

The Case for Academic Boycott against Israel

**Reference Material in Support of Palestinian and
International Academic Boycott Campaigns**

Working Document Compiled by



the Alternative Information Center (AIC)

www.alternativenews.org

INTRODUCTION

The Case for Academic Boycott against Israel is an initial compilation of facts documenting the discriminatory practices implemented by the Israeli academic system, as well as this system's active and ongoing involvement in the occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Through this document, the *Alternative Information Center* (AIC) aims to support the Palestinian and international academic boycott campaigns with concrete facts and details proving that **not only have Israeli academic institutions not publicly condemned Israel's occupation, but that these very institutions are themselves part and parcel of Israel's colonial system of oppression against the Palestinians.**

The Case for Academic Boycott against Israel provides specific and documented examples of how Israel's academic institutions discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel by restricting their enrollment; persecuting them for political involvement; gagging their freedom of expression and actively working to keep international students away from their towns and villages, amongst others. It further highlights how several of the institutions are themselves part of Israel's settlement project, being located in the West Bank, founded on the ruins of a demolished Palestinian village or expanding onto Palestinian-owned land illegally occupied in 1967

The Case for Academic Boycott against Israel is a working document that the AIC will continuously update, and is such a work in progress to which activists, organizations and academics are invited to refer and contribute. Currently (August 2007) the AIC is seeking documentation to substantiate the recognized connection between Israeli universities and the Israeli military system in such areas as military intelligence, officer training and weaponry development, and we anticipate this will be a next addition to this report in the upcoming months. Additionally, the borderline hysterical responses of Israeli university administrations, senior academics and Israeli government officials to international proposals for academic boycott will be outlined and translated to provide Palestinian and international groups insight into the potential powerful impacts of such a boycott.

The Case for Academic Boycott against Israel was compiled under the guidance of Shir Hever, an economist and Coordinator of the AIC's Socioeconomic Research and Advocacy Project. Holly Kilroy was responsible for much of the research, assisted by Laura Vail.

The AIC hopes that this document will prove a valuable resource for boycott campaigns throughout the world, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

Alternative Information Center
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General

- **Increase in University Entrance Age Discriminatory Towards Arab Students**

Israeli universities have begun placing enrollment conditions on certain subjects by increasing the age of entrance. Tel Aviv has introduced a new enrollment condition specifying that applicants to the departments of social work, nursing or Naturopathy must be at least 20 years of age. Prospective students who want to study subjects such as biology, mathematics, physics, and computer science at Haifa University must be at least 19 years of age.

These criteria disproportionately discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel, who do not serve in the Israeli military following high school and are prepared to enter university at the age of 18. The aforementioned age conditions also do not apply to Jewish students who postpone their military service in favour of university studies.

-Adalah, The Legal Centre for Arab and Minority rights in Israel

2003; *Adalah Asks Tel Aviv University to Cancel Discriminatory Application Policy*; Adalah, The Legal Centre for Arab and Minority rights in Israel; News Update; 27 March

<http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases2003.php>

-Arab Association for Human Rights

Cook, Jonathan; 2006; *On the Margins, Annual Review of Human Rights Violations of the Arab Palestinian Minority in Israel 2005*; Arab Association for Human Rights

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/reports/index.htm>

-Arab Association for Human Rights

2005; *Increase in University Entrance Age Discriminatory Towards Arab Students*; Arab Association for Human Rights; Weekly Review of the Arabic Press in Israel; No. 227; 17-24 June

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/wrap/2005/wrap227.pdf>

-Tel Aviv University

2007; Registration and Admissions Centre; Undergraduate and Graduate Studies 2007-2008; Tel Aviv University

<http://www.tau.ac.il/admissions/documents/2007/engtoc.html>

- **Israeli Ministry of Education Excludes Arab-Palestinian Schools from Enrichment Program for Weakened Pupils**

The Israeli Ministry of Education began a program known as the "Third Semester" to assist students who failed the high school matriculation exams. All of the 30 cities in which the program was implemented are Jewish – not one Palestinian town or village in Israel benefited from the program. Further, the Ministry of Education subsidized the program registration fees for Jewish students from weakened socioeconomic backgrounds

-Arab Association for Human Rights

2005; *Exclusion of Arab Schools from "Third Semester" Program*; Arab Association for Human Rights; Weekly Review of the Arabic Press in Israel; No. 230; 8-15 July

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/wrap/2005/wrap230.pdf>

2005; *Ha'aretz*. (Hebrew edition); 14 July

2005; *Hadith al-Nas*; 15 July; P. 37

- **Reinstatement of Psychometric Exam Discriminates against Arab-Palestinian Students in University Admissions**

The decision to reinstate the psychometric exam as a condition for admission to Israeli university serves to block the education of numerous potential Arab-Palestinian students.

-Adalah, The Legal Centre for Arab and Minority rights in Israel

2003; *Reinstatement of Psychometric Exam Discriminates against Arab Students in University Admissions*; Adalah; The Legal Centre for Arab and Minority rights in Israel; News Update; 4 December

<http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases2003.php>

Ariel University Centre of Samaria

- **Ariel University Centre Located in Occupied Palestinian Territories**

The Ariel University centre is located in the Israeli settlement of Ariel in the West Bank. Its programs, orientated towards 'demobilized soldiers', are coordinated with the Israeli Ministry of Defence. The university's website notes that "as a demonstratively Zionist institution, the University Center has two key requirements: every student must study one course per semester on some aspect of Judaism, Jewish heritage or Land of Israel studies, and the Israeli flag must be displayed in every classroom (and) laboratory...on campus."

Former Prime Minister Sharon, in relation to the college's attempted conversion to a university, noted that "I ascribe great importance to converting the school in Ariel into a university. This is in keeping with government policy, which views strengthening the settlement blocs as one of its primary goals. Transforming [Ariel University Center of Samaria] into a university is in keeping with government policy".

-Ariel University Centre of Samaria

2007; *Expanding Horizons from the Heartland*; About Ariel University Centre of Samaria; Ariel University Centre of Samaria

<http://www2.yosh.ac.il/www1/About.asp>

-Ariel University Centre of Samaria

2005; *Israeli Cabinet Votes for Ariel University Center of Samaria University Status*; Ariel University Centre of Samaria Close-Up; Ariel University Centre of Samaria

http://www2.yosh.ac.il/www1/Close_up.asp#5

- **Ariel University Centre Accepts Only International Students who are Jewish**

The only program offered by the Ariel University Centre for international students is *The Academic Program for Jewish Leadership*. The application form does not even ask religion, but merely "synagogue affiliation" and "Rabbi".

-Ariel University Centre of Samaria

2007; *Educational Goals*; Academic Program for Jewish Leadership; Ariel University Centre of Samaria

<http://www2.yosh.ac.il/www1/lead/Education.asp>

Bar Ilan University

- **Bar Ilan University Established College in the Occupied Palestinian Territories**

In 1982, Bar Ilan University founded the College of Judea and Samaria (now the Ariel University Centre of Samaria) in the Israeli settlement of Ariel, located in the West Bank. The College of Judea and Samaria served as a regional branch of Bar Ilan University, which maintained long-term academic links with the college and often supervised the degree programs of the college.

-Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1994; *Regional colleges associated with Universities*; Israel Ministry for Foreign Affairs; 24 June

http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFAArchive/1990_1999/1994/6/REGIONAL%20COLLEGES%20ASSOCIATED%20WITH%20UNIVERSITIES

-The Guardian

McGreal, Chris; 2005; *West Bank College benefits from backlash against British boycott of Israeli academia*; The Guardian; Ariel; 26 May

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/israel/Story/0,2763,1492429,00.html>

- **All Students at University Required to Complete Jewish Studies**

In addition to specialization studies, each student at Bar-Ilan is required to complete basic Jewish studies in the following areas: Bible, Talmud, Jewish Philosophy and Jewish History, at a scope of 14 weekly hours.

-Bar Ilan University

2007; *Bachelor's degree studies*; Bar Ilan University

<http://www1.biu.ac.il/indexE.php?id=1064&pt=1&pid=36&level=3&cPath=36,1064>

Haifa University

- **Arab-Palestinian Students Disproportionately Brought before University Disciplinary Committee**

While Arab-Palestinian students make up only 25% of the school populace in Haifa University, they account for 80% of students called before the university disciplinary committee.

-Arab Association for Human Rights

Cook, Jonathan; 2006; *On the Margins, Annual Review of Human Rights Violations of the Arab Palestinian Minority in Israel 2005*; Arab Association for Human Rights

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/reports/index.htm>

-Arab Association for Human Rights

2005; *Arabs disproportionately disciplined at Haifa University*; Arab Association for Human Rights; Weekly Review of the Arabic Press in Israel; No. 248; 11-18 November

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/wrap/2005/wrap248.pdf>

- **Haifa University Charges Students for Protesting against Racist Conference, Comments by University Lecturer**

Haifa University brought Arab-Palestinian students in front of a disciplinary committee for demonstrating against a university-sponsored conference entitled “The Demographic Problem and the Demographic Policy of Israel.” The “demographic problem” is a Jewish-Israeli euphemism for addressing the population growth of Palestinian citizens of Israel. Haifa University further brought three Arab-Palestinian students before a university tribunal for their protest against racist comments by a university lecturer.

-Arab Association for Human Rights

Cook, Jonathan; 2006; *On the Margins, Annual Review of Human Rights Violations of the Arab Palestinian Minority in Israel 2005*; Arab Association for Human Rights

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/reports/index.htm>

-Arab Association for Human Rights

2005; *Haifa University Charges Students for Protesting against Racist Conference*; Arab Association for Human Rights; Weekly Review of the Arabic Press in Israel; No. 224; 27 May – 3 June

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/wrap/2005/wrap224.pdf>

www.mahsom.com; May 30, 2005

-Arab Association for Human Rights

Cook, Jonathan; 2006; *On the Margins, Annual Review of Human Rights Violations of the Arab Palestinian Minority in Israel 2005*; Arab Association for Human Rights

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/reports/index.htm>

-Arab Association for Human Rights

2005; *Arab Students on Trial at Haifa University*; Arab Association for Human Rights; Weekly Review of the Arabic Press in Israel;

No. 208; 4 – 12 February

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/wrap/2005/wrap208.pdf>

- **Leader of National Arab-Palestinian Student Union Banned from Entering Campus of Haifa University**

Haifa University barred Ms. Khulood Badawi, Head of the National Arab-Palestinian Student Union, from entering the university campus, claiming that she participated in two university demonstrations held without necessary permits.

Adalah, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, reports that it further handled three similar cases in which Arab-Palestinian students were barred from entering campus by the university's security department. This ban lacks legal foundation and fails to provide the students with the opportunity to defend themselves.

-Adalah, The Legal Centre for Arab and Minority rights in Israel

2003; *Adalah Asks University of Haifa to Cancel Ban on Arab Student Leader*; Adalah, The Legal Centre for Arab and Minority rights in Israel; News Update; 26 February

<http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases2003.php>

- **Illegal Military Service Criterion in Allocation of Housing at Haifa University Discriminates Against Arab Students**

Haifa University awarded preference to students who served in the Israeli army when allocating its student housing, a blatantly discriminatory criteria against Arab-Palestinian students. In August 2006, the Haifa District Court issued a precedent-setting judgment that this preference of military veterans by Haifa University in the allocation of student housing is illegal

Lawsuit 217/05, *Haneen Na'amneh, et. al. v. Haifa University*

-Adalah, The Legal Centre for Arab and Minority rights in Israel

2007; *Adalah to the Supreme Court: Haifa University is Indifferent to Discrimination against Arab Students in the Allocation of Dorms*; Adalah, The Legal Centre for Arab and Minority rights in Israel; Adalah's Newsletter; Volume 36; May

<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/may07/4.php>

-Adalah, The Legal Centre for Arab and Minority rights in Israel

2006; *Haifa District Court Issues Precedent-Setting Judgment that Considering Military Service Criterion in Allocation of Housing at Haifa University Discriminates Against Arab Students*; Adalah, The Legal Centre for Arab and Minority rights in Israel; Adalah's Newsletter; Volume 27; July – August

<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/jul-aug06/1.php>

-Arab Association for Human Rights

Cook, Jonathan; 2006; *On the Margins, Annual Review of Human Rights Violations of the Arab Palestinian Minority in Israel 2005*; Arab Association for Human Rights

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/reports/index.htm>

-Arab Association for Human Rights

2005; *Haifa University Dormitories Being Converted to Israeli Army Residences*; Arab Association for Human Rights; Weekly Review of the Arabic Press in Israel, No. 239; 9-16 September

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/wrap/2005/wrap239.pdf>

-Arabs Against Discrimination

2005; Tamara Traubman; *Petition: Haifa University discriminates against Arab students in university housing*; Arabs Against Discrimination; www.haaretz.co.il; 28 October

<http://www.aad-online.org/2005/english/11-November/12-17/16-11/2.html>

- **University Warns International Students Away from Palestinian Towns, Villages in Israel**

Haifa University's official guide for international students includes specific warnings against visiting Palestinian towns and villages located within Israel.

-Arab Association for Human Rights

Cook, Jonathan; 2006; *On the Margins, Annual Review of Human Rights Violations of the Arab Palestinian Minority in Israel 2005*; Arab Association for Human Rights

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/reports/index.htm>

- **No Signs in Arabic on Haifa University Campus**

Haifa University does not use Arabic on its campus signs, using only Hebrew and English. Arabic is an official language in Israel and more than 25% of students at the university are Palestinian citizens, for whom Arabic is their first language.

-Arab Association for Human Rights

Cook, Jonathan; 2006; *On the Margins, Annual Review of Human Rights Violations of the Arab Palestinian Minority in Israel 2005*; Arab Association for Human Rights

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/reports/index.htm>

-Arabs Against Discrimination

2005; *Arabic should be added onto signs at Haifa University - ACRI asks Haifa University's president to add Arabic onto signs on the university campus*; Arabs Against Discrimination; www.acri.org.il, 3 March

<http://www.aad-online.org/2005/english/6-June/18-23/18-6/aad4/1.htm>

Hebrew University

- **"Certificate of Integrity" Required for Arab-Palestinian Visitors to Hebrew University, Arab-Palestinian Students from Other Universities Denied Entry**

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem has stipulated that any and all Arab-Palestinian visitors (excluding students) requesting to enter the university may be requested to provide a "certificate of integrity" as precondition for entrance.

On occasion, Arab-Palestinian students of other Israeli colleges and universities have been refused entry to Hebrew University, purely on the basis of nationality.

-Adalah, The Legal Centre for Arab and Minority rights in Israel

2003; *Adalah Asks for Investigation into Hebrew University Ban on Arab Student*; Adalah, The Legal Centre for Arab and Minority rights in Israel; News Update; 5 March

<http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases2003.php>

-Arab Association for Human Rights

2006; *The entry requirement for the Arabs to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, with a "certificate of integrity"*; Arab Association for Human Rights; Weekly Review of Human Rights Violations of the Palestinian Arab Minority in Israel; No. 298; 27 Oct – 3 Nov

www.arabhra.org/publications/wrap/2006/wrap298.doc

- **Discriminatory Registration Policy at Hebrew University's Sports Center**

Hebrew University's sport centre opened the possibility for membership to Jerusalem residents living in neighbourhoods near the university. Evidence from a member of the sport centre staff, in addition to video footage, exposed a policy of refusing membership to Palestinian citizens and residents of Jerusalem.

-Arab Association for Human Rights

Cook, Jonathan; 2006; *On the Margins, Annual Review of Human Rights Violations of the Arab Palestinian Minority in Israel 2005*; Arab Association for Human Rights

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/reports/index.htm>

-Arab Association for Human Rights

2005; *Discriminatory registration policy at Hebrew University's sports center*; Arab Association for Human Rights; Weekly Review of the Arabic Press in Israel; No. 247; 4-11 November

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/wrap/2005/wrap247.pdf>

- **Hebrew University Confiscates Palestinian land**

In October 2004, Hebrew University began construction of student housing and university offices on Palestinian land owned primarily by residents of the destroyed Palestinian village of Lifta.

-Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem & the Land Research Center

2004; *Hebrew University expansionist plans*; Monitoring Israeli Colonizing activities in the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza; Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem & the Land Research Center; 7 December

http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=465

- **Hebrew University Discourages International Students from Visiting East Jerusalem or Demonstrating**

-The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Security directives; Rothburg International School

<http://overseas.huji.ac.il/campus.asp?cat=65&in=0>

Tel Aviv University

- **Tel Aviv University Built on Destroyed Palestinian Village of Sheikh Muwannis**

Tel Aviv University was built on the lands of the Palestinian village of Sheikh Muwannis, a village largely destroyed in 1948. “The Green House”, the former home of Sheikh Muwannis’ leader, is one of the few original buildings of the village that remains and currently serves as a restaurant for university faculty. Tel Aviv University strongly objected to the posting of a sign on the Green House that would explain its origin.

-The Zochrot Organisation

Zandberg, Esther; 2003; *Opposition to the demolition of the Beidas House, one of the last remains of Sheikh Muwanis in Tel Aviv*; The Zochrot Organisation; Ha’aretz; 13 August

<http://www.zochrot.org/index.php?id=393>

- **University Expands Holdings of Destroyed Palestinian Village Lands**

Tel Aviv University stands to expand its holdings of lands of the destroyed Palestinian village of Sheikh Muwannis, ironically intending to build on them a new Faculty for Archeology.

-The Zochrot Organisation

Carmon, Omar; 2005; *A Palestinian Village in the Heart of Tel Aviv?*; The Zochrot Organisation; MSN.co.il; 15 August

<http://www.zochrot.org/index.php?id=405>

Ohalo College

- **Arab-Palestinian Student Disqualified from Running for Student Union President**

At Ohalo College, the only Arab-Palestinian candidate running for the head of the Student Union was disqualified on the day of the election itself – because he is not a member of the union, according to college officials. This was never mentioned, or even alluded to, at any of the previous meetings, even though those meetings dealt with all the legal aspects of the elections.

Adham al-Zaabi had been running for president of the student union at the college—whose student body is 50% Arab—against three Jewish candidates.

-Arab Association for Human Rights

Cook, Jonathan; 2006; *On the Margins, Annual Review of Human Rights Violations of the Arab Palestinian Minority in Israel 2005*; Arab Association for Human Rights

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/reports/index.htm>

-Arabs Against Discrimination

Nasr, Fatma; 2005; *Ohalo College stops Arab candidate from standing in student union elections*; Arabs Against Discrimination; www.mahsom.com; 7 June

<http://www.aad-online.org/2005/english/11-November/5-10/5-11/aad4/1.html>

Oranim College

- **College Rejects Applicants Who Complete Psychometric Tests in Arabic**

Arab-Palestinian applicants to the Oranim College have protested against the rejection of applicants who complete their psychometric tests in Arabic. Oranim College requires that prospective students take the psychometric test in Hebrew or complete five sections in Hebrew on the high school leaving exam (*bagrut*). As Arabic is the first language of Arab-Palestinians in Israel, this requirement clearly discriminates against them and greatly favours Jewish Israelis for whom Hebrew is the first language.

-Arab Association for Human Rights

Cook, Jonathan; 2006; *On the Margins, Annual Review of Human Rights Violations of the Arab Palestinian Minority in Israel 2005*; Arab Association for Human Rights

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/reports/index.htm>

-Arab Association for Human Rights

2005; *Oranim College Rejects Students Who Complete Psychometric Tests in Arabic*; Arab Association for Human Rights; Weekly Review of the Arabic Press in Israel; No. 230; 8-15 July

<http://www.arabhra.org/publications/wrap/wraphome2005.htm>

-Arabs Against Discrimination

2005; *Oranim College refuses to accept Arab students who pass the psychometric exam in Arabic*; Arabs Against Discrimination; www.mahsom.com; 15 July

<http://www.aad-online.org/2005/english/9-September/24-29/24-9/aad4/2.htm>