

## BA4P:

### Solidarity with Palestine: Our Engagement

We, academics and other intellectuals living in Belgium, stand in full solidarity with the Palestinian people and their courageous resistance against Israel's settler-colonialist policies of dispossession, replacement and destruction of Palestine's society, culture and nature. The daily murderous violence perpetrated by Israel's soldiers against a civilian population, children included, constitutes a barbaric regime of crimes against humanity. With extremist, even fascist, parties having come to power in Israel, its apartheid politics will degenerate even further, if that is still possible.

We commit ourselves to lobbying academic and cultural institutions and inducing Belgian and European authorities and representatives to adopt resolutions and sanctions against the State of Israel for its decades-long violations of international human rights conventions and its refusal to comply with UN resolutions and rulings of the International Court of Justice.

Must be castigated, here, explicitly: Israel's nefarious policies of '*scholasticide*', such as demolitions of schools and harrasment of pupils and teachers, vandalising archives and libraries of research and study centres, intrusion of campuses, abduction and imprisonment of scholars and students... Last but not least to be condemned, is the army's "*Procedure for entry and residence of foreigners in the Judea and Samaria area*," issued in October last year by Israel's ministry of Defense. With its imposition of what has been called an 'academic occupation,' this 'procedure' restricts the entry and stay of foreign professors, researchers and students in the West Bank. Palestine's universities and their academics and students, one understands, must be isolated from international scholarship and practices. In other words, in Israel's settler colonialist, racist-instituted apartheid regime the infamous 'logic of the elimination of the native' is being applied also to the domain that in civilised countries is governed by academic freedom. Future Palestinian developments in research and learning being compromised, that way, by the occupier, the life opportunities they would offer to Palestine's future generations, are being stifled.

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