

BRICUP Newsletter 114

BRICUP

British Committee for the
Universities of Palestine

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Manchester University succumbs to pressure from the Israeli Embassy – Students call for letters to the Vice-Chancellor.

The Editor and Huda Ammori - BDS Campaign, Manchester University.

Students at Manchester University are currently mounting protests at the University's apparent close relationship with the Israeli Embassy, evidence for which has recently come to light in two ways - its interference in a meeting at this year's Apartheid week plus news of an event planned for late October to commemorate Balfour which is co-sponsored by the Embassy and the Zionist Federation. See the calls for support from the Student BDS Society below.

Censorship and Restrictions in Freedom of Expression at the Embassy's behest

Israeli Holocaust survivor Marika Sherwood was due to give a talk at the University of Manchester during Israel Apartheid Week 2017 with the title 'A Holocaust survivor's story and the Balfour

declaration: *You're doing to the Palestinians what the Nazis did to me*'. However, after visits by the Israeli ambassador, Mark Regev, accompanied by his civil affairs attaché, university officials censored the title of the talk, calling it "unduly provocative", placed limitations on publicity, replaced the academics chosen to chair the meeting by university appointees and limited the attendance to university students and staff only..

The University was reluctant to disclose their reasons for their interference with free expression until the [Information Commissioner's Office forced the University to reveal](#) the relevant correspondence. As the [Guardian reported on 29 September](#), the documents revealed the role of the Israeli Embassy.

Huda Ammori, who leads the student BDS campaign, said to The Guardian: *"In educational institutions, there shouldn't be any sort of lobbying from foreign governments. You couldn't imagine them sitting down with the Saudi embassy for an event about what's going on in Yemen."* A spokesman for the Israeli embassy, however, denied the meetings were a form of lobbying.

The students committee of the BDS campaign also mounted a protest on Wednesday 4th of October during the University's board of governors meeting, *"to demand that the University and all links with Israel's war crimes including divestment from companies that are complicit in human rights abuses."* (<http://mancunion.com/2017/10/04/students-protest-censoring-apartheid-week-event-title-criticising-israel/>)

They have asked for letters of protest to be sent to the University Vice Chancellor- Nancy Rothwell (nancy.rothwell@manchester.ac.uk) and a number of individuals and organizations have already done so, including an open letter from 14 members of BRICUP.

Text of BRICUP letter

Dear Professor Rothwell:

Re University of Manchester Restrictions on Palestine Events

We are writing to criticise your restrictions on pro-Palestine events, and especially your censorship of the title of the talk by Marika Sherwood last March (Guardian, 29 September) <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/sep/29/manchester-university-censors-title-holocaust-survivor-speech-criticising->

[israel](#). Your action was outrageous for several reasons.

You have presumed to tell a Holocaust survivor how not to frame her talk about Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

You accommodated pressure from the Israeli Embassy, which sent you criticisms of planned student events as follows: "Both of these events will to [sic] cause Jewish students to feel uncomfortable on campus and that they are being targeted and harassed for their identity as a people and connection to the Jewish state of Israel. I would be grateful if you could look into these events and take the appropriate action." Did you have any evidence of harassment? If some students disagree with a speaker, then why not allow a debate?

In their message the Israeli Embassy cited the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which has been widely used as a weapon to restrict criticism of Israel. That definition is supplemented by a range of illustrative examples most of which reference Israel, not Jews. One of these examples identifies any analogy between Israeli policies and the Nazi regime as prima facie antisemitic. Such analogies have been legitimately debated in the Israeli press – yet your administration has acted to suppress such an idea.

Professor Amos Funkenstein, former Head of the Faculty of History at Tel Aviv University, has cogently expressed the crucial value of such analogies:

"As a historian I know that every comparison is limited. On the other hand, without comparisons, no historiography is possible. Understanding a historical event is a kind of translation into the language of our time. If we would leave every phenomenon in its peculiarity, we could not make this translation. Every translation is an interpretation and every interpretation is also a comparison."

We understand that you also required a pro-Palestine student group to 'recognise' the IHRA definition when it tried to book a room for an event last March.

Although the IHRA definition has been circulated by UUK at the request of the Minister for Higher Education, no University administration has explicitly adopted it. Most have rightly ignored it, instead respecting their duty to allow free expression and debate. A legal opinion from Hugh Tomlinson QC outlines the conflict between the IHRA definition and

universities' legal duty, especially the legal risk incurred by any organisation that uses the definition to curtail activity. It can be downloaded from <http://freespeechonisrael.org.uk/ihra-opinion/>

Moreover, your University has a public duty to provide an educational service to its locality, yet you contravened this duty by limiting attendance at the Sherwood event to its own staff and students. We ask your University to do the following:

** apologise to Marika Sherwood and the event organisers for restricting the title, especially for implying that it was antisemitic; and

** abandon any use of the IHRA definition in responding to student requests for event bookings.

Yours sincerely

Balfour Celebration

From Huda Ammori- Student BDS Society

We have learned that the University of Manchester plans to host an event co-organised by the Israeli embassy and the Zionist Federation, to celebrate 100 years since the Balfour Declaration on Tuesday 31st October at 7.30pm. Although not yet made public, despite numerous requests, this event is planned to be held in the Whitworth building at the University of Manchester. This perverse celebration compounds the University of Manchester's existing institutional and investment links with Israeli institutions complicit in war crimes.

Here is an open letter from student societies demanding that the University cancel the Balfour 'celebrations'; <https://bdsuom.com/2017/10/12/statement-from-student-societies-demanding-the-university-cancel-the-balfour-celebrations/>

Dear Professor Nancy Rothwell

It has come to our attention that the University of Manchester plans to host an event co-organised by the Israeli embassy and the Zionist Federation, to celebrate 100 years since the Balfour Declaration on Tuesday 31st October at 7.30pm. By agreeing to this, is the University oblivious that the event you will be hosting, will celebrate the Declaration that led to the expulsion of 800,000 Palestinians from their homes and the destruction of over 400 villages during al-Nakba in 1948?

Is the University unaware that the Balfour Declaration ultimately led to massacres of innocent people, and the ongoing illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza for 50 years?

This perverse celebration compounds the University of Manchester's existing institutional and investment links with Israeli institutions complicit in war crimes.

Only a few weeks ago, an investigation by the Guardian exposed how the University censored student-organised Palestinian solidarity events after meeting with the Israeli embassy. Now, news of this event makes clear that the University is more committed to continuing its relationship with the embassy of a repressive state than it is to accountability and duty of care to its own students, faculty and staff.

Britain's colonial occupation of Palestine since the First World War was not a benign intervention. Not only was it violent and unwelcome, the British 1917 Balfour Declaration was the green light for those seeking an Israeli state to plan for the forced removal of the indigenous Palestinian population. During British rule, Ben Gurion, the future first Israeli Prime Minister, said in 1937 "We must expel the Arabs and take their place". In 1947-48 this was carried out in a well-planned ethnic cleansing operation that involved mass expulsion, murder and imprisonment, and the destruction of hundreds of villages.

This is now well documented by Israeli historians and soldiers from the time, as well as the Palestinians, many of whom still have the keys to their homes but for decades since have been denied their right to return.

Celebrating the Balfour declaration is a mockery of the suffering of the Palestinian people, and is greatly disrespectful for Palestinian students at the university who have, alongside their families, been forced to live their entire lives under the boot of the Israeli army. Would you not consider for a second listening to Palestinian students' experiences as they relay a life of having their university bombed by Israeli F16s, losing university class mates to Israeli snipers or having their whole house demolished to be expelled for not being the desired ethnic group by Israel leaders? This celebration of their loss illustrates the appalling double standards and disdain the University is showing towards Palestinian students and Israel's abominable treatment of them.

Given that there will be so many at this event who have served in the Israeli army that violently dominates every living moment of Palestinian students' lives, it is obvious the environment created by this event is unsafe for Palestinian students, many of whom have suffered directly at the hands of the Israeli security services. A large number of students have expressed fear for their safety with Israeli security personnel roaming our campus. By allowing this event to take place and hosting the Israeli embassy, the university is failing to uphold its basic duty of care to staff and students.

The implications are doubly grave both for Palestinians studying now at the University and to the idea that universities should not be a place for celebrating colonialism and racism.

We demand that the University of Manchester cancel the event at the earliest opportunity.

- UoM Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Campaign
- UoM Action Palestine
- UoM Arab Society
- UoM Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!
- UoM Sri Lankan Society
- BME MCR (the campaign for Black and Minority Ethnic students at the University of Manchester)
- UoM Marxist Society
- UoM Tamil Society
- UoM Islamic Society

We would be very grateful if people could write to nancy.rothwell@manchester.ac.uk demanding the university does not allow the event to happen on their premises. We have also organised a Protest outside the event for October 31st, 6.45pm, University of Manchester - Whitworth Hall. We would very much appreciate if everyone could email/attend/share. Here is a link to the FB Event for the protest. <https://www.facebook.com/events/710174839180731/>

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Investing in Education Is Our Key to Freedom and We Will Never Give Up

Amal Soufan, Deputy Director of Education at the Directorate of Education, Nablus, Palestine

I have attended a large number of courses, workshops and training in many different places, but my academic visit to the United Kingdom in the late 1990s with a team of Palestinian educational supervisors was the most inspiring of

all. We visited the University of Chester and many schools in Chester, and we had the opportunity to meet many British educational experts, school principals and teachers. During our visit, we also received training by some professionals in many areas, and we translated many research articles, educational plans and worksheets into Arabic.

Before our visit to Chester, the integrated method of teaching was not implemented in elementary schools in Palestine, and school subjects were taught in isolation. We were inspired to improve our Palestinian school system based on what we noticed in British schools. Therefore, on our return to Palestine, we applied the integrated method of teaching in elementary schools where one class teacher would teach various subjects and connect the different areas of study. Using this interdisciplinary approach would sharpen students' understanding of the different subjects and develop their skills. Since then, a great deal of attention was paid to active learning, learning through play and cooperative learning in order to actively engage students in the learning process. Visiting schools in Chester and meeting educational experts was an enriching experience for me, and I still remember the classrooms I visited in the UK.

At the Palestinian Ministry of Education, every effort is exerted to improve the education in Palestine by integrating technology in the classrooms, developing the secondary education system, training teachers and developing the Palestinian curriculum, yet getting education under occupation is still challenging. Many Palestinian students and teachers have been arrested by the Israeli occupation forces, and many still face the risk of violence when passing through Israeli military checkpoints on their way to schools. They also face threats and harassment from Israeli settlers in the West Bank on a daily basis. Moreover, many public schools were demolished. These practices are disabling the education process in Palestine.

Every Palestinian student and teacher should have the right to go to school safely without being intimidated and threatened, and a school should be a safe place where learning takes place without fear of attack. In spite of the obstacles that we face under Israeli occupation, we will never give up. We will keep enhancing our students' education for a better future for the next generation. Investing in Education is our key to development and freedom. With the support of

friends of Palestine from all over the world, one day the dream will become true ...

News about LAWTRAIN protests from the Belgian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel.

(<http://www.bacbi.be/>)

(<https://app.flashissue.com/newsletters/892ddca6d76f5423614f95364ff48c3e12b04937>)

BACBI's October Newsletter includes a report of the protest mounted by academics and activists at the University of Leuven against the university's participation in [LAW-TRAIN](http://www.eccpalestine.org/european-license-for-israeli-torture-the-eu-israel-law-train-joint-project/) -the European-funded research program that partners with Israeli police (<http://www.eccpalestine.org/european-license-for-israeli-torture-the-eu-israel-law-train-joint-project/>). The Belgian judicial police and the Catholic University of Leuven are collaborating with the Israeli police in the Law-train which aims to develop interrogation techniques, despite the fact that Israel is regularly condemned for its use of torture and inhumane and degrading treatment during its interrogations of prisoners. For more information, see <http://samidoun.net/2017/09/leuven-protest-greets-new-rector-with-cake-calls-to-stop-law-train/>

Higher Education Scholarships for Scholars from Palestine

Rebecca Ruth Gould, Professor, Islamic World and Comparative Literature, University of Birmingham

I am writing to inform colleagues in UK universities of an important opportunity for Palestinian scholars: Higher Education Scholarship Palestine (HESPAL), a scheme funded by the British Council. Launched in 2010, this initiative seeks to strengthen ties between British universities and their counterparts in Palestine. HESPAL is open to Palestinians who are currently employed by Palestinian Universities in the West Bank and Gaza. Eligible universities at present include al-Azhar University, Islamic University of Gaza, Bethlehem University, Palestine Ahliya University, Birzeit University, An-Najah National University, American Arab University, Hebron

University, Palestine Technical University Kadoorie, Palestine Polytechnic University, and al-Quds Open University. In the past, the majority of applications to HESPAL have come from An-Najah National University and Bethlehem University. On the UK side, roughly 30 universities are currently participating in HESPAL. There is room for more universities to become involved, and for universities with existing HESPAL partnerships to update the terms of their agreements, by offering scholarships in new disciplines and faculties, by adding PhD scholarships to their MA scholarships, or by increasing the overall number of scholarship opportunities.

The scholarship provides a generous monthly allowance to cover living expenses, arrival allowances, and a thesis allowance. The British Council also convenes a pre-departure briefing for the scholars who have been selected to participate in the scheme. The most important condition of this opportunity that tuition must be waived by the host university. The scholarship can be offered at the MA or PhD level. This article is being written in the hopes that it will stimulate interest from new or existing universities participating in this scheme which are able to grant tuition waivers.

Having served on the admissions committee for a round of HESPAL PhD applications in 2017, I can attest that the quality of applicants is extremely high. The reason for the high quality is obvious. In order to be eligible for this scheme at the PhD level, applicants will need to have completed their MAs and be employed as teachers at a Palestinian university. Hence, every applicant is a trained professional embarking on a lifelong career as a teacher-scholar at the tertiary level.

When the applicants apply to the scheme through a host university, they must simultaneously submit their application to the British Council. The final selection is done by the British Council, in consultation with prospective host universities. It is important to note that there is no guarantee, either for the applicant or the prospective supervisors, that their first choices will be granted. The exact match between applicant and university depends on the demand for specific universities made by each applicant (who is asked to rank their preferences) and the supervisory capacity there, as well as the ranking that each university gives to the candidates who have applied to them. At the same time, an effort is made to accommodate all preferences. The match between host university and applicant is likely to

be easy to handle in case where there is a strong intellectual justification for studying at a specific university (for example its research strengths and degree programme, or the match between the proposed PhD project and the prospective supervisor).

The benefits of the HESPAL scheme for all stakeholders can hardly be overstated. For the advisor and university, HESPAL offers an opportunity to train a student who will shape Palestine's future and potentially make history. HESPAL scholars are driven and motivated. They are well read and fluent in English, Arabic, and often other languages. They bring years of experience in MA study and teaching to their PhD research, and approach the task of writing PhD theses like (relatively) seasoned professionals. For HESPAL scholars, the opportunity to study in the UK on a fully funded scholarship is a life-changing opportunity. For any application round, high quality demand always exceeds the availability of spaces, particularly in the humanities and social sciences.

Universities gain in their profiles and prestige by participating the HESPAL scheme. Agreeing to host a PhD project through scheme would be an excellent way to support research in a specific area in which the university wishes to nourish research strength. I can attest from my involvement in the last application round that there is likely to be a surplus of excellent students compared to a paucity of host options. Although the cost of waiving tuition is not negligible, universities that agree to this condition will get a great deal in return for their investment, which will be subsidized by the British Council's agreement to cover the student's living expenses.

I encourage any academic who has capacity for additional PhD supervision or who knows of colleagues that do, to contact their university administration (as well as the international office) to set up a memorandum of understanding between the British Council and their university. This will involve the British Council agreeing to pay the above-mentioned costs and the host university agreeing to waive tuition.

The Higher Education Coordinator for HESPAL scholarships Merna Kassis has kindly agreed to field any queries about this scholarship scheme and to discuss arrangements for setting up new scholarship opportunities with universities that are able to waive the tuition fees. She can be contacted by email at merna.kassis@ps.britishcouncil.org. The British

Council Palestine office (www.britishcouncil.org/ps) can also be followed on Twitter at @ps_British, Youtube at BCPalestine, and Facebook @BritishCouncilPalestine. The scheme website: <http://www.britishcouncil.ps/en/study-uk/scholarships/hespal> contains further information, along with guidance and application forms. I am also happy to field any queries about my experience of setting up HESPAL scholarships for two Palestinian students at the University of Birmingham.

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Noam Chomsky clarifies position on the cultural boycott of Israel

From Artists for Palestine UK

<https://artistsforpalestine.org.uk/2017/10/12/chomsky-clarifies-position-on-the-cultural-boycott-of-israel/>

In recent years, people promoting the mantras of 'constructive engagement' and 'bridge-building' with Israel have cited Professor Noam Chomsky in their defence. He is alleged to oppose the campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) launched by Palestinian civil society in 2005.

Artists for Palestine UK contacted Professor Chomsky to ask him to clarify his position, for the record. He has given us this statement:

'I am opposed to any appearance in Israel that is used for nationalistic or other propaganda purposes to cover up its occupation and denial of Palestinian human rights. I've been involved in activities to hold Israel accountable for its international law violations since before the BDS movement took shape. While I have some tactical differences with the BDS movement, I strongly support the actions and continue to participate in them.'

Asked about arguments that invoke Israel's purported democracy, he said:

'The oft repeated idea that Israel is a "vibrant democracy" is an absurd one. Unless the qualification is purely symbolic, there can be no "democratic Jewish (Christian, Muslim, white) state". In the case of Israel, the "Jewishness" is very far from symbolic. There is no need to repeat here what I've written in the past, documenting extensively Israel's discriminatory practices.'

APUK thanks Professor Chomsky for his clarification, and respectfully draws the attention

of any artist contemplating performing or exhibiting in Israel to the essential point he makes: that the presence of international artists in Israel is used by the government to cover up its occupation and human rights abuses.

Update on the UK-Palestine Mental Health Network

Martin Kemp- Founder Member, UKPALMHN

Since the campaign to challenge the Society for Psychotherapy Research's decision to locate its annual conference in Jerusalem in 2015, the Network has focused on less public activities. In 2015 and 2016 we sponsored groups of mental health professionals to visit occupied Palestine. We ensured that participants encountered a wide range of Palestinian NGOs and individuals working in community mental health and related fields, in the occupied Palestinian territory and within the 'Green Line'. They met both Palestinian and Israeli human rights organisations to strengthen their understanding of the historical and political context of the current reality. Another similar tour will take place next March and it will include focus on how the Occupation impacts on children and families. Anyone interested in the tour can see more on our website <http://tinyurl.com/yd6wzkwm> and can write to us at ukpalmhn@gmail.com.

Another exciting development has been the formation of a '**USA-Palestine Mental Health Network**', a sibling organisation launched in July 2017. It now has its own website, linked to our own (see <https://ukpalmhn.com/usa-palestine-mental-health-network/>). An email announcing its formation was sent to an internet forum of Division 39, the psychoanalytic section of the American Psychological Association, which prompted a lively debate and response from the group's Steering Committee (see <http://tinyurl.com/y7ldjzna>).

The UKPMHN has as a primary aim the promotion of mental health professionals' engagement with the BDS movement. The challenge is to be always extending discussion of the struggle for Palestinian rights into arenas where the disinclination to engage in controversy, or misconceived notions of neutrality, override the wish to promote human rights and to understand the links between the Occupation and the psychological well-being of both the

Palestinian and Jewish Israeli communities. To help in progressing this work, including promoting the 2018 tour, please contact us at ukpalmhn@gmail.com.

News from the European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine (ECCP)

Sue Blackwell

Sue Blackwell, as BRICUP delegate, attended the latest meeting of the ECCP on October 7th in Brussels. Below are extracts from her report of that meeting on two issues of relevance to BRICUP.

IHRA Definition

The IHRA definition was discussed at length. A briefing paper had been prepared for delegates, in which it was reported that the IHRA had only adopted the basic 2-sentence definition and not the examples which were cited in the Press Release on the IHRA website. This had been confirmed by the IHRA's permanent office in Berlin. Nevertheless, some member states have adopted the entire press release. It was agreed that ECCP should expose the misrepresentation of what the IHRA had approved, and do what it could to redress the damage. I made the point that it was important to take a principled position to oppose the whole definition and not just the examples, while tactically making use of the fact that the examples had not been adopted. Nobody disagreed with this.

Accordingly a list of proposed action points was agreed: (1) make civil society aware of the fraud; (2) make sure that the advocacy message to decision makers is clear and consistent; (3) prepare a revised briefing paper for use in approaching decision-makers; (4) meet with and brief decision-makers who are (potential) targets of the Israel lobby; (5) obtain additional clarification from the IHRA; (6) follow up with FRA; (7) arrange meetings between legal experts and the EU Parliament's legal service, and with EU Co-ordinators on combatting antisemitism.

In comparing the impact of the IHRA definition in the various member states, there was some discussion of the use of the courts. In Germany there has been a legal victory at local level where activists went to court to prevent a meeting from being banned under the IHRA definition, and won. ECCP will set up a database of cases and incidents so that we can get an overview.

Lobby Days

ECCP holds regular Lobby Days where members try to get hold of their MEPs, especially if they have a role in relevant EP committees. The next Lobby Days will be held from 6th-8th November and will focus on (i) EU funding of dual use technology; (ii) East Jerusalem.

Campaign on the new EU FP9 defence program.

The delegates discussed the wording of ECCP's statement about EU funding via the new FP9 and EU defence programmes. The final version (below) is now gathering endorsement from organizations.

No EU money to the Israeli Arms industry

A European call to stop militarisation and profiteering from human rights violations in Palestine

The EU has been funding security industrial research for many years. [The overall EU budget for security research has tripled from €1.4 billion, under the previous budget period, to €3.8 billion from 2014 to 2020.](#) This, European taxpayer's money, is being channeled to military companies, among them many Israeli corporations, under the guise of research and a promise that the technologies and techniques developed will be used solely for civilian purposes.

One of the ways in which arms and military companies have gained access to EU funding is through the current EU Program for Research and Innovation, Horizon 2020. This includes Israeli companies as the only non-European receivers of research funding. Although, the EU claims that research funds have gone only to projects with civilian applications, many of the projects approved are of dual-use nature serving military interests. Many others serve policies that curb or violate refugees rights and militarise our societies.

The EU's cooperation with Israeli military companies is:

Proof that dual-use projects are inherently serving military purposes as well. Isaac Ben-Israel, Chair of the Israel Space Agency, [put](#) it bluntly: "because we are a small country, if you build a small-satellite production line, say at IAI, it will be used for military and for commercial." A thorough [analysis](#) undertaken by the ECCP and Stop the Wall of EU projects with Israeli military companies shows how public funds are currently being used to develop, legitimise and profit from

technology used by Israel in war crimes and human rights violations.

Indication that the EU's 'border control' policies are built on human rights violating concepts and technologies. A well documented [report](#) by the Transnational Institute and StopWapenhandel shows how Israeli companies have a unique selling strategy, capitalising on the fact that Israeli technology is 'battle proven' during illegal actions and policies of 'border control' and 'population control', such as the Wall in the occupied West Bank, the siege and military aggressions on Gaza and more. Israeli military and homeland security companies, such as the Israel Aerospace Industries, have played a role in fortifying the borders of Bulgaria and Hungary, in the EU maritime surveillance programs, and the EU Frontex program in general.

Evidence that the EU's refuses to take into account the grave misconduct of companies and origin and possible destination of technology even at the risk of violating its own rules and regulations. In July 2017, 25 international law experts have published a [legal opinion](#) regarding the case of the Horizon 2020 LAW TRAIN project, which is based on cooperation with the Israeli police and its track record of torture and other human rights violations, highlighting the need to exclude actors provenly involved in systematic human rights violations.

By funding such projects the EU simply turns a blind eye to grave violations of international law and human rights carried out within or outside its borders.

We believe that we all have a common interest in stopping the EU from funding military and homeland security projects that militarise our societies as well as the exceptionalism granted to Israeli military companies.

Based on our shared principles of respect for human rights, including refugee rights, and our shared opposition to militarism, racism and any form of discrimination, we, the undersigned organisations call on the EU:

- Too limit EU Framework programs strictly to civilian security and peace research, excluding also research in border surveillance and dual use technologies, and to avoid any link between Framework Programs and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), in particular the EU Defence Agency (EDA)

- To immediately exclude all Israeli military and security companies from the EU framework programs as statements and an analysis of past projects have shown that their participation in these programs inherently risks EU support for the development and legitimisation of and profiting from technology and methodology used by Israel in the context of war crimes and human rights violations.
- To assure transparency and democratic control over EU research programmes' annual calls for proposals.

Signed:

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A Commitment by UK Scholars to Human Rights in Palestine

<http://www.commitment4p.com/>

On Tuesday, October the 27th 2015, the Guardian published a full page advertisement by 343 academics affiliated with UK academic institutions pledging not to cooperate with Israeli academic institutions. Since then the number of signatories has doubled, and we currently stand at around 700 signatories.

This Commitment is motivated by deep concern for Palestinians, including Palestinian academics, struggling to sustain some semblance of normal life in intractably difficult circumstances of occupation, and denial of basic human rights. Recent events have provided, once again, grim evidence of Israeli intransigence.

There is no need to feel helpless in the face of these injustices, even though they proceed with impunity due to the apathy or complicity of world powers. Academics, as well as members of civil society, have a moral and practical power which can help shift the dynamics at work in Israel's relationship with the outside world, and strengthen moves towards equality, freedom and justice for Palestinians.

The Commitment below comes as a [response to the appeal from Palestinian civil society](#). Academics in other countries have already signed up to similar commitments in large numbers. We believe that many people working across the university sector in the UK will wish to do likewise. It is not a commitment to sever contacts with individual Israeli academics. It exclusively targets institutions.

To sign, go to [SIGN THE COMMITMENT](#)

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Notices.

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

Email them to: newsletter@bricup.org.uk

Register as a supporter of BRICUP

Speakers:

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

Email them to: 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 justanding 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 this mechanism, please confirm the transaction by sending an explanatory email to treasurer@bricup.org.uk
