The statement added that Israeli forces have raided the campus 85 times in the past two years, "endangering thousands of students."

“Some students were shot with live ammunition and several others were hit with rubber-coated (steel) bullets or hurt as a result of inhaling tear gas during past Israeli incursions into campus,” the statement concluded. An Israeli army spokesperson said they were looking into reports of Thursday's raid on Palestine Technical University - Kadoorie.

\*\*\*\*

## **A groundbreaking statement by 200 European Legal Scholars Upholds the Right to BDS for Palestinian Rights**

*Information from the Palestinian Boycott National Committee (BNC),*

**Renowned legal scholars and lawyers from 15 European countries consider BDS as “a lawful exercise of freedom of expression” Palestinian BDS human rights defenders welcome the statement as a “defining moment” in asserting their right to boycott Israel to realize Palestinian rights.**

On December 8, 2016 - marking the 10-December UN Human Rights Day - about 200 legal scholars and practicing lawyers from 15 European states have issued a [statement](#) that stands for Palestinian rights and considers the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement for Palestinian freedom, justice and equality as “a lawful exercise of freedom of expression.” The legal scholar’s statement was issued in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [German](#), [Italian](#), and [Dutch](#).

*The list of statement signatories includes **John Dugard, Sir Geoffrey Bindman, José Antonio Martín Pallín, Alain Pellet, Guy Goodwin-Gill, Eric David, Robert Kolb, Marco Sassòli, Michael Mansfield, Lauri Hannikainen, and Géraud de la Pradelle,***

While not taking a position for or against BDS, the European legal scholars’ statement defended the right to pursue Palestinian rights under international law through BDS measures against Israel. It said: “States that outlaw BDS are undermining this basic human right and threatening the credibility of human rights by exempting a particular state from the advocacy of peaceful measures designed to achieve its compliance with international law.”

**Robert Kolb** commented: “The right of citizens to advocate for BDS is part and parcel of the fundamental freedoms protected by the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights.”

**John Dugard**, stated: “No government ever attempted to outlaw or criminalize the Anti-Apartheid Movement for advocating boycott, disinvestment or sanctions to compel South Africa to abandon its racist policies. BDS should be seen as a similar movement and treated accordingly.”

**Eric David**, explained “It is in response to [the] irresponsible passivity of States that civil society created the BDS movement. Repression of BDS, therefore, comes as support of Israel’s violations of international law, and of the failure of States to perform their commitment made in 2005 to ‘strictly respect the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.’”

Welcoming the groundbreaking legal scholars’ statement on behalf of the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC), the largest coalition in Palestinian civil society that leads the global BDS movement, **Ingrid Jaradat** said: “This is a defining moment in the struggle against Israel’s patently repressive legal war on the BDS movement for Palestinian rights. Leading European jurists have now confirmed that advocating and campaigning for Palestinian rights under international law is a legally-guaranteed right for Europeans and indeed all citizens of the world. Israel's desperate attempts to outlaw the BDS movement and to legally bully its supporters into silence threatens democratic space, the jurists said in their critical statement.” “By joining Israel’s anti-democratic war of repression on BDS, the governments of France and the UK have become more isolated than ever. In addition to this definitive endorsement by European legal scholars for the right to BDS, the [European Union](#), as well as the governments of [Sweden](#), [Netherlands and Ireland](#), along with [hundreds of European political parties, trade unions and civil society organizations](#), have unequivocally stated their support for the right of citizens to engage in boycotts against the Israeli state.”

BNC’s Europe Campaigns Coordinator **Riya Hassan** added: “The BDS movement has grown tremendously across Europe in recent years, mainly spurred by popular outrage at Israel’s impunity in entrenching its decades-long regime

of occupation, settler-colonialism and apartheid against the indigenous Palestinian people.”

“This momentous statement by European jurists not only vindicates BDS human rights defenders who have insisted that BDS is protected free speech. It will undoubtedly add a crucial layer of legal protection for European BDS networks and citizens in their efforts to end European complicity in Israel’s regime of oppression, especially in military trade and research, banking, and corporate involvement in Israel’s violations of international law.”

Issued by the Boycott National Committee (BNC)

For more detail see:

<https://bdsmovement.net/news/groundbreaking-statement-200-european-legal-scholars-upholds-right-bds-palestinian-rights>

\*\*\*\*

## **Palestinian Advanced Physics School 2016. Arab-American University, Jenin, July 26-28, 2016**

*Scientists for Palestine.*

*Dr Nabil Iqbal, University of Amsterdam,*

*Dr M.C. David Marsh, University of Cambridge,*

*Dr Mario Martone, University of Cincinnati,*

*Dr Andy O’ Bannon, University of Southampton.*

Palestine places a very high value on education, with over 25% of 18-24 year olds enrolled in university, 10% higher than the average in the Arab region. Half of all students are women, a ratio that is among the highest in the world. Despite this, the development of the sciences in general and physics in particular in Palestine has been stifled by a number of factors. Many problems and hardships are a consequence of the ongoing and internationally denounced Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, causing strong restrictions on mobility of students and academics. Nevertheless, the demand for a high-level exchange with the international scientific community has been growing rapidly in recent years: for example, Palestine has recently signed a cooperation agreement with CERN, the world’s leading particle physics laboratory.

To address the need for further scientific exchange, the newly founded international group *Scientists for Palestine* organised the first Palestinian Advanced Physics School (PAPS)

with financial support from CERN and the *Sharing Knowledge Foundation*. The school took place on July 26-28, 2016 at the Arab American University in Jenin in the West Bank. During the school thirty Masters students from different institutions within Palestine attended lectures on different topics in contemporary physics from internationally renowned scientists.

The school consisted of three courses of lectures. Professor John Ellis (of Kings College London and CERN) provided an introduction to the Standard Model of particle physics and its extensions, ideas that are currently being probed at CERN. Professor Philip Argyres (of the University of Cincinnati) taught a course on the ideas of symmetry and symmetry breaking, key concepts that are used throughout many areas of physics. Finally, Professor Giorgio Paolucci of SESAME – the synchrotron light source located in Jordan – lectured on the physics and applications of synchrotron radiation, with a focus on the physics studied at SESAME.

The school generated an interactive and vibrant environment which inspired students to take small research initiatives on their own. In addition to formal lectures, students took part in smaller discussion sessions on the lecture material, each led by a member of the organizing committee. They also performed a hands-on computer activity, testing their newly acquired particle physics knowledge by analysing simulated collision data from the CERN experiment. In the evenings, before social dinners provided by the school, students solved problem sets on the lecture material, which they handed in to receive a certificate at the end of the school. A session on life in academia, aimed at helping interested students secure PhD positions abroad and streamlining for them the details of the involved PhD application process, closed the program.

Students attended from the four universities in the West Bank that offer Masters programs in physics: Birzeit University, Al-Quds University, An-Najah University, and the host University of the Arab American University in Jenin. All of the students at the school were motivated and enthusiastic. When interviewed regarding the school, one of the students, Falastine Abu Saif (of An-Najah University) commented, “In one word the school is very cool! It is great to hear lectures directly from world experts and connect with them... Palestine needs more and more connections with the rest of the world. We have plenty of potential, and very smart people. We just need more support and encouragement”.

Fellow participant Waad Awad (of Birzeit University) said that “Being at the first Palestinian Advanced Physics School was a wonderful experience. The lectures were helpful and interesting. We feel lucky to have such a chance to improve our physics knowledge, meeting scientists from all over the world.”

In the student evaluation forms, filled at the end of the school, the students consistently expressed tremendous enthusiasm, giving the school the highest possible overall rating and remarking that it was not only an educational but also inspiring experience. This does not mean, however, that there was no room for improvement. A clear demand emerged for a longer school, with a minimum length of five days, covering a broader range of topics, in particular various aspects of condensed matter physics and cosmology.

Unfortunately, not all admitted students were able to attend the school: a highly merited student from Gaza was not granted permission by the occupation to travel to Jenin. Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, states “[H]igher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit”. It is regrettable that this student’s right to education has been violated in this case.

Overall, the school was a great success. The students’ performance on the problem sets and during the discussion sessions was particularly impressive, demonstrating that they had obtained a healthy command over the material.

Encouraged by the success of the school, Scientists for Palestine intends to make PAPS a recurring event. In particular, we are currently organizing PAPS 2017 to be held at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem in the summer of 2017. Following student desires – and contingent on secured funding – PAPS 2017 will be longer (5 days rather than 3) and have a different focus, on condensed matter physics and cosmology rather than high-energy physics.

Scientific education and research in Palestine continues to grow and connect in new ways to the international scientific community. Scientists for Palestine hopes that PAPS will play a key role in that process.

### **Acknowledgments**

PAPS 2016 was funded by CERN and the Sharing Knowledge Foundation. The local organizing committee was Wafaa Khater, Adli Saleh, and Henry Giacaman. The international advisory

board of the school was Philip Argyres, Michael Berry, John Ellis and Stephen Hawking. Scientists for Palestine consists of Nabil Iqbal, David Marsh, Mario Martone, Andy O’Bannon and Kate Sha.

\*\*\*\*

### **Notices**

**BRICUP is the British Committee for the Universities of Palestine.**

We are always willing to help provide speakers for meetings. All such requests and any comments or suggestions concerning this Newsletter are welcome.

Email to: [newsletter@bricup.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bricup.org.uk)

\*\*\*\*

### **Register as a supporter of BRICUP**

You can register as a supporter of BRICUP and of the academic and cultural boycott of Israel [by completing this form](#).

We recognise that many individuals may wish to support our aims by private actions without wishing to be publicly identified. Supporters receive our regular newsletter by email and receive occasional emails giving details of urgent developments and of ways to support our activities. We do not disclose the names of our supporters to anyone outside BRICUP or share them with any other organisation.

\*\*\*\*

### **Financial support for BRICUP**

We welcome one-off donations, but we can plan our work much better if people pledge regular payments by standing order.

You can [download a standing order form](#) here.

One-off donations may be made by sending a cheque to the Treasurer, at BRICUP, BM BRICUP, London, WC1N 3XX, UK or by making a bank transfer to BRICUP at Sort Code 08-92-99

Account Number 65156591

IBAN = GB20 CPBK 0892 9965 1565 91

BIC = CPBK GB22

If you use the direct funds transfer mechanism, please confirm the transaction by sending an explanatory email to [treasurer@bricup.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bricup.org.uk)