

**BRICUP – British Committee for the Universities of Palestine is an organisation of UK-based academics whose missions are:**

- to support Palestinian universities, staff and students, and
- to oppose the continued illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands with its concomitant breaches of international conventions of human rights, its refusal to accept UN resolutions or rulings of the International Court, and its persistent suppression of Palestinian academic freedom

**BRICUP's aims are to:-**

- put pressure on the EU and the UK government to exclude Israel from the European Research Area.
- encourage individual academics to break their professional links with Israel by:
  - Refusing research collaborations with Israeli institutions, refereeing papers or grant applications issuing from such institutions
  - Refusing to attend academic conferences in Israel
  - Supporting those Israeli academics who work with their Palestinian colleagues in their demand for peace and justice
  - Working within our trades unions and professional organisations in support of such actions
  - Exploring forms of support to Palestinian academic colleagues

*"I've been very deeply distressed in my visit to the Holy Land; it reminded me so much of what happened to us black people in South Africa. I have seen the humiliation of the Palestinians at checkpoints and roadblocks, suffering like us when young white police officers prevented us from moving about"*

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu,  
April 2002**

*"Can Israeli oppression of the Palestinians from 1948 onwards, and the dreadful occupation, now be compared to Apartheid? Actually it is far, far worse"*

**Ronnie Kasrils,  
Jewish White South African ANC Minister,  
October 2005**

To read more about the case for the boycott, check out our pamphlet: **Why Boycott Israeli Universities?**

Read the headlines, breaking news and key articles on our website **[www.bricup.org.uk](http://www.bricup.org.uk)**

Email us at **[info@bricup.org.uk](mailto:info@bricup.org.uk)** or write to us at **BM BRICUP, London, WC1N 3XX**

How to support BRICUP

- Organise a meeting on your campus to discuss the boycott (we will provide speakers and background material)
- Become a supporter and help fund our work – we urgently need money to cover printing and meeting costs.
- Donations by cheque to BM BRICUP at the address above

# The academic boycott of Israel

Would you like a wall through your campus?

## Why boycott Israeli universities?

Since 1967 Israel has occupied Palestinian territories by force, has built settlements there in violation of numerous United Nations resolutions and destroyed the infrastructure of Palestinian civil society. The Separation Wall, targeted assassinations, the bloody assault on Gaza, the Lebanon debacle – these and many more show the unacceptable face of Israel's expansionist policies.

Israeli universities and academics play a key role in supporting these policies, while the educational rights of Palestinians are denied. Palestinian universities are arbitrarily closed, students prevented from attending classes, academics deported, refused entry, harassed and unable to teach or research.

In Israel, campuses such as the Hebrew University in Jerusalem are built on illegally confiscated Palestinian land. Bar-Ilan University supported a campus in the illegal settlement of Ariel. There are special privileges and courses for Israeli soldiers and security organisations like Shin-Bet, whilst Mizrachi (Arab Jewish) and Palestinian Israelis are systematically disadvantaged. Haifa, with its 20% Arab students, will not recognize the elected Arab student union, and has hosted conferences on the 'demographic problem' supposedly represented by the Palestinian population outnumbering Jews in the future. One prominent Haifa university professor's response to the 'problem' was, "if we want to remain alive, we will have to kill and kill and kill. All day, every day... If we don't kill we will cease to exist."

It was in response to such abuses, in 2004, even before the recent Israeli actions in Gaza and Lebanon, that Palestinian academic trade unions and NGOs (PACBI) issued their call:

*We, Palestinian academics and intellectuals, call upon our colleagues in the international community to comprehensively and consistently boycott all Israeli academic and cultural institutions as a contribution to the struggle to end Israel's occupation, colonization and system of apartheid.*

[www.pacbi.org](http://www.pacbi.org)

Boycott is one of the most effective forms of non-violent action civil society can take to support the Palestinians and put pressure on the Israeli state. This is why PACBI's call was swiftly supported by other Palestinian cultural workers, and by individuals, trade unions and grassroots organisations across the world as part of a growing movement for BDS – Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions.

BRICUP, with its focus on the academic boycott and direct support of Palestinian universities, is a central part of that movement.

