



BRICUP  
British Committee for  
Universities of Palestine



The Right Honourable Lord Waldegrave of North Hill  
House of Lords

(cc Martin Earwicker, Director, Science Museum)

Dear Lord Waldegrave

We are writing to you in your capacity as chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Museum of Science and Industry.

You will be aware that the Science Museum in London has been made available on March 5th for an event called "Israel Day of Science". You will also I hope be aware of the shock and dismay that this news is causing. The Museum argues that it is not sponsoring the event but has merely hired out its premises. This subtle distinction is unlikely to be appreciated by the many thousands of all ages and faiths who have repeatedly taken to the streets of London to protest Israeli war crimes in Gaza. The public anger at the BBC's refusal to broadcast a charity appeal for Gaza is but one example.

The event is promoted by the Zionist Federation and is designed to showcase the scientific achievements of 7 Israeli universities. But all of these are complicit in the Israeli occupation, and in the policies and weaponry so recently deployed to such disastrous effect in Gaza. To take just one example, Tel Aviv University in its most recent Annual Review states that "the Israel Ministry of Defense is currently funding 55 projects at TAU", which "is playing a major role in enhancing Israel's security capabilities and military edge". The head of TAU's Security Studies Program was a former director of the R&D Directorate of the Israel Ministry of Defense. He holds the rank of Major General in the Israel Defense Forces, and is a member of the Knesset.

According to the New York City Independent Media Center "The results of some of the secret war research projects on Tel Aviv University's campus have apparently been reflected in the weapons systems that are being brutally used against Palestinian civilians in Gaza by the Israeli War Machine, in violation of the Nuremberg Trial Accords, the United Nations Charter and international law."

You are no doubt aware that the "Day of Science" is aimed particularly at 6<sup>th</sup> form students, who can be expected to come in parties from schools across the country. What reaction do you expect from the many young people, especially

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Muslims, already disaffected from science, who will associate the Science Museum with this Israeli public relations exercise?

The event is being billed as a celebration of Science. In fact it is an attempted celebration of Israel. In the immediate aftermath of the indiscriminate slaughter and attempted annihilation of all the infrastructure of organised society in Gaza, how can this 'celebration' be allowed to borrow some respectability from the use of the distinguished premises of the Science Museum? We call on you to cancel this booking.

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