

NeIC's concern about The Israeli offensive in Gaza-Strip and the connection to the Nordic WLCG Tier-1 Facility

Israel joined CERN as a member state in January 2014. The Nordic Tier-1 (NT1) NeIC project is one of the computing centers for the Worldwide LHC Computing Grid (WLCG) infrastructure serving the computing, data storage, and preservation needs of the ATLAS and ALICE experiments at the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Researchers with resource access certificates from CERN Certification Authority are eligible to use NT1 services for ATLAS and ALICE. There are currently 94 users from 4 Israeli institutes involved in the ATLAS experiment¹

The current Israeli offense, according to the UN reports²³, is of clear violation of the NeIC values *“NeIC promotes equality, equal terms and diversity and believes in equal opportunity in employment practices without discrimination on the grounds of race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, sexual orientation, disability, place of origin, age, marital status, or family status.”*

The order of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that came on Friday 26 January 2024 should expressed, by an overwhelming majority, that it is plausible that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinians⁴

As a response to the aggression against Ukraine, The CERN council decided in March 2022 that “The Observer status of the Russian Federation is suspended until further notice”⁵. Given the current situation in Gaza, NeIC management expresses concerns about providing access to NeIC services for researchers from Israeli institutions.

Examples of the connections between Israeli academic institutions and military related activities:

- Tel Aviv University actively collects funds for students, and over 6,000 students from TAU are reservists/soldiers who have been active in the Israeli army since October 2023⁶. Tel Aviv University has also contributed to developing the so-called Dahiya

¹ <https://greybook.cern.ch/country/detail?id=IL>

²

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/gaza-un-experts-call-international-community-prevent-genocide-against>

³

<https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-29-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-Jerusalem>

⁴ <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203447>

⁵ https://cds.cern.ch/record/2803319/files/c-e-3626_Resolution_re_Russia%20.pdf

⁶ https://english.tau.ac.il/news/uniform_university_fund

doctrine for the Israeli military⁷. This is a doctrine that justifies the disproportionate use of force in war to deter the enemy. Use of disproportionate force is mentioned, among other things, in the context of Lebanon and Gaza: "With an outbreak of hostilities, the IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] will need to act immediately, decisively, and with force that is disproportionate to the enemy's actions and the threat it bags. Such a response aims at inflicting damage and meting out punishment to an extent that will demand long and expensive reconstruction processes."

- Holon Institute of Technology reports that more than 25% of the student body is actively engaged in the current military operations to the Israeli army and raises funds to support students who are soldiers in the army⁸.

USN, UiB, BAS, and OsloMet have taken steps towards academic boycott. UiO started a process

The topic and situation have been discussed at NeIC management, and therefore was put on the agenda of the NT1 SG meeting Jan 21st, and it was decided to bring it up as a discussion item for the NLCG meeting.

7

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

⁸ <https://www.hit.ac.il/en/about/iron-swords-donations>