

www.bricup.org.uk

bricup@bricup.org.uk

CONTENTS

P2. Victory for Belgian LAWTRAIN Campaigners

The Editor - with thanks to Herman De Ley.

P2. Joint statement of Palestinian Student Societies of Universities in the UK on Trump's declaration on Jerusalem

08.12.2017

P3. Over 100 Artists attack Trump over declaration on Jerusalem in the Guardian -

P3. "Art, Solidarity and Palestine": the cultural boycott debate in the Netherlands

Sue Blackwell, BRICUP and doc-P
(<http://www.docp.nl/>)

P4. News from Artists for Palestine: Israel's apartheid regime salutes Nick Cave.

P5. Sixth Palestinian Conference on Modern Trends in Mathematics and Physics -August 2018 (5-8), Kadoorie Technical University, Tulkarm, West Bank.

P6. First "International Meeting on Science in Palestine". 5-7th January 2018, University of Cambridge

P6. UK universities accused of closing down free speech on Palestine

Areeb Ullah, Middle East Eye

P6. Israeli diplomats get cold shoulder from UK students.

<https://electronicintifada.net/content/israeli-diplomats-get-cold-shoulder-uk-students/22376>

Alia Malak , Electronic Intifada, 22 November 2017

P 7. Conference on academic freedom in Ireland

11th-12th September 2017. Trinity College Dublin

P7. Sign the Commitment by UK Scholars to Human Rights in Palestine

P 7. Notices

Victory for Belgian LAWTRAIN Campaigners

The Editor - with thanks to Herman De Ley.

BRICUP sends its congratulations and best wishes to all involved in this splendid campaign.

The Catholic University of Leuven (KU Leuven) has announced that it will end its role in Lawtrain – the European Union funded research programme that partners with the Israeli police (see also, newsletter numbers 107, 110, 112 and 114- www.bricup.org.uk). The university's rector has announced that there will be no participation in future phases of the project after completion of the current stage in April 2018. This is the second time that a Lawtrain partner has announced its withdrawal on human rights grounds, following on from the withdrawal of the Portuguese government last year. An historical overview of this successful campaign, which involved campaigners from all over Belgium working together with ECCP, can be found at <http://www.bacbi.be/bacbi-lawtrain.htm>.

Plate-forme Charleroi-Palestine, a Belgian solidarity group, has called the decision “*a beautiful victory for all the organizations and individuals who mobilized against this collaboration with the Israeli police.*” Leuvense Actiegroep Palestina (leuvenseactiegroepalestina@gmail.com) has issued the following press release (translated by Herman De Ley).

On the KU Leuven Blog, Rector Prof. Luc Sels announced today that the KU Leuven will put a halt to its partnership with the Israeli police. April 2018 the Law-Train research project will expire. If the Israeli Ministry of Public Security (and the Israeli police) would participate in a follow-up project on Law-Train, the KU Leuven will not join this follow-up project. Rector Sels: “The Israeli Ministry of Public Security’s participation does indeed pose an ethical problem in view of the role played by this strong arm of the Israeli government in enforcing an unlawful occupation of the Palestinian territories and the associated repression of the Palestinian population.” We are very happy with this decision of the KU Leuven. We welcome even more the fact that because of our protest against cooperation with the Israeli police forces the KU Leuven will prepare a human rights charter. Rector Sels: “Last but not least, I suggest that the KU Leuven commits itself to develop a human rights charter that in the future will provide a better support when participating in

research projects”. Of course, we will continue to monitor further developments closely.

Hermann De Ley from BACBI (Belgian Campaign for the Academic Boycott of Israel) has commented that, although the current collaboration (due to last until Spring 2018) has not been halted immediately as was demanded, the fact that the rector of one of the most important Belgian universities, an individual with such considerable academic authority and prestige, publicly questions the ethics and therefore acceptability of a partnership with the Israeli police has implications way beyond Lawtrain. Professor Sels statement, repeated by him on the Flemish public radio, is unprecedented in Belgium and legitimizes the Belgian BDS movement's campaign for justice in Palestine in general. For more information, go to-

<http://samidoun.net/2017/12/ku-leuven-announces-it-will-not-continue-participation-in-law-train/>

Joint statement of Palestinian Student Societies of Universities in the UK on Trump’s declaration on Jerusalem

08.12.2017

Following US President Donald Trump’s announcement declaring Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, student societies supporting justice for the Palestinian people in the UK. We..

- 1) Strongly condemn this dangerous decision, considering Trump’s declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel a direct attack on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, as protected by international law. This declaration violates UN resolutions, all of which reject the illegal occupation and annexation of Jerusalem, capital of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state. This declaration also poses a serious threat to peace in the region and across the world.
- 2) Salute the Palestinian people's resilience and unity in face of this provocative aggression, and renew our solidarity with the Palestinian people’s struggle to regain their stolen rights and to build their independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital.
- 3) Affirm our commitment to freedom and justice for the Palestinian people, standing with them in defence of those rights in Palestine and Jerusalem.

4) Call upon all universities in the UK to take up their role in advancing peace through justice, by promoting the boycott of, sanctions for, and divestment from (BDS) Israeli government institutions, until they comply with international law.

- Westminster Students for Palestine Society*
- City University Palestinian Society*
- UCL Friends Of Palestine*
- Aberdeen University Palestine Society*
- University of Leeds - Palestine Solidarity Group*
- University of East Anglia- Palestine Society*
- University of Nottingham Palestinian Society*
- Glasgow University Palestine Society*
- University of Sheffield Palestine Society*
- Exeter University Friends of Palestine Society*
- Queen Mary Friends of Palestine*
- Brunel University London Friends of Palestine Society*
- KCL Action Palestine*
- ICU Friends of Palestine*
- Strathclyde Students for Palestine Society*
- University of York Palestinian Solidarity Society*
- Cambridge University Palestine Society*
- University of Bristol Friends of Palestine*
- Goldsmiths Palestine Society*
- BDS campaign University of Manchester*
- Surrey Friends of Palestine Society*
- Sussex Friends of Palestine society*
- Oxford Students' Palestine Society*
- RHUL Middle East Society*
- Warwick Friends of Palestine Society*



Over 100 Artists attack Trump over declaration on Jerusalem

See letter below from the Guardian on December 12th

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/11/artists-attack-trump-over-jerusalem-move>

The Guardian reports ([10th December](#)) President Macron’s comment that recent US moves on the status of Jerusalem are a threat to peace. They are much more than that.

In recognising Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, Donald Trump seeks to achieve through a declaration what Israel has been trying to do for fifty years through force of arms: to erase Palestinians, as a political and cultural presence, from the life of their own city.

The Palestinian people of Jerusalem are already subject to municipal discrimination at every level, and a creeping process of ethnic cleansing. In addition to the continuing policy of house demolitions, in the last fifteen years, at least thirty-five Palestinian public institutions and NGOs in occupied East Jerusalem have been permanently or temporarily closed by the occupying forces. Cultural institutions have been a particular target.

At the same time Israeli authorities and entrepreneurs have spent millions in clearing Palestinian neighbourhoods to create ‘heritage’ projects that promote a myth of mono-ethnic urban identity, said to stretch back 3000 years.

We reject Trump’s collusion with such racist manipulation, and his disregard for international law. We deplore his readiness to crown the Israeli military conquest of East Jerusalem and his indifference to Palestinian rights.

As artists and as citizens, we challenge the ignorance and inhumanity of these policies, and celebrate the resilience of Palestinians living under occupation.

Full list of signatories at <https://artistsletterontrumpandjerusalem.tumblr.com/>



“Art, Solidarity and Palestine”: the cultural boycott debate in the Netherlands

Sue Blackwell, BRICUP and doc-P
(<http://www.docp.nl/>)

The Dutch BDS organisation doc-P is currently running a project entitled “Art, Solidarity and Palestine”. In the year that sees the centenary of the Balfour Declaration and the 50-year anniversary of the occupation, doc-P decided to launch an initiative that would enable artists to

show their solidarity with the Palestinian people. A letter was sent out in April to artists who were known to be sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, drawing their attention to the impossible situation in which their Palestinian colleagues try to practice their art, and the consequent PACBI call to cultural boycott. The recipients were invited to think of ways in which they could depict the situation in Palestine within their own disciplines. In this manner we hoped to draw in people who are not yet convinced of the need for cultural boycott, which is still a sensitive and controversial topic. We have the sense that many artists in the Netherlands support the boycott but are nervous of doing so publicly for fear of repercussions for their own careers or funding opportunities.

The campaign then publicly kicked off with two concerts, in Amsterdam and The Hague, in which the song cycle “Children of Gaza”, based on poems by Michael R. Burch, was performed by Palestinian soprano Dima Bawab, accompanied on piano by the composer Eduard de Boer. This was a resounding success and we are now hoping to bring it to the UK in liaison with PSC. In addition, Irish composer Raymond Deane performed some of his own piano pieces, Dutch pianist/composer Dante Boon and Oud player Dirar Kalash treated us to a highly unconventional duet, and the multi-talented Nai Barghouti performed “Bi Ridak Ya Khaliqi”.

The concerts provided us with an opportunity to reach out to new supporters in a gentle way, without immediately confronting them with the cultural boycott. One way in which we enhanced our ticket sales was to invite supporters to sponsor tickets for Palestinian refugees: this proved to be a very popular initiative and in The Hague we had a full house as a result.

The next stage of the project took place on 29th November, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. We marked this occasion by serenading the British Embassy in The Hague with a “Hymn to Balfour” penned by Yours Truly, after which we handed in a petition calling for an apology by the British Government for the Balfour Declaration. This was received with predictable diplomatic politeness and reserve on behalf of Her Majesty’s Government.

Also on 29th November, we held a conference in the Hague on the theme of art and solidarity. The tone was set by Samir Eskanda, a Palestinian-British artist who had been involved in the Radiohead campaign. Other speakers included

Haim Bresheeth from BRICUP who gave us a sneak preview of his new film “Mind of the Occupier” and Jon Pullman who showed clips from “Children in Chains”. Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi related some of the recent challenges and successes in the Cultural Boycott campaign in the UK, and the boycott message was driven home by Dyab Abou Jahjah, who is well-known in the Netherlands for being “controversial”, meaning that he does not mince his words when talking about Israel. The conference culminated in a debate ably chaired by Chris Keulemans.

The organisers had taken a decision not to publicise the conference in advance but instead to issue invitations through personal contacts. As a result, the audience was smaller than it might have been, but it did ensure that we had a proper debate rather than a row with disruptive Zionists, as has been the case recently both in the UK and in the Netherlands. However, at the end of our debate Sonja Zimmerman of doc-P announced that we were going to be bolder and “ruder” in future. Our next step is to build on the contacts we have acquired as a result of the project and generate a “critical mass” for the cultural boycott in the Netherlands, while continuing to organise concerts, exhibitions and other artistic events. Watch this space!

.....

News from Artists for Palestine: Israel’s apartheid regime salutes Nick Cave.

<https://artistsforpalestine.org.uk/2017/11/23/israel-s-apartheid-regime-and-lobby-groups-salute-nick-cave/>

Musician and writer Nick Cave declared at a press conference on Sunday that he wanted to ‘make a principled stand’ by crossing the Palestinian boycott picket line, dismissing widespread calls to cancel his group the Bad Seeds’ two concerts in Tel Aviv. Cave’s words have found him a new fan-base in the form of Israel’s government: there has been an outpouring of public endorsements from its foreign ministry and diplomatic missions across Europe, the U.S., and Australia, as well as from numerous lobby groups.

We have sampled, and reproduced below, tweets from ten Israeli government bodies and spokespeople and seven lobby groups, all of which work hard to counter the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) human rights movement and promote Israel’s interests.

Nick Cave declared his love for Israel, and the Israeli regime reciprocated, providing further proof, [if any were needed](#), of the propaganda value to Israel of appearances by international artists. Cave has gifted Israel's government a PR coup. Yet Israel's imposition of decades of military occupation and apartheid against the indigenous Palestinian population is increasingly being challenged by principled solidarity, including from artists. Instead of helping Israel's regime to whitewash its violations of Palestinian human rights, we invite Cave to support those working for freedom and rights for all.

See also, comment from Steven Salaita - an American scholar, author and public speaker. His latest book is *Uncivil Rites: Palestine and the Limits of Academic Freedom*.

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/comment/2017/11/25/a-message-to-artists-who-play-israel>

.....

Sixth Palestinian Conference on Modern Trends in Mathematics and Physics

August 2018 (5-8), Kadoorie Technical University, Tulkarm, West Bank

http://ptuk.edu.ps/ptuk_conferences/index.php?en=en&mlnk=&cf=6&mlnk=54&en=en

Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie (<http://www.ptuk.edu.ps/>) is organizing the Sixth Palestinian Conference for Modern Trends in Mathematics and Physics in cooperation with the Palestinian universities.

Introduction

Recent trends in mathematics and physics have attracted more attention from both the public and private sectors, universities and specialized research centers for their ability to make qualitative difference in research at various fields. Hence, the need to organize a scientific conference focusing on and enhancing these modern trends is a must and as a result this conference was held as a series and every two years at a Palestinian university.

Therefore, Palestine Technical University-Kadoorie is pleased to invite scientists, researchers, faculty members in universities and interested students in various fields of mathematics and physics to participate in this important scientific event by providing their

research abstracts and scientific participations through the conference website.

The sixth conference will be characterized by several aspects. In addition to the main scientific program, international scientists and experts will hold short and intensive research seminars in mathematics, statistics and physics, to guide graduate students and to build cooperate bridges with members in Palestinian universities. Sessions will be organized to discuss the present situation of scientific research in Palestine and the ways to enhance scientific research. In addition, a special educational session will be held this year to discuss a very important issue for the Palestinian society, namely, the reluctance of students to enroll in mathematics and physics programs in universities, which have a very negative impact on the scientific and technological advancement of Palestinian society. Experts from universities, Ministry of Education and the private sector will discuss this phenomenon and suggest solutions and plans to deal with it

Conference Goals

- Encouraging scientific research in Palestinian universities, especially in the fields of mathematics, physics and statistics.
- Enhancing the prospects of cooperation and networking between researchers in Palestinian universities and their international counterparts.
- Improving the quality of postgraduate programs in the relevant fields.

Participants who wish to take part in the Conference are kindly asked to submit their abstracts no later than April 15, 2018 on the conference website www.ptuk.edu.ps/PCMTMP-VI. Participants will be notified about accepting their papers no later than May 7, 2018.

.....

First "International Meeting on Science in Palestine"

5-7th January 2018, University of Cambridge

BRICUP has received this message from A message from Dr David Marsh of the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology at Cambridge University and Scientists for Palestine.

As part of the group Scientists for Palestine, I am organising our first "International Meeting on Science in Palestine" to be held 5-7th January 2018 at the new Postdoc Centre@Eddington, University of Cambridge. We would be very grateful if you could forward this message to people who may be interested in attending.

The target participants are scientists (broadly defined) interested in supporting the development of science in Palestine and furthering the connections between the Palestinian and international scientific communities. We hope (pending successful Visa applications) to bring over two Palestinian scientists whom we have worked with in the past in the West Bank, and we will have other Palestinian scientists participating via video link. Other scientists (both Palestinian and non-Palestinian) based in UK, Europe and the US will also participate.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the challenges for developing science in Palestine and the experiences from various groups and individuals that have been engaged in such work. Moreover, we hope to use the meeting to get interested individuals practically involved in concrete future activities/programs, which we will also discuss. This meeting could help us in formulating a long term vision of how to broaden the scope of our activities, strengthen the growth of science in Palestine, and help build ties between the Palestinian and international scientific communities.

The meeting poster is attached, and a preliminary program and the application form for the event can be found at www.scientists4palestine.com. We also have an event page available through our "Scientists for Palestine" Facebook page. The meeting is open to both scientists and non-scientists, but the former will be given preference if the number of applicants exceed the maximum capacity of the meeting.

Best regards,
M.C. David Marsh
Stephen Hawking Advanced Fellow

Centre for Theoretical Cosmology, DAMTP,
University of Cambridge
+44 (0)1223 766873
damtp.cam.ac.uk/people/cmm92/ david-marsh.co.uk

UK universities accused of closing down free speech on Palestine

Areeb Ullah, Middle East Eye

British universities have been accused of threatening free speech on issues such as Palestine by insisting on tough yet ill-defined rules that events must be chaired by approved "independent" moderators, Standard rules of non-interference on campus have been contradicted by training given to universities under the government's Prevent counter-extremism strategy, as revealed in Middle East Eye. The guidance advises universities to ensure "independent and effective chairing" of events and to measure guests' views against issues - including Palestine and even opposition to Prevent - which may indicate signs of "extremism".

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/REVEALED%3A%20Universities%20accused%20of%20closing%20down%20free%20speech%20on%20Palestine>

Israeli diplomats get cold shoulder from UK students.

Alia Malak, Electronic Intifada, 22 November 2017

News of strong opposition from both students and faculty to the series of visits to campuses across the UK, by Israeli Embassy staff to mark 100years of the [Balfour Declaration](#)

<https://electronicintifada.net/content/israeli-diplomats-get-cold-shoulder-uk-students/22376>

Report on the conference on academic freedom in Ireland

11th-12th September 2017. Trinity College Dublin

See <http://mondoweiss.net/2017/10/keynotes-conference-academic/>

This conference, organized by the MPhil in Race, Ethnicity and Conflict at Trinity College Dublin, and supported by Trinity College Dublin (TCD) explored the paradoxes and limits of free speech and academic freedom under the conditions of the neoliberal university.

Fifteen speakers from seven different countries included **Steven Salaita** who lost a promised tenure track position at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), withdrawn, allegedly because of his forceful and emotional tweets during the 2014 Gaza War (see issues 80 and 91 of this newsletter- <http://www.bricup.org.uk/documents/archive/BRICUPNewsletter80.pdf> and <http://www.bricup.org.uk/documents/archive/BRICUPNewsletter91.pdf>).

Despite winning his legal case against UIUC, precipitating the resignation of the university's provost and revealing a concerted campaign to deny him a position that went well beyond his Twitter activity, Steven Salaita has been unable to secure ongoing academic employment, in spite of a productive and exemplary level of scholarly activity, and must now resign himself to working and living as a freelance writer and lecturer.

.....

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>

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

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