

# BRICUP Newsletter 127

BRICUP

British Committee for the  
Universities of Palestine

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#### **Academic Marc Lamont Hill sacked from CNN for telling the truth about Palestine.**

##### *Editor*

Marc Lamont Hill is a professor of Media Studies and Urban Education at Temple University in Philadelphia and was, until recently also the host of the syndicated television show “Our World with Black Enterprise” for CNN.

On Wednesday, November 28th, he gave a speech at the United Nations in which he reaffirmed his support for boycott, divestment, and sanctions against the state of Israel, and a one state solution that established a secular, democratic state in Israel-Palestine. He called for a *“free Palestine from the river to the sea”* which sparked an immediate backlash from those who identified this phrase as the one used by those who advocate the replacement of Israel by a Palestine stretching from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

Professor Hill disputes their interpretation of his comments. “Throughout my speech, I spoke explicitly about the need for Israeli political reform, specifically as it pertains to Arab citizens of Israel. I also called for a redrawing of borders to the pre-1967 lines, as well as a greater attention to human rights for those living in the West Bank and Gaza. At the time, I believed that these demands made in the speech sufficiently reflected my belief in radical change within Israel, not a desire for its destruction,” he wrote. “Clearly, they did not.”

Within 24 hours, in response to complaints by conservatives and hard-line advocates of Israel such as the Anti-Defamation League, CNN fired Marc Lamont Hill. Temple University, however, concluded that his speech was protected by the First Amendment. The Board of Trustees did however condemn Professor’s Hill’s remarks but said it would not dismiss or even discipline him, concluding with the statement- “We recognize that Professor Hill’s comments are his own, that his speech as a private individual is entitled to the

same Constitutional protection of any other citizen, and that he has through subsequent statements expressly rejected anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic violence”.

The issue has been covered widely by the media in the US and internationally, including by [Aljazeera](#), [The Electronic Intifada](#) the [The Washington Post](#) .

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#### **The Pro-Israel Push to Purge US Campus Critics**

*From the new York Review of Books ,  
December 12th 2018*

[Katherine Franke](#), *Sulzbacher Professor of Law at Columbia University*

The US Department of Education recently adopted a new definition of anti-Semitism, one that equates any criticism of Israel with a hatred of Jews. Watching how Temple University leaders failed to defend Professor Marc Lamont Hill when the pro-Zionist right went after him, I wonder: Will Columbia University stand up for the academic freedom of its faculty when these same forces recruit the Department of Education to accuse Columbia’s instructors of anti-Semitism because we teach and write critically about the policies of the Israeli government?

See the full article [here](#)

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#### **Second International Meeting for Science in Palestine: Columbia University, New York City, November 9-11, 2018**

*Organised by Scientists for Palestine*

##### **Jonathan Rosenhead**

The Second International Meeting for Science in Palestine was held over the weekend of Nov. 9-11, 2018 at Columbia University in New York City. The event was organised by the international organisation Scientists for Palestine (S4P) in close collaboration with Al-Awda New York, Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine, Science for the

People, Within Our Lifetime, and with key support from the Columbia Center for Palestine Studies. The meeting was funded by an impressive crowd-funding campaign, which raised almost US\$6000 in roughly two months.

The Second International Meeting followed close on the heels of the highly successful [First International Meeting](#), held at Cambridge University in January 2018, but was bigger in scope, ambition, and size—with more than double the number of participants, at over 100. The two-day event included a mix of talks on both political and scientific subjects, as well as panel discussions and strategy sessions, the latter intended to make concrete plans for actions both inside and outside of Palestine.

The meeting kicked off on Friday night with a public event, “Doing Science Under Military Occupation: The Case of Palestine,” which featured speakers from the group Right to Education Campaign of Birzeit University ([right2edu.birzeit.edu](http://right2edu.birzeit.edu)) as well as Omar Alfarooq of Birzeit U., who spoke on life in East Jerusalem and political imprisonment in Israel.

The meeting gained further momentum with the Saturday morning event, “An Update from Palestine,” at which particle physicists and computer scientists from universities in both Gaza and the West Bank discussed difficulties in recruiting foreign faculty to Palestinian universities, brain drain from Palestine, the effect of restrictions on movement (both on academics leaving Palestine to attend conferences and workshops, and on students within Palestine simply trying to get to their courses). The need for international solidarity and support to overcome these multiple obstacles was emphasized, and a strong call was made for external co-supervision of Palestinian students by academics outside Palestine—something that S4P is currently investigating.

The next session was on “Reporting on the Medical Situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip,” which addressed the critical health crisis in both areas, and what scientists and physicians can do about it. The meeting heard a detailed and harrowing account of the urgent issues facing the Palestinian health system, particularly in Gaza (drug shortages, electricity and fuel shortages, skyrocketing maternal anemia and mortality rates, and so on). Representatives of two groups then

spoke about how they were responding to the situation. The Palestinian-American Medical Association (PAMA) is a US-based non-profit aimed at providing on-the-ground medical support, such as breast cancer screenings, cornea transplants, surgery and more, as well as student scholarships, and teleconferences with doctors outside Palestine. The second group was Global Paed Surg, part of the larger organization Global Surg, which aims to provide universal access to safe and affordable surgical and anesthesia care all over the world. Global Paed Surg is currently studying cancer surgery and congenital anomalies in Palestine. This session led directly to the formation of an exciting new S4P sub-committee with a medical focus.

During the day it was agreed to form two new sub-committees: a Medical Focus sub-committee stimulated by the previous session, and a Palestinian Innovation and Progress sub-committee, aimed at encouraging, elevating, and most of all exporting Palestinian innovation in technology, farming, and beyond, with the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency. Saturday ended with strategy sessions for these two new sub-committees, as well as for S4P’s existing sub-committees. These include the Schools Sub-committee, aimed at expanding S4P’s success with the Palestinian Advanced Physics Schools to topics beyond physics, and the Mentorship sub-committee, aimed at creating a bank of international scientists to mentor Palestinian students seeking to study abroad.

Sunday morning tackled political issues more directly in a panel discussion “Is Science Apolitical? The Need for Concerned Scientists.” On the panel were Prof. Michael Harris, mathematician at Columbia University, Dr. Matteo Rini, editor of the journal *Physics*, and Khury Petersen-Smith, the Michael Ratner Middle East Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies. Central topics explored were the motivations and challenges of the academic boycott of Israel, including in particular strategies for handling retaliation from the public, press, and for many academics, their home institutions. A nearly unanimously-agreed strategy was: extreme care in fact-checking all public statements—even though any public statement will receive backlash, regardless of the facts.

The day continued with a second panel discussion on “International Efforts Supporting Science in Palestine”. This focused on three on-going scientific collaborations between Palestinian and international scientists. First was the German-Palestinian Bridge, a €2M initiative between the German and Palestinian governments, hosted at the Juelich Research Centre in Germany, whose activities include bringing Palestinian physics master students to Germany to pursue PhDs and technical training. The second involved CERN, the international particle physics laboratory near Geneva, which recently signed a Cooperation Agreement with Palestine, providing Palestinian particle physicists and students with a new level of access to CERN facilities and experimental collaborations. Thirdly, Arab Women in Computing was represented by the chair of the Conference on Women in Computing in the Arab World, Prof. Sana Odeh of New York University, who exploded stereotypes about Arab women in computer science.

The meeting ended with three hours of scientific talks. The speakers actually made admirable efforts to address their talks to the broadest possible audience, despite many technical topics. Overall this session was impressively successful, as evidenced not only by the many questions during the session itself, but also the discussion between speakers and audience which continued going long after the session had ended.

S4P and its collaborators considered the meeting an unqualified success. It is not just that the meeting led to new sub-committees; it also re-energised the existing sub-committees, which are now laying bigger and more ambitious plans — within reach, thanks to so much new blood! Perhaps most importantly, S4P made many new connections, especially with US scientists and physicians in new areas, and nearly doubled its membership. Given this success, plans are already underway for the third and fourth international meetings! I encourage all of you to contact S4P and get involved—as we all know, all too well, there is no shortage of work to be done.

To learn more or get involved, visit [www.scientists4palestine.com](http://www.scientists4palestine.com).

Videos of events available at [www.scientists4palestine.com/imsp2/](http://www.scientists4palestine.com/imsp2/)

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## **Representatives of 11 UK universities in Israel with post-Brexit delegation**

*From Jewish News , November 26<sup>th</sup>*

Senior personnel from institutions across the country are in the Jewish state this week to prepare for Britain leaving the EU

Representatives of 11 British universities are visiting Israel this week as part of a nationwide tour of Israeli academic institutions in preparation for Brexit.

The delegation includes senior personnel from the Universities of Exeter, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Manchester, Warwick, Lancaster, Durham and Queen Mary University, Queen’s College in Belfast, King’s College in London and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry.

A smaller delegation visited Israel in 2013, when representatives of five UK establishments toured the University of Haifa, IDC Herzliya, Bar Ilan University, Ben-Gurion, Technion, Tel Aviv University, and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Israeli dons have said they will welcome their UK peers to discuss research priorities and potential collaboration between British and Israeli scholars.

The trip is evidence of a deepening partnership linking British and Israeli universities, and follows a visit to Israel in May by Minister for Universities, Science, Research & Innovation Sam Gyimah MP.

Israeli students are increasingly applying to study in the UK and this summer Exeter University President Sir Steve Smith said British universities did not support an academic boycott of Israeli institutions.

**NB: any further information on this from the participating universities would be welcome**

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## [How the IHRA definition of antisemitism attacks Jews](#)

*Mike Joseph*

Mike Joseph is a broadcaster, writer and historian of genocide. He is an Honorary Research Associate at Swansea University and a member of the International Network of Genocide Scholars. In this article, he argues that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition dangerously conflates anti-Zionism and antisemitism. He draws on Jewish voices from Wales and beyond, and on his family history, to warn the Labour Party and Plaid Cymru that they would harm Welsh Jews by adopting the definition in full.

[Planet Magazine](#), in which this article appeared in August, was first established in 1970 with the aim of creating a forum for debate about Wales in English, as well as encouraging a dialogue between English-speaking Wales and Welsh-speaking Wales. It aims to offer an independent approach to the culture and politics of Wales and the world.

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### **BDS NEWS**

#### **South Africans welcome withdrawal of Israeli participants from Stellenbosch University conference**

*Press alert issued on November 29th by Tisetso Magama on behalf of BDS South Africa,*

South African civil society has welcomed the withdrawal of all the seven Israelis from an upcoming academic conference due to take place at Stellenbosch University (see attached or [click here](#)). The withdrawal came following a call from and engagement by, several groups led by the Palestine solidarity campaign and supported by the PSA, SA Jews for a Free Palestine, MRN and others. In an open letter the organisations called for the withdrawal of the Israeli academics from the Recognition, Reparation, Reconciliation conference, in line with the international academic boycott of Israel ([click here](#)).

[In 2005](#), inspired by the successful boycott against Apartheid South Africa during the 1980s,

Palestinians issued a call for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it ends its human rights abuses and violations of international law. Since then thousands of scholars, various academic bodies and several universities and institutions have adopted the boycott of Israel. Last year one of South Africa's largest universities, [Tshwane University of Technology \(TUT\)](#), officially backed the academic boycott of Israel and in 2011 the [University of Johannesburg](#) implemented an academic boycott against Israel when it terminated relations with Israel's Ben Gurion University.

The human rights and Palestine solidarity organization BDS South Africa salutes fellow South African solidarity groups, Stellenbosch academics and activists for their engagements with Stellenbosch University and continued advancement of the academic boycott against Israel ([click here for a DailyMaverick article by Stellenbosch academic, Professor Kagee](#)). In particular we commend the conference organisers for their respectful engagements and ultimate decision to respect the PACBI guidelines for the implementation of the academic boycott against Israel.

We wish the over 350 people from 23 countries who have registered for the upcoming conference success and best wishes in the deliberations.

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#### **Leicester University Student Union votes to support Boycott , divestment and sanctions.**

On Monday 3 December, the student-led Union Council considered a motion regarding the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. Following discussion, students voted to pass the motion, which stated the following ( the full text of the motion can be found [here](#) ) :

1. That the Union should be active in campaigns which concern human rights.
2. BDS movement is capable of persuading both private and public bodies to reduce their complicity in Israel's violations of international law.

3. This policy has no intention to negatively impact/divide any community at Leicester. This is not to do with religion, it is concerned with human rights and preserving the safety/livelihood of the Palestinian population. 3.1 – This is not an attack on the Israeli people, it is against the policies of the Israeli government.

4. That under the UN definition of Apartheid, Israel is an Apartheid state

5. That boycotting campaigns against South Africa was an important part of the resistance bringing down Apartheid and that the same means can help bring down Apartheid again.

6. That in light of the Apartheid policies inflicted on all Palestinians by the State of Israel, it is not adequate to separate between settlement products and Israeli products. Instead, it is necessary to highlight the State's role and its full complicity in the occupation and Apartheid by applying pressure through the Boycott.

This Union Further Believes:

1. That on these grounds Leicester University Students' Union will Boycott Israeli products and settlement products on campus. Settlement products are those which have been produced by companies which have established themselves in illegal settlements.

2. That we should help build and join the movement to boycott Israeli goods and urge the university to do the same. If the motion is passed we would become part of an international movement and therefore increase the size of the movement

This Union Resolves: Until such time as a permanent solution has been found to the Israel/Palestine situation, including the withdrawal of all illegal settlements and the lifting of the blockade of Gaza the Union shall:

1. Lobby to boycott Israeli and settlement goods from being sold on Student Union premises.
2. Terminate contracts with companies that profit from the violation of Palestinian human rights (such as but not limited to companies that provide technical and logistical support for the occupation).
3. Pressure the University of Leicester to boycott Israeli and settlement goods from being sold on the University of Leicester premises and to

terminate contracts with companies that profit from the violation of Palestinian human rights.

4. Publicly affiliate with the BDS movement.

5. Ensure that information is distributed around the University so that students are made aware of the reasons for the boycott.

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## **No Academic Business as Usual with Ariel University and all other Israeli Academic Institutions Illegally Built on Occupied Palestinian Land**

*A Call from Palestine, 29 November 2018*

On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, we call on states, academic institutions and multilateral research bodies to withdraw any existing recognition of and end all institutional relations with Ariel University and other Israeli academic institutions illegally built on occupied Palestinian land.

The [obligation of non-recognition and non-assistance](#) of unlawful situations " is a fundamental precept of international law, particularly as they relate to Israeli settlements, [condemned](#) by the United Nations Security Council as a "flagrant violation of international law." Under the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israeli settlements and the transfer of Israeli settlers to occupied territory constitute a [war crime](#).

Ariel University is located in the illegal Israeli settlement of the same name [that was built on land stolen from](#) surrounding Palestinian villages and on land Palestinian families have cultivated for generations. Israel's wall, which was designed in such a way as to annex settlements, including Ariel, to Israel, was declared illegal in 2004 by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). It [severs Palestinian villages](#) from each other and restricts freedom of movement. Palestinians have to live with the [stench of wastewater dumped by Ariel](#) on their agricultural land, destroying their crops, polluting their water sources and harming their health.

The settlements, which rob the Palestinian people of our land and natural resources and deny us our inalienable right to self-determination, are an integral part of Israel's system of military occupation and colonial oppression dominating all aspects of Palestinian life, in particular education.

Israel's military checkpoints and wall restrict travel to and from schools and colleges for Palestinian students, researchers and professors. The Israeli occupation authorities prevent Palestinian students in besieged Gaza, where nearly two million people live on [four hours of electricity](#) per day on average, from studying at Palestinian universities in the West Bank or from leaving Gaza for universities abroad.

Since the start of the current academic year, Israel has [denied entry or refused to renew visas](#) for scores of faculty members of Palestinian universities holding foreign passports.

Ariel University contributes significantly to Israel's denial of the fundamental right of academic freedom for Palestinians.

The [European Union](#) and the [US-Israel Binational Science Foundation](#) exclude Israeli academic institutions in the occupied Palestinian territory, such as Ariel University, from grants and joint research programs. Israeli academic associations, including the [Israeli Anthropological Association](#) and [the Israeli Sociological Society](#), as well as [1200 Israeli academics](#), have shunned Ariel University and refuse to cooperate with it. In a [near-unanimous vote](#) (830-21), the European Association of Social Anthropologists membership pledged non-cooperation with Israeli academic institutions in the occupied Palestinian territory. Earlier this year, Kasetsart University in Bangkok [ended](#) its partnership with Ariel University for a Women's Study Conference. In 2012, the Technical University of Denmark [ended](#) a joint research project with Ariel University.

These measures were taken in recognition of the fact that collaborating with Ariel University necessarily means normalizing Israel's illegal policies that deny Palestinian rights. We therefore call specifically on:

Governments and the European Union to

condition agreements with the Israeli Council for Higher Education on non-recognition and non-accreditation of Ariel University.

Ministries of education worldwide not to accredit Ariel University's diplomas.

International academic institutions and research centers to end all institutional links to Ariel University, including joint research, recognition of diplomas, invitations, visits and conferences.

International academics to refrain from participating in any activity/project fully or partially sponsored/organized by Ariel University or in which its representatives are participating.

Academic journals not to recognize Ariel University and to insist that submissions from academics affiliated to Ariel University must include the fact that it is located in an illegal Israeli settlement in the occupied Palestinian territory.

### **Background information:**

Founded in 1982 as a branch of Bar-Ilan University, Ariel University Center of Samaria became an independent college in 2004. In 2012, it was granted accreditation by the so-called "Council for Higher Education in Judea and Samaria," i.e. the occupied West Bank.

Ariel University is built on occupied Palestinian territory and is therefore built in violation of international law. In February 2018, the Israeli parliament [passed a law](#) placing Ariel University - along with two other colony-colleges, Herzog College, and Orot Israel College -- under the auspices of Israel's Council for Higher Education.

Ze'ev Elkin, Jerusalem Affairs Minister in Netanyahu's far-right government, celebrated the Knesset vote on the matter [tweeting](#) that after "applying Israeli sovereignty on Ariel University, let's begin to apply Israeli sovereignty on Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria."

[According to B'Tselem](#), Israel's leading human rights organization, Ariel, the illegal colony where the current university is based, was established in 1978 on Palestinian land that was seized "under the false pretext of imperative

military needs and on land that was declared state land.” Under the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israeli settlements built on occupied Palestinian or Syrian territory constitute war crimes.

Ariel University is expected to [double in size over the next 5 years](#), thanks to a 20-million-dollar donation from US billionaire and Israeli settlement supporter Sheldon Adelson and a solid commitment by the far-right Israeli education minister Naftali Bennett.

Signatories:

- the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education,
- the Council of Palestinian Universities' Presidents,
- the Palestinian Federation of Unions of University Professors and Employees (PFUPE), and
- the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC).

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### California College faculty votes to suspend study abroad in Israel

<https://forward.com/fast-forward/414864/california-college-s-faculty-suspends-study-abroad-in-israel/>

By [Ben Sales](#) in [Forward](#), November 27, 2018

The faculty of Pitzer College in Southern California voted to suspend the school’s study abroad program at Haifa University in Israel. The faculty also voted to condemn the school’s trustees for opposing a student government resolution to divest from Israel, according to the [Claremont Independent](#), a student newspaper at the private liberal arts school in Claremont. The student senate voted last year to divest from five companies as part of the movement to boycott Israel.

Recent months have seen college instructors, acting on political grounds, repeatedly oppose their students’ intentions to study in Israel. Two instructors at the University of Michigan refused to write letters of recommendation for students to study there. One of them, American Studies

Professor [John Cheney-Lippold](#), was deprived of a merit raise and sabbatical due to his decision.

Pitzer, which is about 30 miles from Los Angeles and part of the Claremont Colleges consortium in Southern California, runs a [semester abroad program](#) at the University of Haifa in the fall and spring. On Nov. 8, the faculty voted to suspend the program “until (a) the Israeli state ends its restrictions on entry to Israel based on ancestry and/or political speech and (b) the Israeli state adopts policies granting visas for exchanges to Palestinian universities on a fully equal basis as it does to Israeli universities.”

In 2017, Israel passed a law enabling the state to bar entry to foreigners who support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement targeting Israel. The University of Haifa responded in a [voted](#) statement saying that the university exemplifies an environment of multiculturalism and pluralism. Haifa has a large Arab population and is known as a city where Jews and Arabs tend to live in shared society.

The Pitzer Student Senate [voted](#) to condemn the faculty vote for being taken without student input and singling out Israel among all of the school’s study abroad programs. It also criticizes the faculty for seeking the “advancement of a political agenda at the expense of students who seek opportunities in Middle East/North African Studies, Arabic, Hebrew, Christianity, Judaism, Islam and the intercultural relations of Israeli and Palestinian ethnicities.”

A secret ballot vote by the Pitzer College Council—a faculty and student governance board—will take place in the spring semester. More details of this continuing controversy can be found [here](#)

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### BDS victories in 2018

For a review, see [BDS victories in 2018 reflect a growing movement](#) by Nada Eli in Mondoweiss, November 30th, 2018.

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## SCHOLARSIP FUNDS FOR PALESTINIANS

### Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund

*Val Johnson, Sheffield Palestine Women's  
Scholarship Fund*

*"I was close to giving up on my dream of a university education, when I heard about the Sheffield scholarships .... It was my only hope of being able to continue my studies.*

*Women have a right to education so they can take up roles and responsibilities in society. I haven't been able to find a job since graduating, but I've learnt how to depend on myself, how to act in different situations and how – in a range of contexts - to reflect a positive view of myself."*

**Maisaa Salah Abu Khadra, from Bureij Camp in Gaza, Graduate in Primary Education, 2012.**

The Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund was set up in 2006. The idea came out of a "Palestinian Women Speak" International Women's Day event in Sheffield, where Dr Mona El Farra (from the Union of Health Work Committees and a member of the Board of Directors of the Red Crescent Society of Gaza) stressed how difficult it can be for young women in Gaza to gain a university education.

When we first set up the Fund we had enough money to support just three women over a three-year degree course. We never dreamt that by our 10th anniversary we would have raised over £100,000 and have supported over 200 women.

Until now we have worked only in the Gaza strip, where our long-term partners select our students for us (following agreed criteria, including financial hardship, good results at school and activism in their communities). We know from our partners and the students themselves that in Gaza becoming a university student can really help diminish the suffocation and isolation of living under siege.

I am very happy to be in studying at the university ... Although this is only my first year, I feel my life has changed a lot. I now have an over-view of the world. I can see there are many different

spheres of knowledge, ways of relating and behaviour. I have become more gentle with people. My behaviour and my reactions are softer. I voice my opinion and discuss things more calmly. All this stems from my own self-confidence having grown. Education is one of the necessities of life. It sharpens and strengthens our personalities, gives us self-confidence, and enables us to face the challenges that life imposes on us.

Noor Nael Abu Obaida, student of clinical investigations in the Medical Faculty at Al-Azhar University. Noor's family suffered tragically during the Israeli attack on Khan Younis in 2009. Their home was demolished and Noor's mother was killed.

The Fund raises money for scholarships by organising events and by encouraging our wonderful, loyal supporters to donate through standing orders or by making a one-off contribution. Standing orders are particularly welcome as they enable us to plan. We are a registered charity so we also claim back gift aid.

We are very fortunate that a number of organisations around the north of England raise money for the Fund. Saddleworth Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund contributed over £10,000 last year. Other partners include Bolton Socialist club, Sheffield Palestine Education Network (PEN) – an informal organization of staff and students at Sheffield Hallam University – and Rotherham Friends of Palestine.

Amazingly, in 2018, we received almost £40,000 from four legacies. After consultation with our supporters, we made the exciting decision to use some of this windfall to extend the Fund into the West Bank. We have found partners to work with us and we plan to award three scholarships in September 2019.

For more information on the Fund, including how to donate, please email [sheffieldpwsf@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheffieldpwsf@yahoo.co.uk) or write to SPWSF, 124 Cliffe Road, Sheffield S8 9DN.

### **The Abu Bakr Scholarship Fund: Supporting students in Gaza**

*Kate Toch, The Abu Bakr Scholarship Fund*

The Abu Bakr Scholarship Fund is now in its fifth year of supporting access for Gazan students to higher education at Gaza's University College of Applied Sciences (UCAS).

A small group of activists launched the Abu Bakr Rauf Scholarship Fund in April 2013 to commemorate the life Abu Bakr, a young Bradfordian who fought for justice for the Palestinians, in a way that reflected his commitment to 'think globally, act locally'. Abu Bakr passed away suddenly in 2012, leaving his widow and their one year old daughter.

We raise money in three ways:

1. Encouraging friends and contacts who are interested in justice for Palestine, to take out a standing order to donate on a regular basis. We currently have just 12 people donating in this way and will be looking to double this number in 2019.
2. Fund-raising events, like our annual sponsored walk and fund-raising meals for Palestine.
3. Running a stall at events selling Palestinian goods – ceramics and glass from Hebron, textiles from Bethlehem and small items crafted locally with a Palestinian theme.

The Scholarship is administered jointly by us and the International Relations Officer at UCAS, using an agreed a set of criteria for the selection of students to receive the scholarships, which are open to both young men and women. All students in Gaza face many hardships, making it difficult to make the selections. The criteria include high school grades – students are expected to have achieved at least 90% average scores – and family financial need. Each autumn, the specified students receive their fees from the Scholarship Fund and a small personal payment towards study resources and transport.

Over the five years, the scholarship students have studied a wide variety of subjects from nursing, interior design, accounting, education to building technology, information security engineering, automotive engineering and media and communications technology. In October 2018, we are proud to be supporting our 20th student on the Scholarship.

Eslam El-Nawajha, an anaesthesia nurse student, received an Abu Bakr Scholarship in 2017. She has ten brothers and sisters, the older sister is also

a university student. Her father is a painter, making a precarious living in the Gaza Strip and does not have a fixed income. He is a diabetes patient, which creates anxieties for the whole family. Eslam says *'receiving this scholarship helps me to reduce our financial burden and motivates me to continue pursuing my education at UCAS. Studying Anaesthesia Nursing has always been a goal of me after the Israel Attack in 2014 I am planning to complete my bachelors degree in Anaesthesia Nursing with the Abu Bakr Scholarship Fund's generosity, and to continue my research to help my family and our society'*.

The practical support, in the form of the scholarships that we are able to offer is a 'drop in the ocean' but we know that for those in Gaza this sort of support is an indication that the world has not forgotten about them. Although not a huge amount of money, the Scholarship provides 'oxygen' to those who are trapped in the illegal blockade, with limited basic needs like electricity, clean water, food, a working economy and healthcare.

For more information, go to  
[abubakrscholarshipfund@gmail.com](mailto:abubakrscholarshipfund@gmail.com)

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## MEDICAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

### **Jewish Voice for Peace-Health Advisory Council**

Members of the JVP Health Advisory Council monitor relevant organizations and websites and compile a list of important news and issues which are summarized, posted on their [website](#) and archived as a resource. If you wish to join this effort, contact [contact.alicerothchild@gmail.com](mailto:contact.alicerothchild@gmail.com) to join. JVP asks you to share the newsletter with colleagues and communities and encourage them to [join](#) the JVP Health Advisory Council.

Examples from the [December bulletin](#)

- The health system in Gaza cannot handle another war.
- Excellent graphic from OCHA documenting the unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Gaza, impacting the livelihoods and access to essential services by its two million residents.

- Surgeons in Gaza are overwhelmed with the number of injuries, particularly to the lower limbs.
- Author Sandy Tolan discusses the worsening water crisis in Gaza and the risks of water born epidemics that are affecting the most vulnerable, especially children.
- The Palestinian Neuroscience Initiative at Al-Quds University
- American Funding Cutback to East Jerusalem Hospitals: A Blow to the Health of the City, (Clarfield AM et al. American Journal of Public Health 108(12):1624-1625, 1 December 2018)  
The Palestinian government decided to provide Palestinian hospitals in East Jerusalem with \$12.5 million to compensate for funds the United States had cancelled.
- People's Health Assembly stands with Palestine.
- Editorial in Lancet reviews WHO report on health in Palestine *The Lancet* 392(10158):1612, 3 November 2018)
- WHO reports on the Right to Health in the OPT as a fundamental human right.

## Doctors and State Torture. "The Case of Israel"- a [webinar discussion](#)

*Introduced by Derek Summerfield*

The Health Advisory Council of Jewish Voices for Peace USA invited me to lead a 1 hour webinar discussion on the above subject on December 11, chaired by Dr Alice Rothschild, co-founder of JVP. The link is below. The first 30 minutes has a nutshell summary of the case against Israeli doctors serving in interrogation units, the Israeli Medical Association, and against the World Medical Association- the WMA was created after WW2 to serve as the world's official watchdog on medical ethics. The WMA's Declaration of Tokyo is the seminal anti-torture code defining the role of doctors, mandating not only that doctors should not participate, but also

that they must protect the detainee, speak out and protest whenever they encounter it.

As long ago as 1996 Amnesty International concluded that Israeli doctors serving in security units were in institutionalised complicity with torture during interrogation. Torture was part of the Israeli State's policies and practices (for many years the euphemism "moderate physical pressure" was used). Over these 20 + years we have assembled a mountain of incriminating documentation - from Human Rights Watch, the United Against Torture coalition of Israeli and Palestinian NGOs, Physicians for Human Rights Israel/Public Committee Against Torture in Israel- who published closely documented case studies in 2007 ("Ticking Bombs") and in 2011 ("Doctoring the Evidence, Abandoning the Victim"). These demonstrated without any possible doubt how Israeli doctors are part and parcel of the handling of Palestinian detainees in units where torture is routine, and how these practices had been consistently shielded over many years by the Israeli Medical Association. Some of the doctors were even named. Amnesty International's current summary of the situation concludes: "Torture and other ill-treatment of detainees, including children, remains pervasive."

Our formal campaign, associated with BRICUP, launched in May 2009, and was an evidence-based submission to the WMA at a point when longstanding apologist for State torture the IMA President Yoram Blachar had become the WMA President, making a mockery of the idea that the WMA would act effectively and even-handedly as mandated to do. I put together evidence from 725 doctors from 43 countries for this purpose, with Dr Alan Meyers of JVP as lead signatory. We were given public support by Noam Chomsky and Norman Finkelstein. Our precedent was the expulsion of the Medical Association of South Africa from the WMA in the 1990s for precisely the same charge, collusion with State torture.

In the webinar I describe what has happened since then, a sorry and morally corrupt tale that includes a libel suit started against me personally by the IMA President whilst still WMA President. I conclude with the depressing conclusion that no effective and unpartisan supervision of the ethical behaviour of doctors as regards torture exists in the world. Those with powerful friends continue

to enjoy impunity. The other conclusion our experience in this campaign has brought us to recalls the work of the German social theorist Weber. He distinguished 2 kinds of ethics: the ethics of responsibility (conventional professionalism), and the ethics of conviction (relating to prior values, identity etc). We have found that for doctors, and in relation to Israel, the ethics of conviction seems almost always to trump the ethics of responsibility. I am sure that many if not most of the doctors, in Israel and internationally, who have attacked our campaign and the editors of the Lancet and British Medical Journal who have published us, would react differently if the country in question was Sudan, or China or Iraq, for example. But, where Israel is concerned, a different set of ethics is applied.

I thank Dr Rothschild and the JVP Health Advisory Council for setting the webinar up, and for their continuing excellent work chiselling away at these issues.

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## News from other campaigns

### Belgian Campaign for the Academic Boycott of Israel (BACBI)

See their December newsletter (N°38) [here](#)

### US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel

<http://www.usacbi.org/>

News from the **Association of Academics for the Respect of International Law in Palestine (AURDIP)**

<http://www.aurdip.fr/?lang=en>

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## Sign the commitment by UK Scholars to human rights in Palestine

This commitment, which has been signed by over 700 academics across UK's higher education system, is not to accept invitations for academic visits to Israel, not to act as referees in activities

related to Israel academic institutions, or cooperate in any other way with Israeli universities.

It is a response to the appeal for such action by Palestinian academics and civil society due to the deep complicity of Israeli academic institutions in Israeli violations of international law. Signatories have pledged to continue their commitment until Israel complies with international law, and respects Palestinian human rights.

For more information, and to sign, go to <http://www.commitment4p.com>

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## NOTICES

**Speakers:** We are 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](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

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