

# BRICUP Newsletter 133

BRICUP

British Committee for the  
Universities of Palestine

November 2019

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**OBITUARY-** David Pegg.

*Colin Green and Monica Wusteman*

BRICUP is very sad to announce the death on August 3rd of David Pegg. David, a member of our committee, initiated our Newsletter and edited it for almost a decade. Dedicated to the cause of Palestinian rights, he also campaigned tirelessly on a number of fronts, including lobbying members of European Parliament, EU diplomats

and members of the Commission on behalf of both BRICUP and the Israeli Committee against House Demolitions (ICAHD). David was also one of the founder members of York Palestine Solidarity Campaign and a Trustee of IMET 2000, an international medical education charity which deals with the training of surgeons, nurses, physicians and with those dealing with the child victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity. IMET 2000 operates extensively in the West Bank and Gaza.

(<https://www.imet2000.org/>)

David was also a very eminent clinical scientist with an international reputation. One of the pioneers in the field of low temperature biology, David made perhaps his greatest contribution through research into the preservation of human kidneys. He and his colleagues worked up simple flushing techniques to sophisticated methods which are now used worldwide and allow organs to be maintained for up to thirty hours and function well after transplantation.

Later he pioneered new freezing techniques that have proved to be helpful in preserving plant cells for agriculture, fish reproductive cells for fish farming and, in the field of conservation, cells from endangered species of plants and animals.

David graduated from Westminster Medical School in 1956. He was awarded his MD in 1963, his MRC Path in 1967, the William Julius Mickle Fellowship in 1968 and FRC Path in 1998. At the Westminster Medical School he began to work on organ transplantation alongside the transplantation pioneer Roy Calne, an experience that led to his career in low temperature biology.

He joined the Medical Research Council at Mill Hill in 1967 and, in 1970 was promoted to Head of Division of Cryobiology in the newly built MRC Clinical Research Centre in Harrow. He moved to Cambridge in 1978 to work once more alongside Roy Calne as Head of the MRC Medical Cryobiology Group in the University Dept of Surgery. In 1992 he set up the East Anglia Tissue Bank in the National Blood Service in Cambridge and was Director for a year. He then moved to York and was Director of the Medical Cryobiology Unit in the University from 1993 to August 2006. He was an Honorary Professor in the Biology Department from 1999 to 2018.

In the whole field of low temperature biology, David was unique in his eclectic understanding. To add to this he had a great capacity to inspire

and support young scientists in the field and many hundreds owe their own careers to him.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### **Bad News for Labour: antisemitism, the party, and public belief**

*by Greg Philo. Mike Berry, Justin Schlosberg, Antony Lerman and David Miller.*

**Pluto Press, 2019, 272pp**

*Jonathan Rosenhead*

This book was scheduled to be launched at Waterstone's bookshop in Brighton during September's Labour Party Conference. It didn't happen – a flurry of protests and threats to Waterstone's management and the event was pulled.

A bookshop pulling a book launch, that's not normal. But did you read about it in the mainstream media - Bookshop Cancels Launch of Book Claimed to be Antisemitic? No.

At the 2018 Labour Conference in Liverpool a showing of the film *WitchHunt* by Jewish Voice for Labour was prevented by a phoned-in bomb hoax. We are in an era where allegations of antisemitism based only on spoken words make front page headlines. But did you read about the bomb threat in the mainstream media - Jewish Group Targeted by Bomb Threat? No.

How do I know that you didn't? Its because the MSM didn't report either of them. Neither that first tentative step that leads in the direction of book burning; nor the threats of violence against a Jewish group. And that's exactly what this book is about – the presentation through the media of a dominant narrative ('antisemitism is endemic in the Labour Party' plus 'the Labour leadership has failed to deal with it') to the exclusion, one might say suppression, of any challenge to it.

*Bad News for Labour* examines forensically, rigorously, the across-the-board failure of the media to challenge the narrative that Labour is riddled with antisemitism. And of course the mainstream media somehow has omitted to review the book (there's no point in being inconsistent), although it addresses one of the hottest political topics of this and previous years. Its almost as if they wanted to demonstrate the truth of the book's conclusions.

The authors are distinguished academics. Greg Philo in particular is the leading figure in the

Glasgow University Media Group which has been analysing and reporting on media distortion since 1974, with titles like Bad News, More Bad News, Really Bad News.... Justin Schlosberg heads the Media Reform Coalition; and Antony Lerman is one of the foremost UK scholars on antisemitism.

The evidence they have assembled is overwhelming, incorporating focus groups; opinion surveys; content analysis of press, radio and television output; and case studies especially around the selling of the notorious IHRA 'definition' of antisemitism, of which more later.

Let me take a step back from their material. I joined the Labour Party around 1961 and have been a member for much of the intervening period. (I am currently chair of my local branch.) And of course I have met antisemites in the Party. Obviously I have done, because there are antisemites everywhere. It's just that I don't know who they are or were – because in all that time I have never heard a single antisemitic remark from a Labour member. And being Jewish my antisemitism detectors are always activated.

Labour needs to be watchful, like all other responsible bodies, since we know the damage that antisemitism has done and can do again. And there is certainly a subculture of antisemitic discourse on social media, some of it coming from people who claim to support Corbyn and Labour, but are mostly not identifiable as members. But this picture is far from the extraordinary claims being made of endemic, indeed institutional antisemitism.

Just how far this narrative has departed from reality is shown by the poll the book's authors commissioned (sample size 1000). They asked the question "From what you have seen or heard, what percentage of Labour Party members do you think have had complaints made against them? If you don't already know the reality check figure, why not try answering that question yourself before moving to the next paragraph.

The average estimate across all respondents came to 34%. Hardly anyone thought that it was less than 10%. But the actual number of complaints against members received by the Labour Party is rather less than 0.1% of its membership. That is, the average punter has got it wrong by a factor of 300!

The rest of the book tries to analyse how this gross mismatch could possibly have come about. Clearly few of the respondents can have been actual members of the Labour Party – which is

big, but still less than 1% of the UK population. So almost exclusively they will have got this grossly false impression courtesy of the national media.

One of the biggest media stories in the effort to paint Labour as antisemitic was the campaign to persuade Labour to adopt the that IHRA "definition" of antisemitism. This is not the place to go into the way this deeply flawed attempt to extend the meaning of the word 'antisemitism' to cover many types of criticism of Israel and Zionism came into being in the first place. (You can find that [here](#) in an earlier edition of the BRICUP Newsletter.) Cutting to the chase, I will trace the story from the demand by the Board of Deputies of British Jews in March 2018 that the Labour Party adopt it, to the Party's capitulation that September.

During that long hot summer the pressure was relentless. The media gave headlines to every minor figure who criticised Jeremy Corbyn on the issue, provided sycophantic interviews with Margaret Hodge and her look-alikes; and gave any countervailing interviewees who were granted air-time a right grilling. Labour antisemitism became not a claim to be investigated or explored, but a fact to be hammered home.

In Justin Schlosberg's chapter he puts numbers on this imbalance. What makes his account so disturbing is not the depths of bias and abandonment of usual journalistic safeguards that were revealed – after all we have come to expect no less of the gutter end of British journalism. No, the striking finding was that the violations of journalistic standards were across the board, with higher-end journalism (BBC, Guardian) if anything more unbalanced, more unprincipled than the rest.

Schlosberg records the various crimes committed against responsible journalism in the acrid discussion of Labour's proposed guidance on some of the more contentious 'examples' of antisemitism that had been attached to the IHRA 'definition'. Journalists are supposed to give voice to contesting sources – yet the Guardian (the worst press offender) quoted sources critical of the proposed guidance 3 times more than supportive sources.

Television even outdid print media with a 4-to-1 ratio against critical sources. But it's worse than that – because the treatment given to such sources in live interviews was so dissimilar. Schlosberg provides telling examples of the 'softball'

questioning of those criticising the Labour leadership's position.

Another crime against journalistic professionalism was the repeated carelessness, one hates to say economy, with the truth. The IHRA 'definition' was regularly cited as 'undisputed' – yet only one newspaper mentioned the 36 Jewish organisations, or the 84 groups representing UK migrant and minority communities, that issued statements criticising it. A similar disrespect for the facts was shown in the degree of international authority accorded to the IHRA's document. This was described as everything from 'widely accepted' through 'globally recognised' to 'near universally accepted' (this last from Freedland in the Guardian). BBC presenters though could go one better – "The definition accepted by more or less every country in the world". Or Margaret Hodge on air: "the universally used definition of antisemitism which everybody else [except Labour] had adopted, every other institution".

The reality is that at the time of this fierce summer 2018 fracas the extent of official acceptance was readily available – on Wikipedia, or if you doubt that, on the IHRA's own website. That number was 8. The number of countries in the world is between 196 and 241, depending on how you count.

Two further chapters interrogate the implications of the IHRA definition, a document that has come to have a central place in this whole counterproductive mêlée. Tony Lerman analyses forensically its origins and implications; and David Miller describes his own experience of falling foul of the thought police seeking to police adherence to it.

Miller's original sin was a talk he gave on 'how to stand up to intimidation on campus' to a small meeting of Palestinian students in late 2018. In it he addressed, among other things, the problems with two of the examples of potentially antisemitic statements. The examples pronounce that it is (or could be) antisemitic i) to call a/the state of Israel a 'racist endeavour'; or ii) to hold Israel to a higher standard of behaviour 'than that demanded of any other democratic nation'.

The consequence of Professor Miller's discussion of these issues were denunciation on a reactionary website, picked up by the Jewish Chronicle; anonymous emails sent to his Bristol university academic colleagues; being subject to complaints to the University of Bristol that he was an antisemite; being described as an antisemite in the

university's student newspaper; and being subject to a complaint to the Labour Party (which provoked a Jewish Chronicle attack on the party for not expelling him following their investigation). Here we see laid out in microcosm the methodology of attacks on freedom of expression, even within academia. The systematically skewed media coverage is in effect the precondition for the McCarthyite attack on free speech.

There is more in the book than I have been able to describe. In particular Tony Lerman discusses in some detail both the Macpherson principle and the concept of institutional racism – which have been drawn into the already overheated arena by the EHRC's (Equality and Human Rights Commission) decision to investigate the Labour Party. There is also a very handy 'timeline' of the twists and turns of this extraordinary saga. Covering June 2015 to May 2019 it runs to 32 pages.

In some ways it's a shame the book could not have been delayed. In July this year, when the book was already in production, the BBC's Panorama programme "Is Labour Antisemitic?" handily illustrated virtually every denial of proper journalistic standards and processes that Bad News for Labour analyses and exposes. For one last extraordinary case study, see the Media Reform Coalition's forensic [dismantling](#) of this 'flagship' BBC programme.

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## NEWS FROM PALESTINE

### **AnyVision: The involvement of UK universities in an Israeli firm secretly tracking Palestinians.**

#### *Editor*

AnyVision Interactive Technologies is Israel's most high-profile biometric recognition firm, particularly in the field of facial recognition. This technology is being used by the Israeli army to monitor West Bank Palestinians at checkpoints on their way in to Israel. It also uses a network of cameras deep inside the West Bank. In short, the West Bank is becoming a constantly-monitored technological prison – and at least 2 UK universities, together with Microsoft, are helping them do it

Microsoft has invested millions in AnyVision, even though their work violates Microsoft's own principles for use of facial recognition technology. These principles arise from its

attempts to position itself as an ethical leader in Artificial Intelligence. For example, in 2018, it announced that it was committed to refrain from using facial recognition technology where there are “inadequate safeguards to protect democratic freedoms and human rights.”

See more details of AnyVisions complicity in the oppression of Palestinians [here](#)

Anyvision was co-founded by [Professor Neil Robertson](#) of the School of Electronics at the Queens University Belfast, where a team of over 30 PhDs focus solely on computer vision research. BRICUP has also noted the involvement of [Fabio Cuzzolin](#), Professor of Artificial Intelligence in the School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics at Oxford Brookes University. Cuzzolin’s research group collaborates actively with AnyVision (see [here](#) for details).

**Join [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) and [MPower Change](#) and sign their petition calling on Microsoft to drop Anyvision**

### **Background**

This June, Microsoft made a multi-million dollar investment in AnyVision, an Israeli facial recognition company led by former Israeli military and intelligence personnel.

While AnyVision claims their technology helps streamline the operations of West Bank checkpoints which thousands of Palestinians must pass through everyday to work or visit their families .

Even more alarming than AnyVision’s checkpoint biometrics is a second project that reportedly includes facial recognition technology elsewhere in the West Bank, not just at border crossings. [According to Haaretz](#), cameras deep inside the West Bank try to spot and monitor potential Palestinian assailants. [NBC News confirmed](#) that the AnyVision system used for this secret surveillance project enables the Israeli military to identify individuals in any live camera feed and track targets as they move between different feeds. Though the project involves software officially called “Better Tomorrow,” AnyVision employees have aptly nicknamed it “Google Ayosh,” where “Ayosh” means occupied Palestinian territories and “Google” denotes the technology’s ability to search for people. AnyVision’s use of facial recognition technology most glaringly conflicts with Microsoft’s sixth principle of “lawful surveillance”:

*We will advocate for safeguards for people’s democratic freedoms in law enforcement surveillance scenarios and will not deploy facial recognition technology in scenarios that we believe will put these freedoms at risk.*

Palestinians under Israeli military occupation do not enjoy democratic freedoms and AnyVision’s technology only further limits their right to privacy and freedom of movement.

Until Palestinians have equality, justice and dignity, Microsoft should stop investing in technology developed to surveil, control and criminalise them

### **Petition**

**To: Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella**

I urge you to cut all Microsoft investment in AnyVision, which is actively helping the Israeli military surveil Palestinians' every move.

Recently, Microsoft stated it would end its relationship with AnyVision if a third-party audit finds that AnyVision's surveillance of Palestinians violates Microsoft's principles. Microsoft's sixth principle for developing and deploying facial recognition technology is “lawful surveillance”:

*“We will advocate for safeguards for people's democratic freedoms in law enforcement surveillance scenarios and will not deploy facial recognition technology in scenarios that we believe will put these freedoms at risk.”*

Palestinians under Israeli military occupation do not enjoy democratic freedoms — and AnyVision's technology only further limits their right to privacy and freedom of movement. This is your chance to make good on your commitment to Microsoft's ethical principles. It is time to drop AnyVision.

Sign [here](#) (over 17,500 signatures to date ).

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### **MEETINGS AND EVENTS**



## **Third International Meeting for Science in Palestine, MIT January 10-12, 2020**

Coming on the heels of two successful international meetings in Cambridge, UK (2017) and New York City, NY, USA (2018), as well as three Advanced Physics Schools in Palestine, Scientists for Palestine is proud to announce the Third International Meeting for Science in Palestine. This meeting will convene Palestinian scientists and scientists from the global scientific community at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston on January 10-12, 2020.

The meeting will be dedicated to the protection, advancement, and elevation of science in Palestine, and will be attended by some of the world's most prominent scientists, including the 2018 Chemistry Nobel Prize winner, George Smith, and MacArthur fellow and astrophysicist Nergis Mavalvala. The meeting will also include dozens of young and established scientists from across the world, including Palestinian scientists from Historic Palestine, exile, and abroad, as well as key members of Palestinian civil society and educational institutions. Lastly, we will be in conversation with renowned Palestinian medic and innovator, Dr. Tarek Loubani, who is based in Canada has treated Palestinians in Gaza during the Great Return March.

The meeting will also host an array of plenary and parallel working group sessions to ensure productivity and optimal use of the rare opportunity to convene Palestinian and international scientists in order to best promote scientific institutions and scholarship in Palestine.

The Third International Meeting will open with a public event on the evening of Friday, January 10, 2020, a panel entitled "Overcoming the suppression of STEM: Practicing Science in the Occupied Palestinian Territories". Here, panelists will discuss the scientific community's responsibility to collectively mobilize and stand in support of their Palestinian colleagues.

The weekend program will then run from Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon, and is only open to those who have registered. The weekend program will include sessions with a focus on the fields of medicine, environmental science, engineering, computer science, math and physics - all of which are identified as the fields most critical to Palestinian survival and scientific advancement under Israeli occupation.

For more information, and to register, please visit <http://www.scientists4palestine.com/imsp3/>

The registration fee is \$10 (US). The registration deadline is Dec. 15, 2019, but space is limited and registration will close once at capacity



## **Specialist Mental Health Study Tour to Palestine/Israel - March 2020**

It is difficult to get a clear sense of what is happening in the Middle East. Denial, myth-making and magical thinking conjure a thick fog. It can be hard to step beyond the role of impotent bystander. It can be hard to feel informed enough to counter "official" narratives.

Yet if we aspire to be active citizens, and wish for justice and security for both the Palestinian and Jewish Israeli peoples, we need to get as close to the truth as we can. Learning about the impact of Occupation on the daily lives of Palestinians and on their psychological well-being provides a level of understanding which goes way beyond political rhetoric.

We urge you to consider taking eight days out of your schedule to come with us to Palestine, to see for yourself something of what is happening, to be informed, connected and inspired. We provide superb access to Palestinian mental health workers, community activists and intellectuals, and to Jewish Israeli dissidents working in our field who offer their own insights, sharing perspectives that you won't find truthfully represented in the mainstream media. What you witness won't always be easy, but we guarantee a transformative and empowering experience which will bring hope to those you meet, that their narratives are witnessed and widely disseminated.

For an application form and further details, email us at [ukpalmhn@gmail.com](mailto:ukpalmhn@gmail.com)

Applications from non-UK residents are welcome. The language of the tour will be English.

### **Meeting: Fanon in Palestine**

**Birbeck College, December 8<sup>th</sup> 10.30am – 1.00 pm**

Psychoanalysts Lara and Stephen Sheehi will present papers at a special meeting organised with Political Minds and the Centre for Researching and Embedding Human Rights at Birkbeck University.

## **Stephen Sheehi: The Settlers Town is a Strongly Built Town: Fanon in Palestine**

### **Lara Sheehi: Toward a Decolonial Clinical Praxis: A Case Example from Palestine**

**Discussant: Prof Samir Gandesha**

[Lara Sheehi](#) is a faculty member at the GWU Professional Psychology Program. She has an upcoming co-authored book with Stephen Sheehi, *Psychoanalysis Under Occupation: Theory and Practice in Palestine* (Routledge), [Stephen Sheehi](#) is the Sultan Qaboos Eminent Professor of Middle East Studies and Founding Director of the Decolonizing Humanities Project at the College of William and Mary.

Click [here](#) for tickets

## **CULTURAL CAMPAIGN NEWS**

### **Kamila Shamsie - Solidarity with the Right to Boycott**

*Editor*

In September, the novelist, Kamila Shamsie, was stripped of the Nelly Sachs Award by the German city of Dortmund, after the jurors were informed of Shamsie's refusal to publish her books with any publisher in Israel who is not in solidarity with the aims of BDS.

#### **The response from other authors**

In a historic display of solidarity some 300 authors have signed a letter in support for her, and her endorsement of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement for Palestinian rights, defending authors' rights to criticize, to boycott and to publish as they choose. As Kamila Shamsie herself told the Guardian newspaper *"There is no Israeli publisher who is completely unentangled from the state"- if a BDS-compliant Israeli publisher existed would be happy to have them publish my work."*

The letter and signatories can be found [here](#) on the London Review of Books blog

#### **Response from German Civil Society-**

[Open Letter](#) to the Jury of the Nelly Sachs prize

Berlin, September 25, 2019.

#### **Further Comment on the stifling of criticism of Israel in Germany.**

From Richard Falk [here](#)

From [Ruairi Casey](#) (Al Jazeera) [here](#)

## **The Palestinian Museum receives a prestigious architectural award**

*Editor*

The [Palestinian Museum](#) stands on a hill overlooking the town of Birzeit, its architecture mimicking the surrounding landscape. The museum's hillside gardens and stone walls imitate the [stone terraces](#) used in agricultural lands in the Palestinian villages and the building itself is made of limestone quarried locally near Bethlehem.

The museum was designed by Irish architect [Heneghan Peng](#), who won the [international competition](#) in 2011 for the design of a multipurpose centre for culture and education. The stone terraces that surround the building were built by Jordanian landscape architect Lara Zureikat.

In August, the Palestinian Museum, which is the largest cultural centre in the West Bank, won the [Aga Khan Award for Architecture](#), along with five other projects worldwide. The six winners, selected from among 20 projects, will share a \$1 million award.

According to the Jury- *"the selection of the Museum was due to its powerful embodiment of a cultural identity under duress at the intersection of land and architecture, nature and people."*

See [here](#) for more information about the museum and its awards the award

## **MEDICAL CAMPAIGN NEWS**

### **The Lancet and the Right to Reply**

*Derek Summerfeld*

In July this year the Lancet published [a letter](#) by Rosenstock et al, lauding the Lancet and its editor Dr Richard Horton for achieving a 'better understanding' of Israel. At issue was the Lancet coverage of the 2014 Israeli military assault on Gaza- Operation Protective Edge- and [a letter of appeal](#) published by Manduca et al (myself included) at the time. This letter attracted a furious response from defenders of Israel around the world, including Nobel laureates, who called for the Lancet editor to be sacked and the letter redacted from the academic record as if it was a piece of [a letter of appeal](#) proven research fraud. Elsevier, publishers of the Lancet, were

threatened with a boycott of their publishing stable if this did not happen. The Lancet editor resisted calls for redaction but was otherwise forced to take a contrite and mollifying approach to this criticism- despite the evidence base.

We see in the Rosenstock letter, and in the Lancet decision to publish it, some of the consequences of the episode. Their letter did 3 things- it praised the probity of the Israeli military, a total whitewashing of the atrocity that was Operation Protective Edge. It called us, the signatories of our 2014 letter of appeal, straight antisemites. It lauded a victory over the Lancet, a famous international journal brought to heel.

We, the authors of the original letter, would conventionally have a right of reply to being called antisemites in so public a forum as the Lancet, and accordingly the letter below, signed by most of the 2014 signatories, was submitted to the Lancet. We were particularly concerned to re-assert the evidential record re the assault, as below. It was planned cold blooded massacre, 'mowing the grass'. The Lancet have declined to publish our letter. Here is the text.

Rosenstock et al laud the probity of Israel's attack on Gaza in 2014, call us antisemites, and boast of an international medical journal brought to heel.

We were writing as the attack continued, and even at that stage humanitarian agencies were speaking of prima facie evidence of war crimes. In all there were 6000 air strikes on one of the most densely populated places on earth. 2251 Palestinians were killed, including 551 children; 142 families lost 3 or more members; 11,231 wounded; 18,000 houses damaged or demolished; 73 medical facilities bombed, with 16 health professionals on duty killed, as were hospital patients in their beds. The UN Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs wrote that there was literally no place for Gazan civilians to escape to. Amnesty International described the "shocking disregard" of Israeli forces attacking family homes, "brazenly flouting the laws of war"- the Geneva Convention. Human Rights Watch described as war crimes the bombing of 7 well-flagged UN schools- in all 262 schools were damaged. The UN Independent Commission of Enquiry, with which Israel refused to co-operate, concluded that "the effects of this devastation had a severe impact on the human rights of Palestinians in Gaza that will be felt for generations to come".

The strategy behind the Gaza attack is described both in academic circles and in Israeli newspapers at the time as the "mowing the grass" strategy (This speaks for itself).

We see here how the slur of "anti-semitism" is being deployed to shield Israel and its actions, even when they extend to atrocity. To speak out about such events is to speak truth to power.

## **How Israeli doctors enable the Shin Bet's torture industry**

*Article in +972 online magazine*

From approving brutal interrogation techniques to writing false medical reports, doctors in Israel have taken an active role in the torture of Palestinian prisoners. [How Israeli doctors enable the Shin Bet's torture industry](#) is an important and detailed article by **Dr. Ruchama Marton, the founder of Physicians for Human Rights – Israel**, on how doctors in Israel have taken an active role in the torture of Palestinian prisoners.

Also, in an unusual move, a group of twenty senior physicians, members of PHRI's board of directors and ethics committee, as well as members of the board of directors of the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, has written [a letter to the management of the Hadassah hospital](#) urging the institution not to release Samer Arbid for continued ISA interrogation for fear he would be subjected to torture.

## **From the Jewish Voice for Peace : Media Watch, Nov 2019.**

With thanks to Dr Alice Rothchild  
Members of the Health Advisory Council  
volunteer to monitor relevant organizations and websites and compile a list of important news and issues from Palestine which are summarized [here](#)

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## **NEWS FROM OTHER CAMPAIGNS**

### **The Association of Academics for the Respect of International Law in Palestine ([AURDIP](#)).**

**Israel turns Palestinian students into criminals**

*Jaclynn Ashly ( from +972)*

November 3rd

The Israeli authorities have arrested at least 64 Palestinian students since the beginning of 2019. This number is only growing.

According to data collected by Right to Education, a local initiative campaign to defend education in Palestine, Israeli forces have imprisoned at least 64 students since the beginning of this year. Eighteen of the detainees are [students](#) at Birzeit - the second largest university in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli authorities regularly arrest politically active Palestinian students, but human rights groups say that numbers have increased with the current

Read further [here](#)

## **The Belgian Campaign for the Academic Boycott of Israel ([BACBI](#))**

See their latest academic newsletter [here](#)

See their Cultural newsletter here [here](#)

## **The US Campaign for the academic and Cultural of Israel ([USACBI](#))**

### **Israel Systematically blocks international scholars from reaching Palestine**

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by [David Palumbo-Liu](#)

Read the article [here](#)

## **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 [here](#) 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](mailto:newsletter@bricup.org.uk)

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

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

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

## **Financial support for BRICUP**

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

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

One-off donations may be made by sending a cheque to the Treasurer, at BRICUP, BM BRICUP, London, WC1N 3XX, UK or by making a bank transfer to BRICUP at Sort Code 08-92-99  
Account Number 65156591  
IBAN = GB20 CPBK 0892 9965 1565 91  
BIC = CPBK GB22

If you use the direct funds transfer mechanism, please confirm the transaction by sending an explanatory email