

Collaborations of TUM and LMU with Israeli institutions and possible breaches of international law

This report examines the connections between the Technische Universität München (TUM) and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) and the heavily militarized universities in Israel. It is shown that the majority of partner institutions are integral to the Israeli industrial-military complex, thereby contributing to the numerous human rights violations observed over the past years. As of November 2024, the Israeli military has killed about 43,391 people in Gaza, in addition to 732 in the West bank¹. In May 2024, the UN estimated more than 10,000 people to be buried under the rubble in Gaza².

According to one estimation published by the Lancet, the true figure of death toll since October 2023 is around 186,000, and more than 90,000 have sustained injuries in the Gaza Strip, which is a small area measuring merely 363 square kilometres³. According to Doctors without Borders, “Israel’s military has systematically dismantled hospital after hospital”⁴. Palestinians suffer catastrophic injuries such as amputations, crushed limbs and severe burns; approximately 32% of those killed are children⁵. Already in October 2023, the Amnesty International Secretary General stated:

¹[Home Page | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory](#)

²[10,000 people feared buried under the rubble in Gaza | The United Nations Office at Geneva](#)

³United Nations, 16.09.2024: Briefing by the UN Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza, Sigrid Kaag, to the Security Council <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/sigrid-kaag-securitycouncil-briefing-16sep24/> (Archived on 02.11.2024)

⁴Doctors without borders, 24.07.2024: Five Facts about the war in Gaza. <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/five-facts-about-war-gaza> (Archived on 02.11.2024)

⁵Doctors without borders, 24.07.2024: Five Facts about the war in Gaza. <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/five-facts-about-war-gaza> (Archived on 02.11.2024)

“In their stated intent to use all means to destroy Hamas, Israeli forces have shown a shocking disregard for civilian lives. They have pulverized street after street of residential buildings killing civilians on a mass scale and destroying essential infrastructure, while new restrictions mean Gaza is fast running out of water, medicine, fuel and electricity.”⁶

Already on October 12th 2023, UN experts stated that Israel’s strikes on Gaza amount to collective punishment⁷.

⁶Amnesty International, 20.10.2023, Damning evidence of war crimes as Israeli attacks wipe out entire families in Gaza. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/damning-evidence-of-war-crimes-as-israeli-attacks-wipe-out-entire-families-in-gaza/> (Archived on 02.11.2024)

⁷12.10.2023, Reuters. UN experts say Israel's strikes on Gaza amount to 'collective punishment' <https://www.reuters.com/world/un-experts-say-israels-strikes-gaza-amount-collective-punishment-2023-10-12/> (Archived on 02.11.2024)

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Preface

The special case of Bavarian Universities: military institutions by law? The “Bavarian Civil Clause-Ban”

Many German universities want to prevent research results from being used by the military through adopting civil clauses. Thus, around 70 universities in Germany have self-imposed civil clauses (“Zivilklausel”) that prohibit research for military purposes and the use of research results by the military. They pledge that teaching, research, and studying should serve exclusively peaceful purposes, thereby contributing to a sustainable, peaceful, and democratic world⁸.

However, in Bavaria, not a single university has ever adopted a civil clause for which there is no official reason. It is speculated that it is due to Bavaria's role as an economic hub, particularly for defence companies⁹. Moreover, the Bavarian government now has officially **banned** the implementation of civil clauses by law: no university in Bavaria can pledge to only do research for peaceful purposes and thus any university in Bavaria can be involved in military research. The draft law from February 2024 states, “through the new regulation, such civil clauses are explicitly prohibited.”¹⁰. As a result, no Bavarian university is permitted to pledge that its research will only be used for peaceful purposes, effectively allowing military-related research in the region. This law seeks to ensure that universities cannot block the military use of their research, despite the fact that no such civil clauses had previously existed in Bavaria.

⁸Liste aktueller Zivilklauseln sortiert nach dem Datum ihres Bestehens. URL: <http://zivilklausel.de/bestehende-zivilklauseln#29H> (Archived on 02.11.2024).

⁹Frey, Christian (2024): Bayerns Universitäten müssen für das Militär forschen. In: Augsburger Allgemeine. 16.04.2024. URL: <https://www.augsburger-allgemeine.de/bayern/landespolitik-bayerns-universitaeten-muessen-fuer-das-militaer-forschen-id70442901.html>. (Archived on 02.11.2024)

¹⁰Draft of the new law (02.2024): Gesetzentwurf der Staatsregierung Gesetz zur Förderung der Bundeswehr in Bayern. URL: <https://www.bayern.de/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Entwurf-Gesetz-zur-Foerderung-der-Bundeswehr.pdf> (20.06.2024). (Archived on 02.11.2024)

Mandatory cooperation of Bavarian Universities with the Military: the “Kooperationsgebot”

Bavaria plans to be the first federal state with a new law requiring universities to cooperate with the military¹¹. This new law is intended to make Bavaria even more attractive to the army and the defence industry. The state government also wants to mandate a "cooperation requirement" between universities and the Bundeswehr with the law. If "for reasons of national security" it is necessary, there should even be an obligation to cooperate¹².

The increasing militarization will intensify the cooperation between universities, the army and weapons companies. In Bavaria and thus also in Munich, however, universities have long been engaged in military research due to the absence of civil clauses.

In the face of Bavaria's close academic, cultural and economic ties to Israel it is therefore particularly urgent to review the role of Bavaria's universities - particularly TUM and LMU - in the ongoing violations of international law.

¹¹Beham, Sarah (2024): Kooperation von Unis mit Bundeswehr: Kritik und Knackpunkte. In: BR. 17.04.2024. URL: <https://www.br.de/nachrichten/bayern/kooperation-von-unis-und-bundeswehr-kritik-und-knackpunkte,UADToAL> (14.06.2024). ([Archived](#) on 02.11.2024)

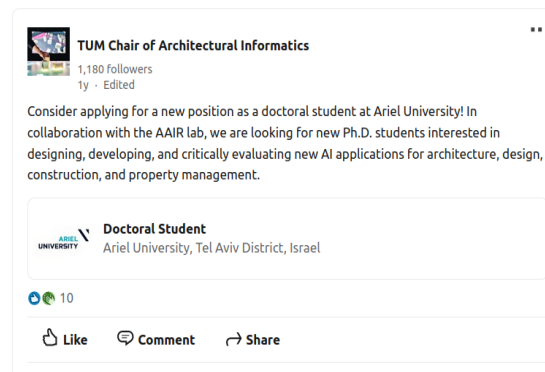
¹²Süddeutsche Zeitung (2024): Bayern will Hochschulen Zusammenarbeit mit Militär vorschreiben. In: SZ. 23.01.2024. URL: <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/bayern/bundeswehr-bayern-zusammenarbeit-unis-schulen-1.6337446> ([Archived](#) on 02.11.2024)

1. Ariel University

Ariel University is located in an illegal Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank, violating international law under the Fourth Geneva Convention and UN Resolution 2334. TUM's collaboration with this institution raises significant legal concerns due to Ariel University's direct involvement in settlement expansion. The collaboration exists between the chair of Architectural Informatics at TUM and the Architectural Artificial Intelligence Research Laboratory at Ariel University (AAIRL),

- **Job Listing with On-Campus Housing in Illegal Settlement:** TUM posted a job listing offering on-campus housing benefits at Ariel University, encouraging international staff to reside in an illegal settlement¹³. This move effectively promotes settlement in occupied territory, contravening international law¹⁴. (Screenshots see Figure 1 & 2)
- This advertised PhD position is **co-supervised** by TUM and Ariel University, according to the job listing.

TUM Chair of Architectural Informatics' Post



Benefits package

- Stipend (72K NIS a year)
- Preferred dormitories on campus (optional)
- Teaching employment at the Ariel School of Architecture (optional)
- Possibility of partially remote working and flexible working hours
- Social, cultural, and sports events and activities

Figure 1 & 2: Screenshots from the PhD position listing at Ariel University, as posted on TUM's official LinkedIn account, along with details from its Benefits Package. This package

¹³Details about the position. See "Benefits package: dormitories on campus":

<https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/3358868981/?refId=TIEoZpHTSeKNAnPXWaFpNA%3D%3D&trackingId=TIEoZpHTSeKNAnPXWaFpNA%3D%3D> (Archived on 27.10.2024: <http://archive.today/DUYNG>)

¹⁴Job Posting by TUM: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/tum-chair-of-architectural-informatics_consider-applying-for-a-new-position-as-a-activity-6998974697392480256-PWw/ (Archived on 27.10.2024, <http://archive.today/wTji5>)

includes dormitory accommodations situated on illegally occupied land. While the listing indicates the location as the Tel Aviv District, the project description contains a link to the website that explicitly states the address as being within the Architecture Department located in the illegal settlement¹⁵.

- On the website of the Architectural Artificial Intelligence Research Laboratory at Ariel University (AAIRL) at Ariel University, following job listing is found¹⁶:

We look for:

- A doctoral and master student in
“Artificial Intelligence–Based
Participatory Design Method for Large–
Scale Architectural Projects” in
collaboration with **MTRL, Technion IIT**.
- A doctoral and master student in
“Architectural Artificial Intelligence
Applications” in collaboration with the
**Chair of Architectural Informatics, TU
Munich**.

Figure 3: Job listing for a doctoral and master student for a TUM/Ariel Project.

- The collaboration between Ariel and TUM has resulted in publications in the field of architecture¹⁷. The AAIRL at Ariel University lists the Chair of Architectural Informatics at TUM as a research partner¹⁸.

¹⁵<https://aairl.com/contact/>

¹⁶<https://aairl.com/jobs/>

¹⁷Examples of publications:

<https://portal.fis.tum.de/de/publications/think-ai-side-the-box-exploring-the-usability-of-text-to-image-ge>

<https://portal.fis.tum.de/de/publications/evaluating-large-language-model-chatbots-to-engage-communities-in>

¹⁸<https://aairl.com/members/gerhard-schubert.html>

- The AAIRL's location is within the School of Architecture at Ariel University (See Figure 4).

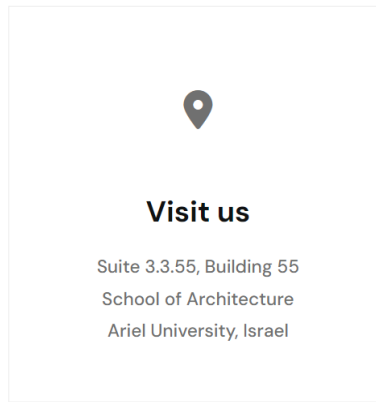


Figure 4: The AAIRL Lab is clearly located within Ariel University's building¹⁹.

The collaboration between TUM and Ariel is not limited to a joint PhD position. For example, the Chair of Architectural Informatics (TUM) conducted a workshop at the illegal settlement university, with a focus on AI in architectural design. Furthermore, TUM claims Ariel is located "in Israel", in defiance of international law.

¹⁹ <https://aairl.com/contact/>

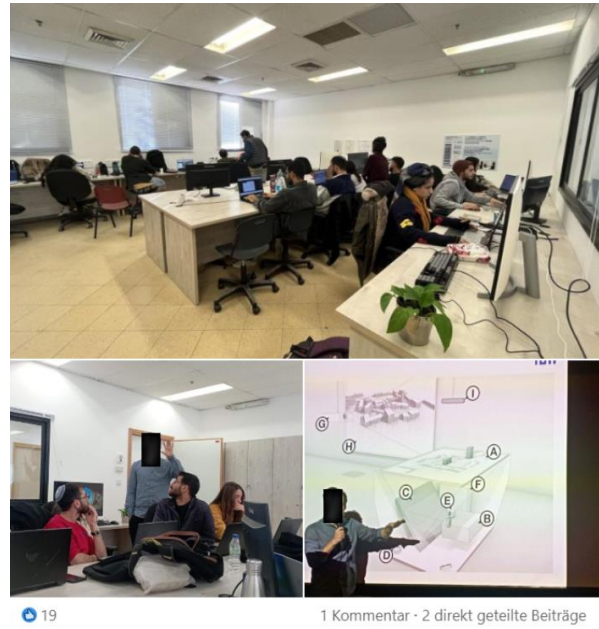
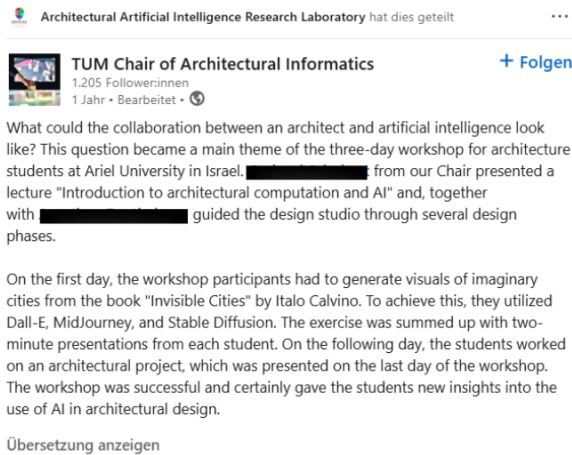


Figure 5*: TUM conducts workshops on AI and architecture at the illegal settlement university in Ariel²⁰. *names redacted on screenshot

Despite the current situation, in 2024, following research project in collaboration with Ariel University was published on TUM's website (it has now been deleted/ see archived link in the footnote), highlighting that the collaboration is ongoing.

²⁰https://www.linkedin.com/posts/aairl_what-could-the-collaboration-between-an-architect-activity-7024333683700510720-Dv3/ (Archived on 16.11.2024)



BUILDING A HUMAN SIMULATION BY LEVERAGING LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

Topic Summer 2024

This project aims to deliver a revolutionary human simulation platform that uses state-of-the-art language models for predicting human interaction with built environments. Some preliminary studies have suggested the use of LLMs for human subject studies, and other studies have applied LLM to social games. There has been some successful work on how to engineer an LLM to make decisions and interact with each other.

Scope of the Project:

The project's scope includes:

- Creating a software prototype, generating a heatmap of human presence.
- Integrating the tool into Rhino using the Grasshopper platform (CAD software).
- Comparing the developed prototype with existing crowd simulation software.

Expected Outcome:

We expect a working prototype that gets a 3D model, runs a simulation, and produces a heatmap.

Contact

Jonathan Dorthheimer, Ph.D.
Chair of Architectural Informatics
jonathan.dorthheimer@tum.de

Technical University of Munich

In cooperation with

Ariel University Israel

Figure 6*: “Technical University of Munich in cooperation with Ariel University, Israel”: TUM and Ariel collaborate on a variety of research projects²¹.

*Names on screenshot redacted

About Ariel's Architecture Department:

- **Architecture Department's Expansion Plan:** Ariel University's Architecture Department, published the “TMA 100 - Strategic Outline Plan for the Land of Israel west of Jordan 1948-2048.” in 2019, written by a Professor at the Architecture department of Ariel University.

²¹Please view the archived link since TUM removed the website: <https://archive.ph/wip/YsaoZ> (original link: https://www.cit.tum.de/fileadmin/w00byx/cit/Studium/Studiengaenge/Master_Informatik/Interdisziplinaeres_Projekt/Ausschreibung_HUMAN_SIMULATION.pdf) (Archived on 04.11.2024, <https://archive.ph/wip/YsaoZ>)

This plan outlines a vision for extending Israeli sovereignty across all Palestinian territories, promoting an occupation policy that directly contradicts international mandates²². (See Figure 7)

- Construction of Luxury Homes in Settlements:** Graduates from Ariel's Architecture Department, with which TUM collaborates, are involved in constructing luxury homes in illegal settlements. For example, the company *Erez Ashkenazi Architects Ltd.*, founded by an Ariel Architecture alumnus, showcases homes built in settlements like Oranit, further embedding settlement infrastructure on occupied Palestinian land²³. (See Figure 8 & 9).

Through this collaboration, TUM is complicit in illegal settlement activities, aligning itself with projects that undermine international law and ethical academic standards. By partnering with Ariel University, TUM legitimizes and endorses illegal settlements that are widely condemned by the international community, including the United Nations and the German Foreign Ministry. This endorsement not only compromises TUM's integrity as an academic institution but also contributes to the ongoing violation of Palestinian rights and the obstruction of any path toward peace and justice in the region.



²²See paper "1948-2048 תמ"א 100 - תוכנית מתאר אסטרטגית עבור ארץ ישראל ממערב לירדן" Yoram Ginsburg — Israeli Research Community Portal . Read the full paper here (In Hebrew): https://drive.google.com/file/d/11h2eBOsw_hlkZ_rsFB1ZQGwn8oVUU1hN/view?pli=1

²³<https://ea-architects.com/en/ea-projects/?tab=residence> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

Figure 7: The *Strategic Outline Plan for the Land of Israel West of Jordan 1948-2048*, published by the Architecture Department at Ariel University (a partner of TUM), envisions “Jewish Sovereignty” over all of historic Palestine, spanning from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. This plan also includes the Golan Heights, which is internationally recognized as Syrian territory. It proposes dividing the occupied land into 12 provinces with a high-level governance strategy for Israel by 2048.



Figure 8 (left): Plan and design of a “modern-style private residence”, showcased on the Erez Ashkenazi Architects Ltd. website. Location: Oranit, an illegal settlement²⁴. The firm's CEO is an alumnus of the Ariel University's architecture department which TUM collaborates with.²⁵

Figure 9 (right): “Plan and design of a modern-style private residence, Leshem community settlement²⁶”, showcased on the same website. Leshem is also an illegal settlement.

²⁴ <https://www.ochaopt.org/atlas2019/images/db/israeli-settlements-checkpoints/israeli-settlments.pdf>

²⁵ <https://ea-architects.com/en/projects/%d7%91%d7%99%d7%aa-%d7%a4%d7%a8%d7%98%d7%99-%d7%90%d7%95%d7%a8%d7%a0%d7%99%d7%aa/> (archived on 28.10.2024)

²⁶ <https://ea-architects.com/en/projects/%d7%aa%d7%9b%d7%a0%d7%95%d7%9f-%d7%95%d7%a2%d7%99%d7%a6%d7%95%d7%91-%d7%91%d7%99%d7%aa-%d7%9e%d7%92%d7%95%d7%a8%d7%99%d7%9d-%d7%a4%d7%a8%d7%98%d7%99-%d7%9e%d7%95%d7%93%d7%a8%d7%a0%d7%99-%d7%9c%d7%a9/> (archived on 28.10.2024)

2. The Technion - The Israel Institute of Technology

2.1 Why is Technion University problematic?

2.1.1 Technion's ties to the Israeli military, Israeli Ministry of Defence and the ongoing violation of human rights and international law:

Technion University serves as a backbone of the Israeli military-industrial complex by maintaining close relationships with major arms manufacturers such as the Israeli-government owned Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, Israeli Aerospace Industries and Elbit Systems, sparking international outrage due to the company's involvement in "violations of international humanitarian law"²⁷. The university hosts regular events inviting high-ranking individuals and companies from the Israeli military, such as the Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Sciences²⁸, sponsored by the leading Israeli weapons companies Rafael and Elbit Systems, and attended by representatives of TU Munich, as this report will outline below. Technion serves as a venue for significant military events, including the Israeli Conference for Applied Rocket Propulsion, which involves participation from the Ministry of Defence and various arms manufacturers²⁹. Additionally, these companies frequently organize events across different faculties at Technion^{30,31}. The president of Technion openly recognizes the substantial backing provided by weapons manufacturers through the awarding of prizes to representatives of leading weapons companies³².

²⁷Haaretz: <https://www.haaretz.com/2009-09-12/ty-article/u-s-pension-fund-giant-confirms-divestment-from-israel-firm/0000017f-ef07-da6f-a77f-ff0fd5280000> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

²⁸<https://iacas.technion.ac.il/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/IACAS-2024-Cloud-Program.pdf> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

²⁹<https://aerospace.technion.ac.il/events/the-first-israeli-conference-for-applied-rocket-propulsion/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³⁰<https://aerospace.technion.ac.il/events/focus-on-the-industry-elbit/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³¹<https://ece.technion.ac.il/industrial-affiliate-program/our-partners/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³²In 2023, the CEO of the weapons company Elbit Systems received a prize "Technion Guardian" by the president of the Technion, recognizing the arms company's "generous support" for research, lecture halls, sports halls, projects, and more: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/elbitsystems_bezael-butzi-machlis-president-and-ceo-activity-7073597984222982145-WfmL (Archived on 03.11.2024)

The university contributed heavily to developing military technologies used in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and maintains a high level of support to the Israeli military in the following ways:

- **Close ties to the weapons company Elbit Systems:**

According to the Israeli newspaper *+972 Magazine*, Technion has close ties to Elbit Systems, which is “Israel’s largest publicly traded arms and security company responsible for 85 percent of drones used by the Israeli military, as well as the electronic surveillance system on Israel’s separation wall in the West Bank”³³.

- **Joint research center with Elbit Systems:**

In 2008, Technion opened a center for developing electro-optics in partnership with Elbit systems, one of the largest Israeli weapons companies^{34, 35}. Elbit uses vision systems in its helmet-mounted displays for pilots in combat aircraft³⁶. According to *+972 Magazine*, Technion “specifically trains students to work in Elbit”³³.

- Technion has developed a course on **marketing the Israeli weapons industry** to the international market for export³³.

- Technion has numerous joint academic programs with the Israeli military³⁷.

- **Close ties to the Israeli Air Force:**

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has maintained a long-standing relationship with Technion, primarily because the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering at Technion plays a crucial role in producing a steady stream of graduates who contribute to IAI³⁸. Moreover, alumni from Technion's aerospace program have taken on engineering roles within the Israeli Air Force as well as in various sectors of the Israeli space and satellite industries.

³³<https://www.972mag.com/top-israeli-university-marketing-countys-arms-industry-to-the-world/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³⁴<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1027664/000091068008000462/f6k06152008.htm> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³⁵<https://web.archive.org/web/20110108122020/http://www.hayadan.org.il/elbit-donate-laboratory-to-the-technion-1606085/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³⁶<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1027664/000091068008000462/f6k06152008.htm> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³⁷<https://web.iem.technion.ac.il/programm/alonim-excellence-program/> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

³⁸<https://publications.ats.org/aerospace-engineering/PDF.pdf> (Archived on 03.11.2024)

- **Close ties to Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd³⁹:**
As a large Israeli state-owned weapons manufacturer, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems produces missiles, drones, and other weapons systems for the Israeli military that has been involved in the current war.
- **Technion University's military departments:**
 - **The Advanced Defence Research Institute (ADRI) / Center for Security Science and Technology (CSST):**
According to ADRI, their aim is to educate engineers and scientists “who would lead the IDF”⁴⁰. They host “student competitions”, where representatives of the IDF form the jury⁴¹, and award projects such as “Performing War Game Simulations”⁴². ADRI offers master's programmes specifically to IDF officers⁴³.

2.1.2 Research and academic activities with ties to the violations of Palestinian human rights:

- **Technion developed the remote-controlled Caterpillar D-9 bulldozer:**
According to Technion, the university has developed the Caterpillar D9 Bulldozer,⁴⁴. This remote-controlled bulldozer is being used by Israel to demolish Palestinian homes to make way for illegal settlements^{45,46}. According to one military officer, the Israeli military doubled its order for D-9s after they “performed

³⁹[The Technion: Protecting Israel for 100 Years - American Technion Society](#) (Archived on 03.11.2024)

⁴⁰<https://adri.technion.ac.il/our-aim/>

⁴¹<https://adri.technion.ac.il/undergraduate-student-competition-on-defense-and-security-ideas/> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁴²<https://adri.technion.ac.il/winners-cat/undergraduate-en/> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁴³<https://adri.technion.ac.il/systems-engineering-se-classes-for-idf-officers/> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁴⁴972 Mag [Top Israeli university marketing country's arms industry to the world - +972 Magazine](#) (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁴⁵Haaretz, <https://web.archive.org/web/20221207112202/https://www.haaretz.com/2004-06-16/ty-article/the-un-vs-caterpillar/0000017f-e88c-df2c-a1ff-fed9dec0000> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁴⁶<https://www.hrw.org/news/2004/11/21/israel-caterpillar-should-suspend-bulldozer-sales> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

remarkably during operation Cast Lead [the invasion of Gaza]"⁴⁷. According to the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, "the remote-controlled D9 bulldozer (...) has been used in the Gaza war. The D9 is remotely operated by a screen and joystick to carry out missions to expose ground and demolish buildings without jeopardizing soldiers"⁴⁸.

- **The Scream:** According to the Israeli newspaper + *972 Magazine*, Electro-Optics Research & Development, a subsidiary of the university, manufactured the "Scream", which is an acoustic system that creates sound that are unbearable to humans at distances up to 100 meters^{49, 50}. Also called the "Shofar", which is a non-lethal crowd control weapon, used to suppress non-violent demonstrations in the occupied Palestinians territories⁵¹.
- **The stealth drone:** As part of the Technion Autonomous Systems Program (TASP), students at The Technion developed the "Stealth drone" which can fly up to 1850 miles and carry two 1100-pound "smart bombs". TASP also developed the "Dragonfly" drone whose 9-inch wingspan makes it small enough to "easily enter rooms through small windows and to send back photos from a miniature camera" according to the American Technion Society's website⁵²
- **In a statement, the president of Technion himself admits to Technion's involvement in the military:**
"Engineers who graduated from the Technion were responsible for the development and production of the armored vehicles used by the IDF today, as well as all missile defence systems. To this day, 80% of the engineers working on the Iron Dome are our graduates. The microelectronics industry also started here, and this is just a partial list"⁵³

⁴⁷Jerusalem Post: URL: <https://www.jpost.com/israel/black-thunder-unmanned-dozers-to-play-greater-role-in-idf> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁴⁸Haaretz, <https://archive.fo/P6mAQ#selection-2103.0-2103.411>

⁴⁹https://web.archive.org/web/20140929060324/https://whoprofits.org/sites/default/files/weapons_report-8.pdf (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁵⁰[Top Israeli university marketing country's arms industry to the world - +972 Magazine](#) (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁵¹[Top Israeli university marketing country's arms industry to the world - +972 Magazine](#) (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁵²https://web.archive.org/web/20130201010929/http://www.ats.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=6455&security=1&news_iv_ctrl=1522 (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁵³<https://www.israelhayom.com/2024/02/08/there-are-many-very-good-technological-universities-but-people-feel-that-we-have-something-different-here/> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

Additionally, Technion supports soldiers who are participating in “Operation Swords of Iron”. The President of Technion stated:

“I assume we still have over 1,000 who are still called up, and it's important to understand how we cope with this fact and how we assist them when they return. There are a lot of officers here, a lot of combat unit veterans, it has always been like that”; “It is important for us that each of our reservists know that the entire Technion has joined the cause and committed to supporting them⁵⁴.”

2.2 TUM's potential contribution to violations of international law and human rights violations happening in Gaza.

2.2.1 Institute of Flight System Dynamics (TUM) and their ties to the Israeli Military:

The Institute of Flight System Dynamics at TUM, is specialized in the design of drones and trajectories. The Institute is the host of the “Forum Munich Aerospace” where the focus lies on air warfare⁵⁵, where representatives from the military and weapons companies give presentations on topics such as “Artificial intelligence – opportunities and limitations for military aviation” or “Future Combat Air Systems” or “From Hollywood to the future battlefield”⁵⁶.

This Institute has maintained a close relationship with Technion's Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, led by an expert in ballistic missile defense, producing many research papers together and collaborating on various research projects. The ballistic missile defence expert, a professor at the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering at Technion University, was a visiting researcher at the Institute of Flight System Dynamics at TUM

⁵⁴<https://www.israelhayom.com/2024/02/08/there-are-many-very-good-technological-universities-but-people-feel-that-we-have-something-different-here/> (Archived on 05.11.2024)

⁵⁵The Forum Munich Aerospace is a yearly conference which invites representatives from the military and military companies such as the head of “Head of Future Air Combat Systems bei Airbus D&S”.
<https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/forum-munich-aerospace/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁵⁶<https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/forum-munich-aerospace/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

from 03/2019 to 09/2019⁵⁷. Furthermore, he is frequently invited to TUM for guest lectures and seminars^{58, 59, 60, 61}:

2.2.2 TUM and the missile defence specialist

About the missile guidance expert / Professor at Technion:

- According to Technion's homepage, he is an established **specialist in “missile guidance, ballistic missile defence, optimization techniques, optimal control theory, flight dynamics and control, flexible structures dynamics and control”**⁶². According to himself, he has been working as an engineer in the Israeli Defence Industry for more than 20 years⁶³.
- **Israeli Military Industries:**
He worked for IMI Systems, Israeli Military Industries⁶⁴, which was later acquisitioned by Elbit Systems in 2018. IMI Systems had provoked international outrage for its production of prohibited cluster munition, before being acquisitioned by Elbit. A detailed Human Rights Watch report on Israel's use of cluster munition,

⁵⁷ <https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/staff-members/prof-joseph-ben-asher/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁵⁸ Guest Seminar, March 2024 <https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/guest-seminar-by-prof-joseph-ben-asher-from-technion-israel-institute-of-technology-haifa/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁵⁹ Guest Seminar, 2015: <https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/ben-asher-flight-trajectory-optimization/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶⁰ Guest Lecture, 2017: https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/category/lectures_exams/page/3/ (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶¹ Guest Lecture, 2016: <https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/guest-seminar-high-speed-navigation-using-time-optimal-path-primitives-by-prof-joseph-z-ben-asher/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶² <https://aerospace.technion.ac.il/person/ben-asher-joseph-2/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶³ <https://yanai.net.technion.ac.il/%D7%A4%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%A4-%D7%99%D7%95%D7%A1%D7%99-%D7%91%D7%9F-%D7%90%D7%A9%D7%A8-%D7%94%D7%A4%D7%A7%D7%95%D7%9C%D7%98%D7%94-%D7%9C%D7%94%D7%A0%D7%93%D7%A1%D7%AA-%D7%90%D7%95%D7%99%D7%A8/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶⁴ See “Author”: He was” formerly with Israel Military Industries and Tel-Aviv University”. [Optimal Control Theory with Aerospace Applications - Ben-Asher, Joseph Z - Dussmann - Das Kulturkaufhaus](#) (Archived on 06.11.2024)

which according to HRW violated international humanitarian law, exposed IMI's role in the production⁶⁵. Cluster Munitions, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, "kill and injure large numbers of civilians"⁶⁶. The missile defence expert's publications in military research date back more than two decades: while being affiliated with IMI, he published a book in 1998 called "Advances in Missile Guidance Theory"⁶⁷.

- **Wales Ltd:**

After his time at Israeli Military Industries (IMI), the missile guidance specialist switched to the Israeli company Wales Ltd. His activity at Wales Ltd. dates back to 2009⁶⁸, where he published a paper together with the manager of Wales Ltd⁶⁹. At the "International Conference on Integrated Air Missile Defence" 2023, the missile guidance expert, representing Wales Ltd., gave a presentation about "Scramjet Vehicle Optimal Trajectories"⁷⁰. In total, five representatives of Wales Ltd. gave presentations at this conference, with titles such as "Hypersonic Weapons"⁷⁰, and "The Impact of Missiles Sophistication"⁷⁰.

This missile defence expert has been a frequent visitor and collaborator at TUM for many years; his latest work with members of TUM was published in August, 2024⁷¹. Together with Technion University's aerospace department, TUM professors, students and researchers, have collaboratively published numerous research papers.

⁶⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/report/2008/02/16/flooding-south-lebanon/israels-use-cluster-munitions-lebanon-july-and-august-2006> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶⁶ <https://www.icrc.org/en/law-and-policy/cluster-munitions> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶⁷ <https://www.buecher.de/artikel/buch/advances-in-missile-guidance-theory/21682153/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁶⁸ Paper published by Wales Ltd. manager Dror Cohen: [Allocation of Radar Tracking Resources by Direct Optimization | Journal of Aerospace Information Systems](#)

⁶⁹ https://rocketreach.co/wales-ltd-management_b7916965c5f8063c (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁷⁰ He was a speaker at the 16th 3AF Integrated Air and **Missile Defence** conference, representing Wales Ltd. https://www.3af-integratedairmissiledefence.com/images/DOCUMENTS/IAMD2023_PRELIMINARY_PROGRAMME.pdf (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁷¹ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/382946942_Approximation_of_Closed-Loop_Sensitivities_in_Robust_Trajectory_Optimization_under_Parametric_Uncertainty (Archived on 06.11.2024)

It is particularly notable that in the acknowledgement section of one of the papers, authors from TUM *et al.* thank a representative from Israel's state-owned weapons company Rafael: "The authors wish to thank [REDACTED] of Rafael for editing the paper and for his useful comments"⁷².

The list of research papers TUM produced in collaboration with the missile defence researcher is following:

- **(2024).** Approximation of Closed-Loop Sensitivities in Robust Trajectory Optimization under Parametric Uncertainty. <https://www.mdpi.com/2226-4310/11/8/640>
- **(2023).** COLIBRY - A Counter Optimization Library for MATLAB. <https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/10.2514/6.2023-2584>
- **(2023).** Robust eVTOL Trajectory Optimization Under Uncertainties – Challenges and Approaches. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1742-6596/2514/1/012002>
- **(2022).** Continuous Integration of Optimal Control Based Flight Control Law Clearance. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357596992_Continuous_Integration_of_Optimal_Control_Based_Flight_Control_Law_Clearance
- **(2021).** Continuous Integration of Optimal Control Based Flight Control Law Clearance. <https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/abs/10.2514/6.2022-1895>
- **(2020).** Bi-level Cross Entropy Method and Optimal Control for Air Traffic Sequencing and Trajectory Optimization. <https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/10.2514/6.2020-1590>
- **(2020).** Flight Control Law Clearance Using Worst-Case Inputs Under Parameter Uncertainty. <https://doi.org/10.2514/1.G005236>
- **(2020).** Optimal Control Based Flight Control Law Clearance Using Generalized Polynomial Chaos. Presented at the 60th Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Sciences (IACAS). <https://mediatum.ub.tum.de/node?id=1710990>
- **(2019).** Trajectories for a Mobile Robot with Bounded Accelerations in the Presence of a Wall or a Bounded Obstacle. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/Time_Optimal_Trajectories_for_a_Mobile_Robot_With_Acceleration_and_Speed_Limits_in_the_Presence_of_an_Obstacle
- **(2016).** Flight Control Law Clearance using Worst-Case Inputs. http://www.icas.org/ICAS_ARCHIVE/ICAS2016/data/papers/2016_0073_paper

⁷² Diepolder, J., Gabrys, A., Schatz, S., Bittner, M., Rieck, M., Grüter, B., Holzapfel, F. (TUM), Ben-Asher, J.Z. (Technion). (2016). *Flight Control Law Clearance using Worst-Case Inputs*. http://www.icas.org/ICAS_ARCHIVE/ICAS2016/data/papers/2016_0073_paper (Archived on 06.11.2024)

- **(2021).** Time Optimal Trajectories for a Mobile Robot with Acceleration and Speed Limits in the Presence of an Obstacle.
https://asmedigitalcollection.asme.org/Time_Optimal_Trajectories_for_a_Mobile_Robot_With_Acceleration_and_Speed_Limits_in_the_Presence_of_an_Obstacle

2.2.3 The Israel Aerospace Conference at Technion: hosting high-ranking representatives of the Israeli Military - and TUM

This missile defence expert, a person deeply involved in the Israeli military industry, and TUM's Department of Flight System Dynamics share a long history of collaborative research. This close collaboration did not stop or decrease since 7th of October 2023. On the contrary, on the 9th of May 2024, TUM, together with this missile guidance researcher of Technion/Wales Ltd., was represented at the 63rd Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Science, an event sponsored by the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and Israel's leading weapons manufacturers Rafael and Elbit Systems⁷³. Next to two representatives of the weapons company Elbit and three representatives of the arms company Rafael, the missile guidance specialist of Technion and TUM hosted a session on "Data, AI and Autonomy"⁷⁴. This is not the first time that TUM has been represented at this Israeli military conference. TUM is found on the conference's program in 2023⁷⁵, 2017⁷⁶ and 2020^{77, 78}.

⁷³ Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) is wholly owned by the Israeli government. The IAI produces drones, fighter jets, missiles, avionics, and space-based technologies.

⁷⁴ <https://iacas.technion.ac.il/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/IACAS-2024-Cloud-Program.pdf> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁷⁵ <https://www.proceedings.com/content/074/074324webtoc.pdf>

⁷⁶ B. Grüter, M. Bittner, M. Rieck, J. Diepolder, F. Holzapfel, "Bi-level Homotopic Aircraft Sequencing Using Gradient-Based Arrival Time Assignment and Direct Optimal Control", in **57th Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Sciences, IACAS 2017**. <https://portal.fis.tum.de/en/publications/bi-level-homotopic-aircraft-sequencing-using-gradient-based-arrival> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁷⁷ J. Diepolder, J. Z. Ben-Asher, P. Piprek, F. Holzapfel, "Optimal Control Based Flight Control Law Clearance Using Generalized Polynomial Chaos", in **60th Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Sciences (IACAS), 2020**. <https://portal.fis.tum.de/en/publications/optimal-control-based-flight-control-law-clearance-using-generalized-polynomial-chaos> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁷⁸ <https://www.proceedings.com/content/055/055146webtoc.pdf>

2.2.4 TUM and Technion: The Cornetto Project:

On Technion's website, the University presents a project called "Project Cornetto". The Project Objective is also laid out on the website: "This missile is designed to be a reusable platform for testing and studying different guidance systems inside the missile and tracking systems on the ground"⁷⁹. The missile's requirements are described in detail; the missile should "achieve the longest distance possible", it should reach a height of 1500 meters by a ballistic launch, and, for this report most importantly:

"The missile should fit the launcher designed by TUM University"⁷⁹.

Again, the Institute for Flight System Dynamics at TUM was involved in this project.



Figure 4: The "Project Cornetto" Missile, a collaborative project between TUM and Technion University

Missile Requirements:

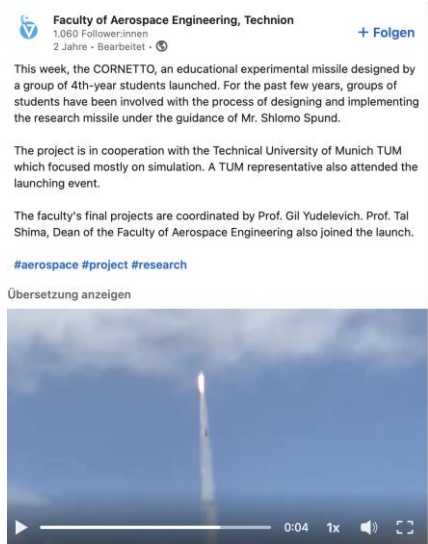
- ➔ Reach the height of at least 1500 [m] by a ballistic launch, with a given propellant (with roll control).
- ➔ The missile should achieve the longest distance possible by gliding and keeping controlled route with guidance.
- ➔ The missile needs to be aerodynamically stable and withstand all the anticipated loads during flight.
- ➔ Traced from the ground with the help of navigation systems.
- ➔ The missile should fit the launcher designed by TUM University.
- ➔ The nose of the missile will carry different payloads.
- ➔ The missile will have salvaging system, making it reusable.

Figure 5: Screenshot of Technion's Website listing the Missile requirements: "The missile should fit the launcher designed by TUM University".

⁷⁹<https://aerospace.technion.ac.il/projects/project-cornetto-second-year/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

In 2022, the missile was finally launched. On a post on LinkedIn, the Aerospace Faculty of Technion clearly states:

“The project is in cooperation with the Technical University of Munich TUM”⁸⁰.



In 2020, the Cornetto missile project was presented at a Leading Israeli military conference, the “Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Science”⁸¹. The conference is organized by representatives of the core pillars of the Israeli military-industrial complex:

The Israeli Air Force, the Israeli Ministry of Defence, Elbit Systems, Rafael, Israel Aerospace Industries, according to the conference’s website.

TUM was also represented in the military conference programme with its own contribution.

⁸⁰https://www.linkedin.com/posts/carmella-cohen-62028a193_corneto-an-educational-experimental-missile-activity-6920311198743724033-eoIJ/?t=%7Bseek_to_second_number%7D (Archived 13.11.2024 <http://archive.today/C4dyz>)

⁸¹ <https://www.proceedings.com/content/055/055146webtoc.pdf>

2.2.5 Conclusion: TUM's collaboration with Technion's Aerospace department is a possible violation of international law:

Any collaboration with the militarized Technion University, and specifically with its highly militarized aerospace department led by the high-ranking missiles expert, presents a **possible violation of international law and human rights**. Due to the missile guidance specialist's long-time activity for Israeli weapons companies, his deep involvement with the Israeli military and his continuous academic contribution to the production of arms, any collaborative research with him poses the risk of being applied for the production of weapons which could be used against Palestinians, which presents a possible violation of international law.

TUM's collaboration with Technion's Aerospace department potentially goes against the ruling of the International Court of Justice: "The USA, UK, Germany and other EU states must signal their respect for the Court's legally binding decision and do everything in their power to uphold their obligation to prevent genocide"^{82, 83}. TUM, as a legal body, should follow the recommendation by the ICJ and immediately suspend its to the Department for Aerospace Engineering at Technion University until collaborative research projects are fully investigated for their potential violations of international law and human rights.

2.2.6 TUM and Technion: Collaborations in the field of Communications Engineering:

Technion University and TU Munich maintain a strong partnership in the field of Communications Engineering. In 2018, the Institute for Communications Engineering at TU Munich collaborated with Technion to host a workshop called the "2018 Workshop on Coding, Cooperation, and Security in Modern Communication Networks" (COCO). This event was held at Technion and was organized by professors from Ben Gurion University, Technion, and TU Munich. In addition, representatives from Israeli military companies

⁸² <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/01/israel-must-comply-with-key-icj-ruling-ordering-it-do-all-in-its-power-to-prevent-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza/>

⁸³ ICJ Ruling: <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203447>

such as Rafael and ELBIT Systems participated in the workshop⁸⁴. Furthermore, numerous individuals from Ben-Gurion University, Technion, and Hebrew University also took part in the program. The workshop's website provides the following introduction to the event:

“On December 10-11, 2018, [REDACTED] of Ben Gurion University, [REDACTED] of the Technion, and [REDACTED] of the TUM Institute for Communications Engineering are organizing the 2018 Workshop on Coding, Cooperation, and Security in Modern Communication Networks (COCO 2018).”⁸⁵

TUM's department for Communications Engineering is also collaborating with Technion's DNA Storage Lab at the Henry and Marilyn Taub Faculty of Computer Science at the Technion. The project description (in short) is: “Computational, Chemical and Biotechnology Solutions to Improved DNA Data Storage: from In-Product Information and Cryptography to Long-Term Archiving”⁸⁶.

At the department “Henry and Marilyn Taub Faculty of Computer Science” at Technion, which TUM collaborates with for this project, students are regularly awarded fellowships funded by Elbit Systems^{87,88}. The Faculty organizes periodic “recruitment days”, in collaboration with arms manufacturers, including Rafael and Elbit Systems⁸⁹, advertised as follows: “Rafael representatives will meet you in Ulman Building on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 between 12:00-14:00, and will offer you various jobs.”⁹⁰

According to Technion University itself, “computer science graduates are sought out by Israel’s leading defence companies”⁹¹.

⁸⁴<https://www.ce.cit.tum.de/en/Int/events/events-2018/2018-workshop-on-coding-cooperation-and-security-in-modern-communication-networks-coco/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁸⁵<https://www.ce.cit.tum.de/en/Int/events/events-2018/2018-workshop-on-coding-cooperation-and-security-in-modern-communication-networks-coco/> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁸⁶<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101115134> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁸⁷<https://cs.technion.ac.il/news/view-new.php?nwid=1242> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁸⁸<https://cs.technion.ac.il/news/view-new.php?nwid=1016> (Archived on 06.11.2024)

⁸⁹<https://cs.technion.ac.il/news/view-new.php?nwid=1036> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

⁹⁰<https://cs.technion.ac.il/news/view-new.php?nwid=808> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

⁹¹<https://ats.org/our-impact/the-technion-protecting-israel-for-100-years/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

2.2.7 Technion: An official partner university of TUM:

- TUM has an agreement with Technion, students from all kinds of departments can apply. Additionally, students can apply for a 3–12-month research stay⁹².

3. Tel Aviv University

3.1 Why is Tel Aviv University problematic?

3.1.1 Tel Aviv Professors making genocidal statements:

- **Professor calling for mass extermination in northern Gaza. Here is a quote by Prof. Uzi Rabi of Tel Aviv University:**

“Remove the entire civilian population from the north, and whoever remains there will be lawfully sentenced as a terrorist and subjected to a process of starvation or extermination”⁹³

(Quote by Prof. Uzi Rabi, director of the department of Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University⁹⁴. LMU’s department of Middle Eastern Studies specifically lists Tel Aviv University as a partner University - see page 37)

3.1.2 Ties to the Israeli military, Israeli Ministry of Defence and the ongoing violation of human rights and international law:

- The Israeli newspaper 972mag reports about the intensifying collaboration between the Israeli Military and Tel Aviv University⁹⁵:
“It’ll turn campus into an army base’: A collaboration between the Israeli army and TAU has drawn backlash from faculty and Palestinian students decrying the

⁹²[Global Experiences Report Page – 26 – Development Site](#)

⁹³<https://www.972mag.com/northern-gaza-liquidation-scenario-eiland-rabi/> (Archived on 06.10.2024)

⁹⁴<https://isgap.org/fellow/professor-uzi-rabi/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

⁹⁵<https://www.972mag.com/tau-army-militarization-palestinian-students/> (Archived on 17.11.2023)

militarization of academia.”

- Tel Aviv University’s venture capital firm, TAU Ventures, boasts of investing in Xtend⁹⁶, which provides systems to deploy armed drones that have been used in Israel’s current potential war crimes.⁹⁷

“Four days after October 7th, the IDF chose Xtend as one of their core partners in the war against Hamas. Since then, their team has put its former activities on hold and redirected energies to supporting the IDF 100%.”⁹⁸.

“Tel Aviv startup Xtend, a developer of a human-guided AI drone and robots operating system that was tested and deployed by the Israeli army in a dense urban battlefield during the ongoing war with the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip, has raised \$40 million in fresh capital in a private funding round.”⁹⁹. “Xtend will use the funds to further develop AI operating system that allows humans to manage teams of drones and robots for defense and civilian purposes”⁹⁹.

- **Tel Aviv University & Elbit Systems:**

TAU cooperates with Elbit Systems in multiple fields including autonomous drone navigation and nanoscience^{100,101}. Elbit Systems is one of the primary suppliers of weapons and surveillance systems to the Israeli military and has been actively contributing to the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian population:

“Elbit-made MPR 500 multi-purpose bombs are being used by Israel in its attacks on the Gaza Strip. Designed for use in “densely populated urban

⁹⁶https://www.linkedin.com/posts/tau-ventures_xtend-our-portfolio-company-is-one-of-the-activity-7187760918267654144-Z92v/ (Archived on 22.08.2024)

⁹⁷<https://afsc.org/gaza-genocide-companies> (Archived on 16.09.2024)

⁹⁸<https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/skrkv9u8t> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

⁹⁹<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-developer-of-vr-drone-system-used-by-idf-in-hamas-war-raises-40m/> (Archived on 22.08.2024)

¹⁰⁰https://web.archive.org/web/20240129235401/https://tilabs.tau.ac.il/Our_Partners_Already/ (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁰¹<https://web.archive.org/web/20240219121318/https://english.tau.ac.il/nanoscience/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

warfare,"[Israel Defense] these bombs contain 26,000 controlled fragments for "high kill probability." Elbit says that these 500-pound bombs are as powerful as U.S.-made 2,000-pound MK-84 bombs"¹⁰²

- Tel Aviv University has a joint research centre with the Israeli Air Force, "Elrom Center" which was established in 2022. According to Jerusalem Post, the centre is part of the IAF's vision

*"to harness scientific knowledge for the benefit of the Air Force, encouraging creative and critical thinking and accelerating the incorporation of innovation into world views of the Air Force." "The academic research carried out at the Center will "help in the development and adaptation of the Air Force's operational concepts, combat doctrines, and power- building processes."*¹⁰³



Figure 6: Israeli Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Amikam Norkin (left) and Tel Aviv University President Professor Ariel Porat (right). Credit: Israel Hadari/Tel Aviv University.

¹⁰² <https://afsc.org/gaza-genocide-companies> (Archived on 16.09.2024)

¹⁰³ https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-691357#google_vignette (Archived on 07.11.2024)

3.1.3 The Institute for national security studies (INSS):

The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) is affiliated with Tel Aviv University. This affiliation provides the INSS with access to academic resources, research collaborations, and intellectual contributions from the university's faculty and students:

The INSS is credited with developing the Dahiya Doctrine, also known as the doctrine of disproportionate force. This doctrine, adopted by the Israeli military, **advocates for the destruction of national infrastructure and the infliction of intense suffering on the civilian population.** In a Publication made on October 2, 2008 - still in the INSS website to this day - Gabi Siboni calls for the use of a "force that is disproportionate to the enemy's actions and the threat it poses. Here are some excerpts from the paper:

"Such a response aims at inflicting damage and meting out punishment to an extent that will demand long and expensive reconstruction processes."

"The strike must be carried out as quickly as possible and must prioritize damaging assets over seeking out each and every launcher."

*"in Lebanon, attacks should both aim at Hizbollah's military capabilities and should target economic interests and the centers of civilian power that support the organization."*¹⁰⁴.

3.1.4 Research and academic activities with ties to the current violations of Palestinian human rights:

- The Tel Aviv University has instituted a propaganda course on Israel's current genocide on Gaza:

*"The new academic course follows another initiative of the Lowy International School: a task force initiated by international students to assist Israel's national effort to tell the war's true and tragic story to the world."*¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁴<https://www.inss.org.il/publication/disproportionate-force-israels-concept-of-response-in-light-of-the-second-lebanon-war/> (Archived on 15.10.2023)

¹⁰⁵<https://web.archive.org/web/20240107065306/https://international.tau.ac.il/war-course> (Archived on

- The Tel Aviv University has instituted a task force of international students that help sharing misinformation to further the confusion over the facts of the genocide in social media as well as denying the apartheid system in Israel called out by multiple NGOs both in and outside Israel:

*"The ICC decision is the epitome of absurdity."*¹⁰⁶

*"When people say Israel is an apartheid state they truly have no idea what they are talking about."*¹⁰⁷

3.1.5 Support for students who participated or are participating in Operation Swords of Iron, starting October 2023:

- Tel Aviv University funded "care packages" for soldiers involved in the ongoing human rights violation and possible war crimes in Gaza.¹⁰⁸
- Tel Aviv University has actively supported its students who have been called up for reserve duty in the Israeli military during Operation Swords of Iron. The university announced that each of the estimated 5,239 students serving in the reserves would receive a grant of NIS 1,000 (\$250) as an initial measure to help ease their financial burden. This support extends beyond financial aid, as the university also provides academic adjustments to accommodate the students' military commitments and ensures that those serving in combat or combat-support units receive substantial additional grants¹⁰⁹.

07.11.2024)

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.instagram.com/p/C7PX4WRtnkK/> (Archived on 22.08.2024)

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.instagram.com/p/C71gQx0NxXR/> (Archived on 27.08.2024)

¹⁰⁸ <https://web.archive.org/web/20240425203812/https://international.tau.ac.il/lone-soldiers>

¹⁰⁹ <https://english.tau.ac.il/news/grants-31-10-23> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

3.1.6 Discrimination to its Palestinian students after 7 Oct 2023:

- Use of Arabic has sometimes even been forbidden on campus, as have displays of the Palestinian flag¹¹⁰.
- In an interview made with a member of the Hadash party in Israel and a representative of the Hadash student group at Tel Aviv University, the following testimony was given:

“At the beginning of the war, a lot of Palestinian students who posted on Instagram and Facebook against the war or in support of the people in Gaza were expelled from the university, and some of them were even sent to prison.”¹¹¹

- The presence and activities of Israeli military soldiers on campus have raised concerns among Palestinian students. The university's collaboration with the military to host a program for officer training has been criticized for potentially increasing political tensions and militarization on campus. According to 972 mag Palestinian students have expressed fears that the visibility of uniformed soldiers and the emphasis on military studies could exacerbate feelings of insecurity and discrimination¹¹².

¹¹⁰<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2016-02-17/ty-article/.premium/tel-aviv-u-tells-call-center-workers-not-to-speak-arabic/0000017f-e4be-dc7e-adff-f4bff4830000> (Archived on 11.01.2024)

¹¹¹<https://www.transnational-strike.info/2024/06/05/neither-the-river-nor-the-sea-interview-from-tel-aviv-university/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹¹²<https://www.972mag.com/tau-army-militarization-palestinian-students/> (Archived on 17.11.2023)

3.2 LMU & TUM's collaborations with Tel Aviv University

3.2.1 TUM and Tel Aviv University: The Autonomous Boat Project, funded by Rafael, mentored by former Israeli Air-Force Members:

- Ongoing Student exchange program: TUM students are invited to join an engineering project at Tel Aviv University, a project funded by the Israeli state-owned weapons company Rafael.
- In July 2024, Fraunhofer Institute (FI) posted a call for applications directed at TUM Mechanical Engineering students for joining a collaborative project between FI, TUM and Tel Aviv University, for building an "Autonomous Boat"¹¹³¹¹⁴.
- This Autonomous Boat will use Computer Vision and a sensor to map its surroundings. The project starts in November 2024¹¹⁵.
- The Autonomous Boat project at Tel Aviv University is funded by the Israeli state-owned weapons manufacturer Rafael, according to the project's website¹¹⁶.
- The Website also lists the mentors for this Robot-Boat: One of them has lead System engineering groups in the Israeli Air Force and "later in Elbit systems for 10 years"¹¹⁷. Elbit Systems is Israel's biggest military and arms company.
- Another mentor is equally affiliated with the Israeli Military. According to the project website, "He worked as a Hardware Engineer at the prestigious Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. He is a retired Colonel in the Israeli Air Force, serving 24 years. He retired as the Head of Technological Department."¹¹⁷
- The other mentors list Israel's state-owned weapons company Rafael's logo next to their biography¹¹⁸.

¹¹³<https://www.lz-sis.de/en/student-exchange-program.html#1319492117> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹¹⁴The Project Website of the Autonomous Boat is linked on the Fraunhofer Institute's call for applications website <https://www.sail-il.com/now-playing> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹¹⁵<https://www.lz-sis.de/en/student-exchange-program.html#1319492117> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹¹⁶<https://www.sail-il.com/now-playing> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹¹⁷<https://www.sail-il.com/copy-of-the-mentors-1> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹¹⁸<https://www.sail-il.com/the-mentors> (Archived on 11.11.2024)

Although Israel's attacks on Gaza have primarily been through air and ground, Israel has also launched strikes on Gaza from offshore¹¹⁹. On February 21st, CNN reported that a United Nations food convoy carrying vital food supplies was hit by Israeli Naval Fire¹²⁰. Due to the project's sponsors and the mentors' affiliation to the Israeli Military, there is a potential that through this collaboration, TUM is contributing to the development of highly sophisticated technology for Israeli naval warfare.



Figure 7: Grainy imagery shows the impact of naval gunfire on shore targets in Gaza. Image taken by the Israely Military¹²¹.

¹¹⁹https://www.naval-technology.com/newsletters/israeli-navys-saar-6-corvettes-used-to-strike-gaza-ground-targets/?type=Analysis&utm_source=media-website&utm_medium=Menu&utm_content=Other_Daily_News_Articles&utm_campaign=type3_aerospace-and-defense-market&utm_medium=Menu&utm_content=Other_Daily_News_Articles&utm_campaign=type3_aerospace-and-defense-market&cf-view&cf-view&cf-closed (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹²⁰<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/02/21/middleeast/un-food-convoy-gaza-israel-strike-cmd-intl/index.html> (Archived on 14.03.2024)

¹²¹https://www.naval-technology.com/newsletters/israeli-navys-saar-6-corvettes-used-to-strike-gaza-ground-targets/?type=Analysis&utm_source=media-website&utm_medium=Menu&utm_content=Other_Daily_News_Articles&utm_campaign=type3_aerospace-and-defense-market&utm_medium=Menu&utm_content=Other_Daily_News_Articles&utm_campaign=type3_aerospace-and-defense-market&cf-view&cf-view&cf-closed (Archived on 07.11.2024)



Figure 8: The Logo of the Israeli Air Force. The Logo is listed next to the introduction of a mentor of the Autonomous Boat project, which TUM, Fraunhofer Institute and Tel Aviv University will collaborate on, starting from November 2024.



Figure 9: The Logo of Israel's state-owned weapons manufacturer, Rafael, which is shown on the project's website. Rafael is listed as a key sponsor of the Autonomous Boat Project at Tel Aviv University¹²². Rafael produces high-tech equipment for Naval Warfare: "Rafael advanced systems include naval area soft and hard-kill defence, Electronic Warfare, missile strike systems, remote-controlled weapon stations and more"¹²³.

¹²² <https://www.sail-il.com/now-playing> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹²³ <https://www.rafael.co.il/domain/naval/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

Update 01.12.2024:

Fraunhofer Institute/ TU Munich drastically changed the website after the report containing crucial information about the project such as its funding has been uploaded on academicsforjustice.com. Here you can see the screenshots of the website before and after the report was published:

Project description before
(See Archived Link¹²⁴)

Project description after report was published. The Link (“Here you can find more insights...”) leading to the Israeli project website with the above information about its Rafael funding and military-affiliated mentors has been deleted.¹²⁵

<p>Description</p> <p>In 2023, Tel Aviv University (TAU) formed a dedicated team of mechanical engineering students to represent Israel in the prestigious international RoboBoat competition held in Sarasota, USA. The RoboBoat competition challenges teams to design, build, and deploy a fully Autonomous Surface Vehicle (ASV) that navigates a rigorous obstacle course. The team developed an ASV equipped with LIDAR, Computer Vision, and a sensor array to precisely map its surroundings.</p> <p>During the 2023 competition, the ASV faced significant challenges due to high winds and sharp turns, causing it to capsize. Despite the setback, the team demonstrated resilience by retrieving and repairing the boat. Our current objective is to enhance the ASV's stability to prevent similar issues in future competitions.</p> <p>We invite German students from the Technical University of Munich to join us in this exciting project. Your collaboration will be crucial in finding innovative solutions to stabilize the boat for the next competition in 2025. This is an excellent opportunity to apply your skills, learn from experts, and contribute to an international engineering challenge. Discover more about the work of the Israeli team and be part of this transformative experience!</p> <p>Here you can find more insights into the work of the Israeli Team!</p>	<p>Description</p> <p>In 2023, Tel Aviv University (TAU) formed a dedicated team of mechanical engineering students to represent Israel in the prestigious international RoboBoat competition held in Sarasota, USA. The RoboBoat competition challenges teams to design, build, and deploy a fully Autonomous Surface Vehicle (ASV) that navigates a rigorous obstacle course. The team developed an ASV equipped with LIDAR, Computer Vision, and a sensor array to precisely map its surroundings.</p> <p>During the 2023 competition, the ASV faced significant challenges due to high winds and sharp turns, causing it to capsize. Despite the setback, the team demonstrated resilience by retrieving and repairing the boat. Our current objective is to enhance the ASV's stability to prevent similar issues in future competitions.</p>
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¹²⁴<https://archive.ph/myix5>

¹²⁵<https://www.lz-sis.de/en/student-exchange-program.html#1319492117>

3.2.2 LMU's collaboration with Tel Aviv University:

LMU states: "Collaboration between LMU and Tel Aviv University goes back many years – one example being the LMU-TAU Research Cooperation Program launched in 2017. Built around joint research projects and regular academics exchange, this strategic partnership intensifies the two universities' collaboration across all disciplines."¹²⁶

- **LMU's collaboration with TAU in the field of Middle Eastern Studies ("Naher und Mittlerer Osten"); Concerning statement by TAU Professor Uzi Rabi (director Middle Eastern Studies at TAU) remarks calling for "extermination" of Northern Gaza**

"Institut für den nahen und mittleren Osten" lists 6 partner departments of Middle Eastern Studies at different universities where students can spend an Erasmus semester. Two of these Universities include Tel Aviv University as well as Hebrew University. As stated in the beginning of this chapter, the department of Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University is led by Uzi Rabi, who stated: "Remove the entire civilian population from the north, and whoever remains there will be lawfully sentenced as a terrorist and subjected to a process of starvation or extermination"¹²⁷

- **Chair of Space Mobility and Propulsion (Lehrstuhl für Raumfahrtmobilität und -antriebe)**

In 2021, the Chair of Space Mobility and Propulsion at the Technical University of Munich (TUM) held a seminar inside Tel Aviv University on rocket combustion engine technology. This seminar focused on advancing the understanding and simulation of methane-oxygen (CH₄-O₂) combustion processes within rocket engine chambers, aiming to develop a validated, simulative approach for optimizing such engines¹²⁸. While this research holds significant potential for technological advancement in aerospace and defense industries, it also raises

¹²⁶<https://www.lmu.de/en/newsroom/news-overview/news/lmu-president-bernd-huber-receives-honorary-doctorate-from-tel-aviv-university.html> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹²⁷<https://www.972mag.com/northern-gaza-liquidation-scenario-eiland-rabi/> (Archived on 06.10.2024)

¹²⁸Tel Aviv University. (2021). Seminar on Development of a Validated Simulative Approach for the Processes in CH₄-O₂ Space Engine Combustion Chambers. Tel Aviv University - Mechanical Engineering. Retrieved from <https://en-engineering.tau.ac.il/me-seminar-2.12.21>. (Archived on 07.11.2024)

ethical and human rights concerns. Specifically, rocket propulsion technology, while originally developed for space exploration, can be adapted for use in missile systems, which may lead to weaponization. Given that rocket engines designed with precise, high-efficiency combustion processes can improve the range and accuracy of missiles, there is a risk that advancements from such research may be used in military applications that contribute to armed conflict. The use of these technologies in armed conflicts often involves complex legal and human rights considerations, especially where civilian populations are impacted.

- **The LMU-Tel Aviv University Research Cooperation Program**, established in 2017, intensifies scientific collaboration between LMU Munich and Tel Aviv University (TAU). The program supports joint research projects, workshops, postdoc research stays, and guest professorships. It fosters cooperation across diverse academic fields. The program also offers funding opportunities for research and workshops¹²⁹¹³⁰.
- **In May 2022, LMU President received an honorary doctorate from Tel Aviv University (TAU)**
He received the Honorary doctorate for “his endeavours to strengthen German-Israeli academic ties, and particularly his spearheading of a broad strategic cooperation agreement with Tel Aviv University.”¹³¹

¹²⁹<https://www.lmu.de/de/die-lmu/internationales-netzwerk/lmu-tau-research-cooperation-program/> (Archived on 27.10.2024)

¹³⁰<https://www.lmu.de/de/newsroom/newsuebersicht/news/so-funktioniert-moderne-wissenschaft.html> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹³¹<https://www.lmu.de/en/newsroom/news-overview/news/lmu-president-bernd-huber-receives-honorary-doctorate-from-tel-aviv-university.html> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

4. Ben-Gurion University (BGN)

4.1 Why is Ben-Gurion University problematic?

4.1.1 Research and academic activities with ties to the violations of Palestinian human rights:

The Ben-Gurion University hosts the Homeland Security Institute which partners with **Elbit Systems** and **Rafael Advanced Defense Systems** as well as the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), the Ministry of Defence¹³², all of which are participating in the current human rights' violation and the plausible genocide:

- In 2019, Ben-Gurion University and **Rafael** signed a multi-year research collaboration deal and opened a joint research center in the Ben-Gurion Advanced Technologies Park^{133, 134}. This will involve training of students on the hands of Rafael engineers and accessing classified research environments¹³⁵.
- Besides Rafael, **Elbit Systems** is the other weapons manufacturer that works closely with the university and is considered a partner in different projects including the Ben-Gurion Advanced Technologies Park. This park is meant to serve as a base for the IDF technology units along with transferring technologies of different companies close to the BGN campus¹³⁶.
- When Elbit Systems opened a new lab at the Advanced Technologies Park in March 2024, the company stated that it maintained "a close relationship with

¹³² https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/hsi/Pages/international_collaborations.aspx (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹³³ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ben-gurion-researchers-israel-defense-firm-rafael-join-forces-on-cyber-ai/> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹³⁴ https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/bgn/Pages/news/bgu_rafael.aspx (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹³⁵ <https://americansforbgu.org/bgu-and-rafael-collaborate-to-make-vehicles-safer/> (Archived on 31.10.2024)

¹³⁶ <https://www.gavyam-negev.co.il/en/about-the-park/> (Archived on 29.10.2024)

academia [that] extends beyond simple collaboration. We actively transform academic research into practical applications... Students involved in our projects earn academic credit for their work, creating a mutually advantageous connection”^{137, 138}.

- **IDF-Partnership with Ben-Gurion University:** This year, Ben Gurion University, together with the IDF and the Ministry of Defence, announced the “opening of two new elite academic programs for future recruits, as part of preparations for the transfer of IDF technological units to southern Israel”¹³⁹.

4.1.2 Unit 8200 and Ben-Gurion University:

As stated in its president’s report 2024¹⁴⁰, Ben-Gurion University is partnered with the Israel Defense Forces’ elite intelligence division, Unit 8200, which is comparable to the US’s National Security Agency or GCHQ in the UK and is known, amongst other things, for the development of the programs “Lavender” and “The Gospel”^{141, 142}.

These Artificial Intelligence-based programs are being used for the automated generation of targets in the ongoing genocide in Gaza. According to an investigation carried out by +972mag, the programs have marked tens of thousands of Gazans for assassinations and the destruction of their homes with minimal human oversight, and personnel reportedly would spend only around “20 seconds” before authorizing the bombing of the targets suggested by Lavender¹⁴³. A former Israeli intelligence officer has described the use of these programs as “essentially [facilitating] a mass assassination factory”¹⁴⁴.

¹³⁷<https://digitaler.cld.bz/BenGurion-presidents-report2024/26/#zoom=true> (Archived on 04.11.2024)

¹³⁸<https://elbitsystems.com/blog/where-robots-go-to-play/> (Archived on 04.11.2024)

¹³⁹<https://www.bgu.ac.il/en/news-and-articles/lightning-thunder-elite-academic-programs-idf/> (Archived on 31.10.2024)

¹⁴⁰<https://digitaler.cld.bz/BenGurion-presidents-report2024/26/#zoom=true> (Archived on 04.11.2024)

¹⁴¹<https://www.npr.org/2023/12/14/1218643254/israel-is-using-an-ai-system-to-find-targets-in-gaza-experts-say-its-just-the-st> (Archived on 29.10.2024)

¹⁴²<https://amp.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/03/israel-gaza-ai-database-amas-airstrikes> (Archived on 04.11.2021)

¹⁴³<https://www.972mag.com/lavender-ai-israeli-army-gaza/> (Archived on 29.10.2024)

¹⁴⁴<https://www.972mag.com/mass-assassination-factory-israel-calculated-bombing-gaza/> (Archived on 29.10.2024)

The Lavender program as well as the Gospel program are likely operated from the “Advanced Technologies Park” mentioned above.

The 8200 unit has long been known for completely disregarding Palestinians’ rights, as is demonstrated in the following testimonies by officers working with the 8200 unit which were published in 2014¹⁴⁵:

“I also collected information on people who were completely innocent.”

“All Palestinians are exposed to non-stop monitoring without any legal protection.”

“The notion of rights for Palestinians does not exist at all. Not even as an idea to be disregarded.”

“Any Palestinian may be targeted and may suffer from sanctions such as the denial of permits, harassment, extortion, or even direct physical injury.”

“Any information that might enable extortion of an individual is considered relevant information. Whether said individual is of a certain sexual orientation, cheating on his wife, or in need of treatment in Israel or the West Bank – he is a target for blackmail.”

4.2 LMU and TUM’s collaborations with Ben-Gurion University.

The cities of Munich and Beer Sheva established an official partnership in 2021¹⁴⁶. In 2023 the government office RAW (Referat für Arbeit und Wirtschaft / Department for Labor and Economics) of the city of Munich ordered an intensification of academic partnerships of Munich universities with Ben Gurion University¹⁴⁷.

4.2.1 LMU’s collaboration with Ben-Gurion University:

- As a reaction to the then newly established city partnership between Munich and Beer Sheva, staff from LMU said in an interview in 2022 that they were “looking forward to the partnership with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU)”,

29.10.2024)

¹⁴⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/12/israeli-intelligence-unit-testimonies> (Archived on

29.10.2024)

¹⁴⁶ <https://stadt.muenchen.de/infos/beersheva-partnerstadt.html> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁴⁷ <https://risi.muenchen.de/risi/dokument/v/7978569> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

expecting that LMU “can benefit from its knowledge of the country's history, Zionism and the political figure of Ben Gurion.”¹⁴⁸. Today, Ben-Gurion University is an official partner University of the LMU¹⁴⁹. Students from all faculties of the LMU (except pharmacy, medicine and veterinary medicine) and all levels (Bachelor, Master and doctorate) can study at Ben Gurion University through LMU's exchange agreement. LMU has a specific agreement with the history department, as stated on LMU's website¹⁴⁹.

- The Center for Non-invasive Brain Stimulation Munich-Augsburg (CNBS-MA) from the LMU Klinikum has a collaboration with BGU¹⁵⁰. The physics department of LMU also worked on a research project between 2006-2010 in collaboration with BGU, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)¹⁵¹.

4.2.2 TUM's collaboration with Ben-Gurion University:

- TUM's faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology and BGU's Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering were partners in the context of a “German Israeli Project Cooperation” supported by the DFG and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The project “Fundamentals of cooperation in modern communication networks” lasted from 2018 - 2022¹⁵². The 2021 workshop “Coding, Cooperation, and Security in Modern Communication Networks” was part of that project¹⁵³.

¹⁴⁸<https://www.juedische-allgemeine.de/kultur/akademische-gemeinsamkeiten/> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁴⁹<https://lmu.adv-pub.moveon4.de/report-page-2560/> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁵⁰<https://www.lmu-klinikum.de/psychiatrie-und-psychotherapie/forschung-research/working-groups/center-for-non-invasive-brain-stimulation-munich-augsburg/e79767c1099ad5ca?kumActiveTabs=2e48a546%404> (Archived on 31.10.2024)

¹⁵¹<https://www.dfg.de/resource/blob/323288/92b23d2819f21c36867cb4cff21f866e/dip-gefoerderte-projekte-en-data.pdf> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁵²<https://www.dfg.de/resource/blob/323288/92b23d2819f21c36867cb4cff21f866e/dip-gefoerderte-projekte-en-data.pdf> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁵³<https://www.ce.cit.tum.de/en/Int/events/events-2021/2021-workshop-on-coding-cooperation-and-security-in-modern-communication-networks-coco/> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

- The Institute of Nanoelectronics at TUM and BGU worked together on the research project “Chip-based nanocompartments for the controlled release of individual molecules” funded by the DFG from 2012 - 2016¹⁵⁴.
- TUM and BGU are currently working together under the lead of the university of the German military in a big, EU-funded project that is planned to last until 2026¹⁵⁵.

5. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

5.1 Why is Hebrew University problematic?

5.1.1 Hebrew University's Mount Scopus Campus

Hebrew University's Mount Scopus Campus is located in illegally annexed East Jerusalem. This goes against:

- **Resolution 478 (1980):** This resolution declared Israel's 1980 Jerusalem Law, which proclaimed Jerusalem as the "complete and united" capital of Israel, as null and void. It affirmed that all legislative and administrative measures taken by Israel to alter the character and status of Jerusalem are **violations of international law and must be rescinded**. It also called on member states to withdraw their diplomatic missions from Jerusalem¹⁵⁶.
- **Resolution 2334 (2016):** This resolution reiterated that Israel's establishment of settlements in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, **has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under**

¹⁵⁴ <https://www.dfg.de/resource/blob/323288/92b23d2819f21c36867cb4cff21f866e/dip-gefoerderte-projekte-en-data.pdf> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁵⁵ <https://www.unibw.de/forschung/projekte/integrated-and-circular-technologies-for-sustainable-city-region-food-systems-in-africa-incitis-food> (Archived on 29.10.2024)

¹⁵⁶ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/25618?ln=en&v=pdf> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

international law. It called for an immediate and complete halt to all settlement activities and emphasized the need to distinguish in dealings between the territory of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967¹⁵⁷.

While we are aware that the original buildings of the Hebrew University are located in the area that was designated in 1948 as the “Demilitarized Zone”, whose status is contested, the University has expanded significantly since the 1967 occupation, and significant parts of it fall **beyond** the “Demilitarized Zone” line and are in the Palestinian occupied territory and are effectively settlements. The expansion includes part of the Maierdsdorf Dormitories, all of the Alan Bronfman Dormitories, the Students Village, the Lerner Family Indoor Sports Complex and the Gilbert Tennis Courts¹⁵⁸.

- These parts are settlements for they are used to house the population of an occupying power in an occupied territory¹⁵⁸.
- These parts are also used for the accommodation of international incoming students including TUM and LMU students.
- As a large higher education institution with thousands of students and employees, HUJ’s presence in this area stimulates settler activities in East Jerusalem, especially in the adjacent neighbourhoods of the French Hill, Ramat Eshkol and Sheikh Jarrah and beyond¹⁵⁸.
- HUJ Benefits from the settlement infra-structure, the transport lines, and the access roads, which are all in the occupied territory, some of which are on privately-owned Palestinian land. This infrastructure is also designed in a way to favour Israeli settlements in the area, and to the detriment of the local Palestinian population¹⁵⁸.
- HUJ cooperates with the Israeli police force. For instance, they allow constant presence of policemen that surveil Palestinian territories and restrict freedom of movement of Palestinians by closing the southern entrance to Al-Isswiya neighbourhood¹⁵⁹.

¹⁵⁷ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/853446?v=pdf> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁵⁸ <https://criticallegalthinking.com/2017/11/23/statement-against-holding-esil-at-the-hebrew-university/> (Archived on 02.05.2024)

¹⁵⁹ <https://www.academia4equality.com/en/post/in-solidarity-with-the-residents-of-issawiyah> (Archived on 01.11.2024)

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) 2024 report:

“The court is of the view that Member States are under an obligation not to recognize any changes in the physical character or demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the territory occupied by Israel on 5 June 1967, including East Jerusalem, except as agreed by the parties to the conflict through negotiations.”¹⁶⁰

Statement by the German Federal Foreign Office:

“Like its partners in the European Union, the German Government regards the building of settlements in the Palestinian territories as illegal under international law and as a major obstacle to the possibility of a two-state solution to be negotiated between Israel and the Palestinians. It calls on those involved to refrain from taking any steps that would further hinder a two-state solution.”¹⁶¹

5.1.2 Shin Bet:

The HUJ has hosted events, and recruitment drives for the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service. A testimony about the Shin Bet lecture at Hebrew University was published in Haaretz. In it the author described her observations and ethical concerns about the collaboration between the university and the Shin Bet:

- “I was especially dismayed by what I did not see or hear, and what I have seen and heard all these years in military courts in Ofer and in the alleyways of Yatta and Hebron, from the methodical destruction of Palestinian society in the West Bank with temptations and threats and turning people against their siblings to the torture in the Shin Bet’s interrogation facilities. I have documented all their methods by speaking to victims, I told myself, and here they are presented to me in the guise of a perfect public relations production sponsored by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. And no one protests, speaks out against or disrupts this detestable conference”¹⁶².

¹⁶⁰<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-sum-01-00-en.pdf>

¹⁶¹<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/israel-west-bank/2264114> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁶²<https://web.archive.org/web/20230426053857/https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/2018-04-03/ty-article-opinion/-premium/what-i-saw-at-a-shin-bet-lecture-at-hebrew-university/0000017f-db1a-db22-a17f-ffbbedbb0000> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

- “It would be appropriate to call for an academic boycott of the Hebrew University and its instructors, whether or not the ethics code forbids this, for this collaboration with the Shin Bet security service. All of my ethical, aesthetic and academic senses — as a graduate and a current student of the university — tell me that an academic institution should not collaborate with secret services anywhere, much less in Israel, in light of its situation today”¹⁶³.

5.1.3 Hebrew University’s support of Israel’s military activity:

Hebrew University itself states that it directly supported the military on the ground by having “(The University) provided diverse logistics equipment to several military units”¹⁶⁴. Moreover, it provided various forms of indirect support to the IDF by providing extensive scholarships to military personnel engaged in Gaza^{164, 165}.

Since the IDF is violating human rights in Gaza and preserving the illegal settlements in the Occupied Territories, direct and indirect support to their activities goes against international law. HUJ’ technology transfer company, called Yissum, also collaborated with weapons manufacturer Lockheed & Martin¹⁶⁶, who are known to help Israel’s breaking of human rights such as surveillance in Palestinian occupied territories or killing of Palestinian civilians^{167, 168}.

¹⁶³ <https://web.archive.org/web/20230426053857/https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/2018-04-03/ty-article-opinion/.premium/what-i-saw-at-a-shin-bet-lecture-at-hebrew-university/0000017f-db1a-db22-a17f-ffbbedbb0000>

¹⁶⁴ <https://campaign.huji.ac.il/help-university-community> (Archived on 28.04.2024)

¹⁶⁵ https://en.huji.ac.il/news/enhanced-financial-package-our-students-serving-idf?ref_tid=16558 (Archived on 02.05.2024)

¹⁶⁶ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/defense-giant-lockheed-to-draw-on-hebrew-u-innovations/> (Archived on 04.11.2024)

¹⁶⁷ <https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-il/who-we-are.html> (Archived on 05.05.2024)

¹⁶⁸ <https://investigate.afsc.org/company/lockheed-martin> (Archived on 30.04.2024)

5.2 LMU's and TUM's strategic collaborations with Hebrew University.

5.2.1 Between LMU and Hebrew University:

Student exchange agreements with Hebrew University are listed on LMU's partner university database. LMU specifically has agreements with the medical department, history, "Naher und Mittlerer Osten", and a overall agreement (excluding medicine and pharmacy)¹⁶⁹. Moreover, the LMU clinic is conducting a research project sponsored by HUJ¹⁷⁰ and LMU's Institute for Near and Middle Eastern is conducting a joint research project with HUJ, called Arches-Projekt¹⁷¹.

5.2.2 Between TUM and Hebrew University:

Hebrew University is an official partner university of TUM. Students from a long list of subject areas can apply to study and researching there¹⁷².

TUM is also part of a Joint Global Research Hub which includes HUJ¹⁷³ and TUM is listed as a key academic partner that is part of a Joint Artificial Intelligence Hub since May 2022¹⁷⁴.

¹⁶⁹<https://lmu.adv-pub.moveon4.de/report-page-2560/> (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁷⁰<https://www.lmu-klinikum.de/psychiatrie-und-psychotherapie/forschung-research/working-groups/center-for-non-invasive-brain-stimulation-munich-augsburg/e79767c1099ad5ca> (Archived on 01.11.2024)

¹⁷¹<https://www.naher-osten.uni-muenchen.de/forschung/arches-projekt/index.html> (Archived on 01.11.2024)

¹⁷²<https://tum.adv-pub.moveon4.de/report-page-3572/> (Filter country: Israel) (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁷³<https://www.tum.de/en/news-and-events/all-news/press-releases/details/tum-and-ntu-singapore-sign-flagship-partnership> (Archived on 01.11.2024)

¹⁷⁴<https://international.huji.ac.il/key-academic-partners> (Archived on 01.11.2024)

6. Reichman University

6.1 Why is Reichman University problematic?

The university is based on a large campus on the site of a former Israeli Air Force base. The University openly prides the IDF on their website with headlines such as: “The IDF as the Foundation of National Resilience”¹⁷⁵ Reichman University holds events with speakers such as the Commander of the Air Force¹⁷⁶. The university takes pride in its intertwinement with the military:

- **“The honorable Yoav Galant” - Reichman University’s pride about Yoav Galant, who the ICC issued an arrest warrant against**

In May 2024, ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan applied for arrest warrants for both Gallant and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, citing their alleged involvement in **war crimes and crimes against humanity** related to military actions in Gaza starting from October 2023. Reichman University frequently prides the Israeli military as well as Israel’s minister of defence, Yoav Gallant: “The honorable Yoav Galant”, it says above the description of his CV¹⁷⁷. Reichman University provides a welcoming stage for the Galant, who the ICC accuses of serious war crimes: in 2023 he spoke at the Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) conference held at Reichman University¹⁷⁸. Gallant is also known for calling Palestinian “human animals” and for statements such as this one: “I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed”¹⁷⁹.

¹⁷⁵ <https://www.runi.ac.il/en/research-institutes/government/ips/activities/newsletter/akerman11-9-23-e/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁷⁶ <https://www.runi.ac.il/en/research-institutes/government/ips/events/2021-conference-main/norkin-vod> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁷⁷ <https://ict.org.il/ourteam/the-honorable-yoav-galant/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁷⁸ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/gallant-says-iran-building-airport-to-attack-israelis-in-southern-lebanon/> (Archived on 23.04.2024)

¹⁷⁹ https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/defense-minister-announces-complete-siege-of-gaza-no-power-food-or-fuel/ (Archived on 15.10.2024)

6.1.1 Reichman University: a welcoming host for IDF leaders: The Herzliya Conference:

The Herzliya Conference is an annual summit held at Reichman University in Herzliya and organized by its Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS) to discuss matters of state security and policy¹⁸⁰.

At the Herzliya conference 2023, Reichman University was the welcoming host for following individuals:

- **Isaac Herzog**, who is known for attacking and delegitimizing the International Court of Justice ruling, calling it antisemitic and thus undermining the rule of law¹⁸¹. He is also known for his statement where he stated that all Gazans, including civilians, are 'guilty': "[Gazans are] an entire nation out there that is responsible... This rhetoric about civilians not aware, not involved [in the October 7 onslaught] — it's absolutely not true"¹⁸².
- Yoav Gallant (see above)
- Herzi Halevi, Chief of the General Staff, IDF
- Benny Gantz, Former Minister of Defence of Israel; Former IDF Chief of General Staff; Head of The National Unity
- Gen. Eyal Zamir, Director General of Israel's Ministry of Defence
- .. and many more¹⁸³

At the 2024 conference at Reichman University, many other participants are invited, such as the minister of education, who infamously said about Palestinians:

"Those are animals, they have no right to exist. I am not debating the way it will happen, but they need to be exterminated."¹⁸⁴

¹⁸⁰<http://www.herzliyaconference.org/Eng/> (Archived on 14.04.2013)

¹⁸¹<https://www.timesofisrael.com/a-blood-libel-herzog-says-icj-twisted-my-words-to-support-unfounded-contention/> (Archived on 18.07.2024)

¹⁸²<https://www.timesofisrael.com/a-blood-libel-herzog-says-icj-twisted-my-words-to-support-unfounded-contention/> (Archived on 18.07.2024)

¹⁸³<https://www.runi.ac.il/en/research-institutes/government/ips/herzliya-conference/hc2023/speakers/>

¹⁸⁴<https://law4palestine.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Database-of-Israeli-Incitement-to-Genocide-LEGISLATORS.pdf>

Another quote about the Operations Swords of Iron:

“This [attack] is not enough, there should be more, there should be no limits to the response, I said it a million times, until we see hundreds of thousands fleeing Gaza, we, the IDF has not achieved its mission, this is a phase that should happen, I am saying this cause these are instructions that were said to the IDF [. . .] I also do not want [the IDF] to get inside [Gaza] before crushing everything, I’d rather the falling of fifty buildings than one more casualty to our forces”¹⁸⁴

6.1.2 International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT):

The ICT is a conservative Israeli think tank founded in 1996 by the already mentioned Prof. Boaz Ganor and located at Reichman University.

We believe that their recent publication speak for themselves. These have been published just between July and September 2024; an exhaustive list of their articles would be a whole new report.

- Calling for the permanent military occupation of Gaza. „In real terms, there will not be a full withdrawal [from the Gaza strip] [...]Israeli direct control is required. This means an occupied area with an administrative system based on the local population in Gaza.”¹⁸⁵
- Justifying the bombing of the densely populated city of Beirut in Lebanon because of its "symbolism"¹⁸⁶
- Manufacturing consent for Israeli aggression towards countries in the region¹⁸⁷
- Arguing for a deepening of the military control of the illegally annexed West Bank and reforming the Palestinian Authority’s education system to control the narrative around Israel¹⁸⁸.

¹⁸⁵ <https://ict.org.il/after-the-war-five-key-challenges-for-israel/> (Archived on 04.02.2024)

¹⁸⁶ <https://ict.org.il/recent-events-in-the-northern-arena-of-israel/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁸⁷ <https://web.archive.org/web/20241007093825/https://ict.org.il/hamasthreat-on-the-international-arena-after-the-end-of-the-war-in-gaza/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁸⁸ <https://ict.org.il/the-escalating-security-situation-in-the-west-bank/> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

6.2 Strategic Partnership Reichman University with LMU and TUM.

Reichman University is an official partner university by the LMU, according to LMU's partnerships database. Students from all departments can apply to study at Reichman University¹⁸⁹. Reichman University is also listed as an official international partner institution of the TUM School of Management. Their list was updated in February 2024¹⁹⁰.

7. European Universities that suspended collaborations with one or multiple of Israeli universities, / or are considering it

Several European universities have taken steps to sever ties with Israeli institutions involved in military research or located in illegal settlements and we urge TUM and LMU to be the example in Germany before it becomes another stain in the university's and the country's history:

- Belgium's **University of Ghent** (Belgium): is severing ties with three Israeli educational or research institutions which it says no longer align with UGhent's human rights policy, its rector said. Additionally, Ghent University implies to discontinue all ongoing institutional collaborations with Israeli universities and research institutions, since they are involved in human rights violations¹⁹¹.
- **The University of Antwerp** (Belgium) halts all institutional partner agreements with Israeli partner institutions. Existing agreements with Israeli institutions are terminated. No new ones will be initiated for now. These steps were taken because of the interrelatedness of Israeli institutions and the country's military institutions - and the ruling of the ICJ. ¹⁹²

¹⁸⁹ <https://lmu.adv-pub.moveon4.de/report-page-2560/#> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁹⁰ https://cms.mgt.tum.de/fileadmin/mgt.tum.de/international_exchange_programs/TUM_SOM_partners.pdf (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁹¹ [Cooperation with Israeli partners - update 31 May 2024 — Ghent University \(ugent.be\)](#) (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁹² [8f8c1a7b-674d-4617-ac03-c603a1b4e375.pdf \(uantwerpen.be\)](#) (Archived on 07.11.2024)

- The **Université Libre de Bruxelles** (Belgium): the ULB said that it would suspend ties with both Israeli and Palestinian universities until “their respective university authorities make a clear commitment to the demands made by the International Court of Justice ... and the unconditional release of the Israeli hostages”¹⁹³.
- **OsloMet** (Norway): puts the exchange agreement with the University of Haifa on hold, pledged not to enter into any new agreements with complicit Israeli universities, and will work to end procurement contracts with suppliers linked to Israel’s military or illegal settlements¹⁹⁴.
- **University of Southeastern Norway**: ended ties with Haifa University and Hadassah Academic College in Jerusalem. “USN’s leadership is appalled by Israel’s attack on Gaza’s civilian population and infrastructure, and the catastrophic humanitarian situation that now prevails in Gaza. The Israeli authorities have chosen to ignore the International People’s Court’s statements and have not fulfilled the requirements to improve the humanitarian situation. That is the reason why we no longer want to have cooperation agreements with universities in Israel”, says Rector Pia Cecilie Bing-Jonsson¹⁹⁵. Furthermore, the USN has decided to not buy any products that were produced in occupied territories. The students at USN go a step further and are calling for a boycott of all Israeli products¹⁹⁶.
- **University of Bergen** (Norway): ended its cooperation agreements with Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem after it created a workshop on campus to design and sew uniforms and gear for the Israeli military¹⁹⁷.
- **University of Stavanger** (Norway): UiS is terminating all institutional collaboration agreements with Israeli institutions, due to the war in Gaza, which is contrary to international law. Nor will UiS enter into any new agreements as long as hostilities are ongoing¹⁹⁸.

¹⁹³ [L'ULB suspend ses accords et projets de recherche avec les universités israéliennes - Actualités de l'ULB](#) (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁹⁴ [OsloMet puts exchange agreement on hold - minside](#) (Archived on 28.02.2024)

¹⁹⁵ <https://www.usn.no/nyhetsarkiv/avslutter-samarbeid-med-universiteter-i-israel> (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁹⁶ [USN and Gaza, what do we do? - University of South-Eastern Norway](#) (Archived on 07.11.2024)

¹⁹⁷ [UiB terminates agreement with Israeli art academy](#) (Archived on 30.10.2024)

¹⁹⁸ [UiS ends institutional cooperation with Israel | University of Stavanger](#) (Archived on 07.11.2024)