

Dec 18, 2025 - Redebeitrag BDS Berlin: On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Germany and Israel, FU Berlin invited to an academic ceremony "Collaborating: On the Significance of Scientific Exchange between Israel and Germany". The ceremony was cancelled, but the protest against the FU's complicity was not.

Good to hear that the ceremony was cancelled!

There shouldn't be a ceremony on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Germany and Israel at the FU Berlin

There should be a mourning ceremony to commemorate the scholasticide¹ in Gaza committed by Israel and its accomplices!

There should be a ceremony to sever all ties with Israeli universities that have been complicit in Israel's plausible genocide in Gaza!

FU Berlin collaborates on 10 active projects, as well as 4 past projects, with 8 Israeli partners or companies arming or financially supporting Israel.²

It would be going too far to list them all here. But let us shortly look into what Maya Wind writes in her remarkable book *Towers of Ivory and Steel, How Israeli Universities deny Palestinian Freedom*³ where the scholar investigates precisely those material realities, showing how Israeli academia is deeply embedded in the state and implicated in decades of Palestinian dispossession

In an interview given to the Jewish Current in May 2024 under the title **The Complicity of Israeli Academia**⁴ she discusses Israeli universities' longstanding role in Palestinian subjugation

One of the interviewer's questions referred to what Wind is pointing out, that there is literally a military base on the campus of the Hebrew University. And the interviewer continues further how else do Israeli universities cooperate with the military and help arm it?

Maya Wind's answer:

„Universities have always worked closely with Israeli military industries. For example, Rafael, one of Israel's leading state-owned weapons corporations, was created by the Technion and the Weizmann Institute [science- and engineering-focused research universities]. Before 1948, the Haganah, the main Zionist militia, operated a science corps, which developed bases on the campuses of the Hebrew University, the Weizmann Institute, and the Technion. The science corps was eventually brought under the auspices of the Ministry of Defense, and this directorate became known as the Authority for the Development of Armaments—the Hebrew acronym of which is "Rafael." The Israeli military deploys the weapons and technologies produced by these corporations in occupied Palestinian territory to enforce apartheid and commit war crimes—and now genocide.

Israeli universities also offer over 50 tailored degree programs for soldiers and security-state personnel. Soldiers trained at the Hebrew University often serve in Unit 8200, which surveils Palestinians to collect their most intimate information: sexual orientation, medical treatments needed by a loved one, financial difficulties, and so on. This information is used to extort Palestinians into collaborating. Moreover, in the past seven months, soldiers from Unit 8200 have participated in the genocide by creating "target banks,"⁵ which direct Israeli military fire in Gaza."

As mentioned before, there is no need for a ceremony on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Germany and Israel at the FU Berlin.

There is an urgent need and a moral obligation for the FU Berlin to sever its ties with Israeli universities!

¹ <https://aurdip.org/en/scholasticide-in-gaza/>

² <https://academiccomplicity.eu/germany/FUBE>

³ <https://www.mayaywind.com/book>

⁴ <https://jewishcurrents.org/the-complicity-of-israeli-academia>

⁵ <https://www.972mag.com/lavender-ai-israeli-army-gaza/>