

Mathematics Beyond Genocide: Scientific Boycott of Israel

We write as representatives of the Just Mathematics Collective¹ to express our unequivocal support for the Palestinian people, and for all of the people across the world organizing together to stop this inhuman genocide.

- Medical professionals are organizing² because they understand the red line that Israel crosses when it intentionally targets hospitals and disappears, tortures, rapes, and murders medical personnel (here we are thinking of Dr. Adnan Al-Bursh of Al-Shifa hospital, to whom all of this was done). The last operating medical facility in Northern Gaza, Kamal Adwan Hospital, has recently been attacked and forcefully evacuated by the occupation forces in blatant violation of international law. The hospital's director, Dr. Hussam Abu Safia, refused to abandon the hundreds of patients who could not be moved. As punishment for displaying humanity towards his people, he's been abducted, allegedly beaten, and now disappeared by Israel
- Lawyers are organizing³ because they understand how dramatically Israel's barbarism erodes the foundations of international humanitarian law. Auto workers are organizing⁴ because they appreciate the interconnectedness of the global economy and how their labor and the value it produces ultimately fuels genocide halfway across the world.
- Dock workers are organizing⁵ because they understand that if the weapons are to get to Israel, they'll be needed to load the ships. Journalists are organizing⁶ because they understand that their own safety is jeopardized when a militarized state kills more media workers in just the first 6 months of this genocide than the number of journalists killed in the entirety of the Vietnam War.

Some of our colleagues in mathematics and science departments might be wondering: why would we, *as scientists*, choose to register a public opinion about what's happening in Palestine? Putting aside the reality that there are many scientists who are deeply personally impacted by this violence, and many more whose students are putting their bodies and their academic futures on the line to stand up for what is right, this question misses the point that the previous paragraph demonstrates: *the genocide is all-encompassing. It impacts every dimension of Palestinian life, and that means that all of us can play a role in ending these atrocities.* Indeed, given our inextricable entanglement with the ongoing genocide, a more appropriate question we would ask in response is: *why wouldn't we?*

The first step towards fulfilling this responsibility as scientists is to understand the nature of our institutional complicity. The Israeli state -- the self-proclaimed "start-up nation" -- bills itself as a hub for science and technology⁷. Some of the most prestigious science meetings in the world happen at institutions -- for example the Technion and the Weizmann Institute of Science -- at which the weapons⁸, the surveillance technology, and the AI algorithms the Israeli state uses to target and kill⁹ are designed and built. These institutions host scientific meetings and conferences, employ researchers, and disseminate technical expertise to students. Their faculty help to publish highly ranked journals. The prestige generated by research

activities in all areas solidifies into donations, grants, and other resources for those institutions; some of these resources are then devoted to developing the technology used in the slaughter of Palestinians and the maintenance of the apartheid regime. This conversion of academic prestige into wealth-- and wealth into weaponry-- means that we as scientists are *all* implicated, even if we work in fields with no obvious military/"security" application.

And now, every university in Gaza has been destroyed¹⁰. Academics-- including many scientists - - have been targeted for assassination and murdered alongside their entire families. Thousands of young scientists and students now have no means of pursuing their research and studies. This scholasticide¹¹ -- this total silencing of institutionally organized research and education in Gaza -- is the terrible culmination of a long history of attempts by the occupation to disrupt the academic and scientific culture in Palestine more broadly.

As scientists of conscience who understand the importance of centering those most impacted in our struggles against imperialism and militarism, we say: enough! Our Palestinian colleagues have been asking us to engage in academic boycott for over 20 years now. *It is long past time that we heed this call*. Mathematicians are starting to wake up to this reality-- an open letter circulating mostly in France and calling for a mathematical boycott of Israel recently garnered over a thousand signatures¹², and the Just Mathematics Collective has designed a pledge to help mathematicians, and in fact all scientists in any part of the world, to fight for

Palestinian liberation. It is open to all scientists and engineers at all levels of academia (undergraduate students, graduate workers, postdocs, adjuncts, research scientists, technicians, as well as full-time faculty)-- see the first link in the linktree at the QR code below-- see the other links there as well for more details regarding the superscripts above.

Please join us!
Power to the people!
Free Palestine!

