

## Introduction

1. Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of higher education institutions dedicated to protecting threatened scholars, preventing attacks on higher education communities, and promoting academic freedom worldwide. SAR has Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC (2013) and welcomes the opportunity provided by the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights to comment on conditions relating to academic freedom and attacks on higher education communities in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).
2. This submission is the product of a joint effort between Scholars at Risk's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project and the Strategic Litigation International Legal Human Rights Clinic of the University of Turin, Italy. SAR gratefully acknowledges the substantial research and drafting work of Turin faculty and students.\*
3. This submission focuses on Israel's compliance with its obligations under international law to respect and promote academic freedom and related rights within Israel, as well as within the OPT—which includes the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip—between January 2018 and the present.

## Applicable Legal Standards

4. Israel is party to several applicable international human rights instruments including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which are applicable within Israel as well as in the OPT.<sup>1</sup>
5. Academic freedom is independently and interdependently grounded in rights to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to education, and the right to the benefits of science, as articulated, respectively, in ICCPR Article 19 and ICESCR Articles 13 and 15(3).
6. As the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) has affirmed, “the right to education can only be enjoyed if accompanied by the academic freedom of staff and students.”<sup>2</sup>
7. In a recent report on academic freedom, the United Nations special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of freedom of opinion and expression adopted and reaffirmed the standards articulated by the CESCR, stating:

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\* This submission may not reflect the views of the University of Turin, its faculty and students, or individual Scholars at Risk Network members, institutions, or participating individuals.

[A]cademic freedom should be understood to include the freedom of individuals, as members of academic communities (e.g., faculty, students, staff, scholars, administrators and community participants) or in their own pursuits, to conduct activities involving the discovery and transmission of information and ideas, and to do so with the full protection of human rights law.<sup>3</sup>

8. The special rapporteur explicitly recognized that academic freedom involves protections for institutional autonomy and self-governance: “States are under a positive obligation to create a general enabling environment for seeking, receiving and imparting information and ideas. Institutional protection and autonomy are a part of that enabling environment.”<sup>4</sup> The special rapporteur further observed that peaceful student protests may be a form of protected academic expression.<sup>5</sup>
9. The special rapporteur further recognized that violations of academic freedom may take the form of violations of other civil and political rights, including freedom of movement (ICCPR Art. 12);<sup>6</sup> freedom from discrimination (ICCPR Art. 2);<sup>7</sup> and the rights to liberty and security of the person (ICCPR Art. 9) and due process (ICCPR Art. 14).<sup>8</sup>
10. In addition to the above obligations, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is applicable in the OPT.<sup>9</sup> IHL (including customary international humanitarian law) requires occupying or belligerent states to take all practicable measures to avoid attacks on educational institutions and other civilian infrastructure, and prohibits as disproportionate attacks which would cause excessive loss of life, injury, or damage to civilian infrastructure, relative to their legitimate military objectives.<sup>10</sup>

### **Discussion**

11. During this review period for Israel, SAR has recorded more than fifty incidents involving attacks on higher education and violations of academic freedom, the majority (but not all) occurring within the OPT.<sup>11</sup> These include violence during student protests; raids and similar encroachments by Israeli troops onto campuses; military attacks on universities; wrongful arrests and prosecutions of students; and restrictions on academic travel.

### ***Violence Against Student Protesters***

12. On **February 12, 2019**, Israeli forces reportedly conducted a raid of the town of Abu Dis, sealing roads in the area surrounding Al-Quds University, leading to clashes with students. Soldiers fired rubber bullets and tear gas at students, 17 of whom required medical treatment for tear gas inhalation.<sup>12</sup>
13. On **October 5, 2019**, Israeli troops reportedly used tear gas against students gathered near Ofar Prison in Ramallah, as they peacefully protested an apparent increase in arrests and administrative detentions of Palestinians by Israeli authorities.<sup>13</sup>
14. On **May 9 and 11, 2021**, national tensions surrounding the eviction of Palestinian families from homes in Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem led to clashes on two campuses. At Hebrew University Jerusalem, Israeli authorities deployed stun grenades and tear gas against Arab student protesters, while students threw rocks at police; three officers and six students were injured.<sup>14</sup> At Ben Gurion University of the Negev, pro-Palestinian protesters were attacked by counter-protesters, who threw rocks and bottles, sparking clashes; one student was reportedly stabbed and 11 were arrested.<sup>15</sup>
15. On **September 27, 2021**, Israeli soldiers at the Beit El DCO military checkpoint in El-Bireh city fired tear gas and rubber bullets into a crowd of Birzeit University students protesting the Israeli army's killing of five Palestinians on September 26, sparking clashes between the two groups.<sup>16</sup>
16. On **February 15, 2022**, Israeli soldiers reportedly used tear gas to disperse a peaceful student demonstration on the Al Quds University campus, injuring 17.<sup>17</sup>
17. On **March 6, 2022**, clashes broke out between Israeli soldiers and a group of Palestinian students holding a demonstration near the Al Arroub campus of Palestine Technical University. Israeli soldiers reportedly fired tear gas and live bullets, with at least one striking and injuring a 19-year-old protester.<sup>18</sup>
18. On **April 16, 2022**, Israeli soldiers clashed with students during a protest vigil on the Al Quds University campus.<sup>19</sup>
19. On **May 15, 2022** at Tel Aviv University, student members of Im Tirtzu, a far-right pro-Israel group, clashed with students holding a demonstration to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, a day many Palestinians refer to as the "Nakba" or "catastrophe." At least 16 students were injured.<sup>20</sup>

## ***Campus Raids***

20. On **March 7, 2018**, Israeli forces disguised as journalists reportedly entered the campus of Birzeit University in Ramallah, detained university security guards, and beat and arrested the school's student council president. Video appeared to show the soldiers firing their weapons as they left campus.<sup>21</sup> (*See* para. 30, *infra*.)
21. On **July 14, 2018**, Israeli forces reportedly raided Hind al-Husaini College, cancelling a two-day academic conference titled "The Fourth Academic Conference on the Islamic Waqf in Jerusalem," which was scheduled to begin that morning, on the grounds that it would involve incitement against the state of Israel. Authorities reportedly detained 15 individuals during the raid, and shut down the college indefinitely.<sup>22</sup>
22. On **December 12, 2018**, Israeli soldiers reportedly entered the Abu Dis campus of Al Quds University, where they searched faculty and student offices, damaged campus property, and seized surveillance footage. Soldiers reportedly clashed with students protesting the raid, firing tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse them.<sup>23</sup>
23. At around 4:00am on **December 14, 2021**, roughly 100 Israeli soldiers reportedly broke through the gate of Birzeit University. Once inside, witnesses said they beat and detained several campus guards, removed the Palestinian flag from the center of campus, and entered the faculties of Science, Graduate Studies, and Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Professions, damaging and confiscating banners and other property belonging to student organizations. The raid sparked clashes between protesters and Israeli forces, who fired rubber bullets and tear gas canisters at protesters. Police reportedly arrested 11 students in connection with the raid.<sup>24</sup> Israeli soldiers again raided the Birzeit campus on **January 10, 2022**, arresting five students and injuring at least two as they participated in a student union meeting. One student was reportedly shot in the course of his arrest.<sup>25</sup> On **January 11, 2022**, Israeli police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse Birzeit students protesting the previous day's events, injuring five.<sup>26</sup>
24. On **March 5, 2022**, Israeli troops reportedly entered Al Quds University's Abu Dis campus, leading to confrontations with students engaged in a memorial for a student who had allegedly been killed by Israeli forces days earlier. Israeli forces fired tear gas and stun grenades to disperse the student protesters.<sup>27</sup> A similar incident occurred on **March 9, 2022** as Israeli forces stormed the campus of Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie (PTUK) during a memorial service, firing tear gas and rubber bullets and injuring at least three student protesters.<sup>28</sup>
25. On **April 12, 2022**, Israeli forces again raided the PTUK campus, causing the school to evacuate its students and suspend classes for the day. Israeli forces clashed with students

outside campus, reportedly injuring two with steel-coated rubber bullets.<sup>29</sup> Israeli forces again raided PTUK on **May 18, 2022**.<sup>30</sup>

### *Military Attacks on Universities*

26. In two cases, military operations targeted universities and/or university infrastructure.
27. On **May 18, 2021**, amid fighting in Gaza between Israel and Palestinian militant groups including Hamas, an Israeli airstrike destroyed a building located near the Islamic University, which housed educational centers and libraries used by and affiliated with the university.<sup>31</sup>
28. On **August 5, 2022**, amid mounting tensions between Israel and Palestinian groups, Israel conducted airstrikes which killed several students (among others), injured hundreds, and damaged a branch of Al-Quds Open University in northern Gaza. Among those killed were students from the University of Palestine, Al-Aqsa University, Al-Quds Open University, and Israa University. Following the strike, eight Gaza universities were closed temporarily.<sup>32</sup>

### *Arbitrary Detention and Wrongful Arrest of Students*

29. In many cases, authorities have arrested and prosecuted students apparently in retaliation for nonviolent activism, expression, or association on campus—in particular membership in groups deemed “unlawful associations” by Israeli authorities. Many of these incidents involved violence and lengthy interrogations, seizure of private property, and due process concerns including disproportionate sentences, long periods without access to counsel, and a lack of transparency about any charges at issue.
30. **Birzeit University** in particular has been the site of numerous arrests of students under conditions that raise serious human rights concerns. The Right to Education Campaign,<sup>33</sup> a group established at Birzeit University, reported in August 2021 that 58 Birzeit students were arrested by Israeli forces between September 2020 and July 2021; 80 students, including students detained prior to September 2020, remained detained in Israeli facilities at the time of the report.<sup>34</sup> In March 2022, the campaign reported that 20 students had been arrested so far that year, eight had been released, and 58 remained detained in Israeli prisons.<sup>35</sup> Israeli forces focused particular attention on the Democratic Progressive Student Pole, a/k/a Al Qutub (DPSP), a leftist student group Israeli military authorities reportedly declared unlawful in August 2020.<sup>36</sup> Those arrested at Birzeit include:

- a. Birzeit's student council president, arrested on **March 7, 2018** for membership in a banned student group, and detained for weeks without access to counsel.<sup>37</sup> (*See* para. 20, *supra*.)
- b. A student arrested on **November 19, 2018** for "suspected involvement in terror activity." The evidentiary basis for his arrest, or whether he was charged with a crime, were unclear.<sup>38</sup>
- c. Three students arrested on **March 26, 2019** and apparently placed in administrative detention. The evidentiary bases and any charges were unclear.<sup>39</sup>
- d. A student arrested on **August 28, 2019** for membership in the DPSP on charges including "unlawful association," "conspiring to bring in funding from enemies," "contact with an enemy" for attending a conference in Lebanon concerning the right of Palestinians to return to Palestine, and on weapons charges, for possessing glass jars filled with sand and cloth rags. The student's family alleged that she was tortured while detained.<sup>40</sup>
- e. A student arrested on **September 7, 2019** in apparent connection with her student activism. Her home was raided; she was brought to the Moskobiyyeh Detention Center; and she was reportedly subject to lengthy interrogations, unsanitary conditions and sleep deprivation, and denied access to a lawyer for several weeks. She ultimately served a nine-month prison sentence.<sup>41</sup>
- f. Another Birzeit student council president, arrested on **December 12, 2019** and sentenced to three months administrative detention without charge.<sup>42</sup>
- g. A member of Birzeit University's student council, arrested on **June 4, 2020** in a raid of his family's home. The factual basis for the arrest was unclear.<sup>43</sup>
- h. A student taken into custody at a military checkpoint on **June 8, 2020**, on her way to graduation, later indicted for activism in a student union, establishing an unlawful association, hosting social and cultural events, and throwing stones at Israeli Defense Forces during a protest. She was eventually sentenced to 16 months in prison.<sup>44</sup>
- i. A student detained on **July 9, 2020** under undisclosed circumstances.<sup>45</sup>

- j. A student<sup>46</sup> detained in July 2020 and sentenced on **December 23, 2020**, to eleven months in prison on charges of belonging to a “prohibited student group” – namely the DPSP.<sup>47</sup>
  - k. A student detained on **July 7, 2021**, apparently for membership in the DPSP. She was released on bail on August 17, 2021 in advance of trial.<sup>48</sup>
  - l. On **July 14, 2021**, the Israeli army detained around thirty Palestinian students, mostly from Birzeit University, after the students visited a family whose home had been destroyed by the Israeli army. The army alleged that some of those arrested were involved in terrorist activities; on August 5, 14 members of the group were still detained and had not yet been brought before a tribunal.<sup>49</sup>
31. On **March 12, 2018**, Israeli authorities reportedly arrested a student activist at An-Najah National University in Nablus, in apparent retaliation for organizing student protests on campus. After arresting her, authorities reportedly broke into her home and interrogated her family members. On July 30, she was convicted and sentenced to seven months’ imprisonment on undisclosed charges.<sup>50</sup>
32. On **November 13, 2019**, the Israeli military detained the director of the Bisan Center for Research and Development, a Ramallah-based think tank that has recently focused on issues including the right to education and academic freedom in the OPT. A military court later sentenced him to two months administrative detention without charge.<sup>51</sup>
33. On **July 16, 2020**, Israeli forces detained a renowned Al-Quds University physics scholar at a military checkpoint outside Jerusalem, and placed him under administrative detention. Two weeks later, he was reportedly charged with “incitement and support for a hostile organization” for alleged social media activity.<sup>52</sup>

### *Travel restrictions*

34. In several cases, Israeli authorities prevented scholars and students from entering Israel or the OPT, in an apparent effort to restrict or retaliate against academic activity.
35. On **April 29, 2018**, Katherine Franke, a Columbia University law professor, was detained, interrogated, and deported after arriving at Ben Gurion Airport as part of a delegation of United States civil rights leaders; she also planned to attend meetings with graduate students in Israel and the West Bank. She was reportedly accused of being in Israel to promote the Boycott, Divestiture, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, and membership in Jewish Voice for Peace (which supports BDS)—claims she denied.<sup>53</sup>

36. In **June 2018**, it was reported that Israeli authorities had imposed travel restrictions on several international faculty at Birzeit University, through a series of visa-related decisions that left many unable to remain in positions they had held on a long-term basis. According to Birzeit, during the 2017-2018 academic year, fifteen foreign scholars—a third of its international faculty—were subject to denials or significant delays to their visa renewals; eight of the denials occurred in June and July 2018.<sup>54</sup>
37. On **October 2, 2018**, Israeli authorities prevented Lara Alqasem, a US student of Palestinian decent, from entering Israel to complete her graduate studies, based on allegations she was involved in BDS-related activities. The Israeli Supreme Court later reversed the decision.<sup>55</sup>

### **Recommendations**

38. SAR respectfully urges UN Members States to call on Israel to take concrete steps to ensure the academic freedom of students and scholars within Israel and the OPT, including:
- a. Adopting policies to protect the autonomy of academic institutions in Israel and the OPT, including preventing military troops or police from entering campuses except when necessary due to emergent public safety or related needs; and in the event that such action does become necessary, ensuring that the basis for the action is transparent, and communicated to university authorities at the earliest possible time;
  - b. Taking immediate measures to investigate, in a public and transparent manner, any attacks on university campuses during armed conflict, and ensuring compliance with relevant International Humanitarian Law going forward;
  - c. Releasing and reversing charges against students and other campus activists detained based on the nonviolent exercise of protected rights including freedom of expression and association, and academic freedom, including students detained for membership in prohibited associations;
  - d. Adopting policies to protect and facilitate academic travel, including into, out of, and within the OPT by students, professors, and other members of the Palestinian higher education community.



<sup>1</sup> See e.g. A/HRC/31/44, para. 3; A/HRC/28/45, para.3; Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee: Israel, CCPR/C/ISR/CO/3, 3 September 2010; Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ‘Concluding observation: Israel’, UN Doc. E/C.12/1/Add.69, August 31, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> CESCR, General Comment No. 13: The Right to Education (Article 13) (December 8, 1999), para. 38.

<sup>3</sup> A/75/261, 28 July 2020 at para. 8.

<sup>4</sup> A/75/261, 28 July 2020 at para. 9.

<sup>5</sup> A/75/261, 28 July 2020 at para. 52.

<sup>6</sup> A/75/261, 28 July 2020 at paras. 19 and 53.

<sup>7</sup> A/75/261, 28 July 2020 at para. 2.

<sup>8</sup> A/75/261, 28 July 2020 at para. 17.

<sup>9</sup> See also Hague Regulations Art. 43, 46, D. Kretzmer, “The law of belligerent occupation in the Supreme Court of Israel”, International Review of the Red Cross, Vol. 94, Nr. 885, Spring 2012, p. 216-217.

<sup>10</sup> See <https://watchlist.org/publications/what-does-international-law-say-about-attacks-on-schools-and-hospitals/> (compiling ICRC IHL standards).

<sup>11</sup> SAR has also documented attacks by Palestinian authorities on universities within the OPT; however, as Israel is the State under review, these attacks are not relevant to the present submission.

<sup>12</sup> SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring (AFM) Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2019-02-12-al-quds-university/>

<sup>13</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2019-10-05-various-institutions/>

<sup>14</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2021-05-09-hebrew-university-of-jerusalem/>

<sup>15</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2021-05-11-ben-gurion-university-of-the-negev/>

<sup>16</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2021-09-27-birzeit-university/>

<sup>17</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2022-02-15-al-quds-university/>

<sup>18</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2022-03-06-palestine-technical-university-al-arroub/>

<sup>19</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2022-04-16-al-quds-university/>

<sup>20</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2022-05-15-tel-aviv-university/>

<sup>21</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2018-03-07-birzeit-university/>

<sup>22</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2018-07-14-hind-al-husaini-college/>

<sup>23</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2018-12-12-al-quds-university/>

<sup>24</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2021-12-14-birzeit-university/>

<sup>25</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2022-01-10-birzeit-university/>

<sup>26</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2022-01-11-birzeit-university/>

<sup>27</sup> See SAR AFM Reports, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2022-03-05-al-quds-university-abu-dis/>; <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2018-12-12-al-quds-university/>

<sup>28</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2022-03-09-palestine-technical-university-kadoorie/>

<sup>29</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2022-04-12-palestine-technical-university-kadoorie/>

<sup>30</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2022-05-18-palestine-technical-university-kadoorie/>

<sup>31</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2021-05-18-islamic-university-of-gaza/>

<sup>32</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2022-08-05-al-quds-open-university/>

<sup>33</sup> Right to Education Campaign: Founded in 1988 at Birzeit University, with the aim “to document, research and raise awareness of the issues facing Palestinian education under Israeli military occupation; to build an international campaign in support of Palestinian students, teachers and educational institutions; to oppose the illegal Israeli occupation and its attacks on Palestinian education, demanding the right to education and unimpeded access for all Palestinians to their educational institutions.”

<sup>34</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2021-07-07-birzeit-university/>, last accessed on May 05, 2022.

<sup>35</sup> Birzeit University webpage, *Right to Education Campaign at Birzeit University demands for urgent action to end systematic targeting of students by Israeli military occupation*, available at: <https://www.birzeit.edu/en/news/right-education-campaign-birzeit-university-demands-urgent-action-end-systematic-targeting>, last accessed on May 05, 2022.

<sup>36</sup> According to a report by the Israeli magazine 972:

Almost none of the indictments of students from the Islamic Bloc or Al-Qutub mention any suspicion of ties to the military activity of Hamas or PFLP, respectively. The following is a compilation from indictments against students from the abovementioned organizations, as documented over the last two years by the Palestinian prisoners’ rights group Addameer and the Israeli anti-occupation group Machsom Watch, that are supposed to substantiate the accusation of ‘membership in an illegal organization:’

‘The defendant participated in a stationary fair at Birzeit University on behalf of the ‘Qutub’ organization. She sold goods while wearing a PFLP scarf. Red flags were hung at the fair.’

‘The defendant participated in decorating an event hall for a reception for new students, as part of the ‘Qutub’ organization. He hung red flags of the PFLP as well as photos of shaheeds [martyrs] and prisoners.’

‘The defendant participated in a [student] election campaign on behalf of an organization at Birzeit University, as well as a book and stationery fair that was organized by the organization. He sold sandwiches, falafel, and coffee on behalf of the organization.’

‘The defendant served as the secretary and head of the cultural committee of Al-Qutub al-Tullabi at Birzeit University, and managed the organization’s events. During elections in the organization, she was chosen to serve as the head of the education committee, whose role is to help students with academic topics, including choosing materials and study topics according to priorities. All of this was done on behalf of the organization.’

‘Along with others, the defendant organized a three-day summer camp in Aboud intended for members and activists with Al-Qutub al-Tullabi, with the goal of strengthening their relationships. Around 20 people

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participated in the camp.’

‘The defendant voted for Al-Kutla al-Islamiyya in the [student] elections and encouraged others to vote for the Islamic Bloc. He also took part in a graduation party organized by the Bloc.’

‘The defendant shared photos and quotes on social media that should be viewed as incitement.’

Generally, the indictments also mention participation in protests against the occupation outside campus, including protests that may have involved stone throwing, aiding stone throwers, or standing next to stone throwers.

See Matar, Anat, “In its war on Palestinian students, Israel deems book fairs and falafel sales a crime,” 972 Magazine, available at <https://www.972mag.com/palestinian-university-students-israel-arrests/>, last accessed on October 6, 2022.

<sup>37</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2018-03-07-birzeit-university/>

<sup>38</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2018-11-19-birzeit-university/>

<sup>39</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2019-03-26-birzeit-university/>

<sup>40</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2019-08-28-birzeit-university/>

<sup>41</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2019-09-07-birzeit-university/>

<sup>42</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2019-12-12-birzeit-university/>

<sup>43</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2020-06-04-birzeit-university/>

<sup>44</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2020-06-08-birzeit-university/>

<sup>45</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2020-07-09-birzeit-university/>

<sup>46</sup> In a June 7, 2021 report, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found the detentions of Kayed, Hijla and Assi constituted arbitrary detention. See Report, available at [https://lphr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/A\\_HRC\\_WGAD\\_2021\\_8.pdf](https://lphr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/A_HRC_WGAD_2021_8.pdf)

<sup>47</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2020-12-23-birzeit-university/>

<sup>48</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2021-07-07-birzeit-university/>

<sup>49</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2021-07-14-birzeit-university/>

<sup>50</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2018-03-12-an-najah-national-university/>

<sup>51</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2019-11-13-bisan-center-for-research-and-development/>

<sup>52</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2020-07-16-al-quds-university/>

<sup>53</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2018-04-29-columbia-university/>

<sup>54</sup> See *Birzeit University condemns breach of academic freedom after academics forced to leave Palestine*, July 13, 2018, Birzeit University News, available at <https://www.birzeit.edu/en/news/birzeit-university-condemns-breach-academic-freedom-after-academics-forced-leave-palestine>, last accessed on May 3, 2022; See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/birzeit-university-2018-06-01/>

<sup>55</sup> See SAR AFM Report, available at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2018-10-02-hebrew-university/>