**Secure academic freedom for Palestinians**

Resolusjonstekst: The human suffering in Gaza is incomprehensible. Since the Hamas attack on October 7th, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) have killed tens of thousands of civilians in Gaza. Among them, more than 14.500 children. We are receiving reports that malnutrition and dehydration is taking lives. The International Court finds it plausible that Israel is guilty of genocide, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food has stated that Israel is deliberately starving Gaza's population. The backdrop of the assault on Gaza is also grim, in which innocent people were brutally killed by the military wing of Hamas. SAIH firmly condemn all the unlawful killings of innocent civilians and breaches of international law.

For SAIH it is also terrifying to witness what has been described as an “epistemicide” or “scholasticide” – a systemic attack on an entire knowledge system. Israel has bombed every university in Gaza, and several of them have subsequently been utilized for military purposes by the IDF. The higher education sector in the West Bank is also under massive pressure, as university campuses are invaded, students arrested and the freedom of movement highly limited by the military occupation. In addition, several laws designed to limit the academic freedom of Palestinian scholars, have been imposed on the higher education sector.

Importantly, the attacks on the Palestinian education sector did not start October 7th. Educational institutions in Palestine have always, and at all times, operated under occupation. Internationally acclaimed human rights organizations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, B’Tselem, as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Palestine, have all concluded that Israel's occupation falls within the internationally acknowledged definition of apartheid.

It is also well-documented that Israeli higher education institutions contribute both to the occupation, and to the recent months' warfare. Their contributions include the development of technology and weapons, the training of military personnel, the academic legitimization of occupation, and the development of military doctrine. In recent months, disciplinary measures have been taken against employees and students critical of the war in Gaza, also threatening the academic freedom of Israeli scholars.

**SAIH believes:**

SAIH believes that having the right to academic freedom and being able to attend your educational institution without the fear of being arrested or prosecuted is something that all students should possess. We acknowledge that this is not the case under the current well-documented system of oppression opposed on the Palestinian society at large.

Due to the severity and urgency of the situation, SAIH believes that all non-violent means of resistance in line with international law, are legitimate. This includes, but are not limited to, academic, cultural, and economic boycotts, sanctions, and divestment from entities contributing to upholding the ongoing and illegal system of oppression.

**SAIH will:**

* Continue implementation of the action points outlined in the resolution “We demand that the Israeli government stops limiting the right to education of Palestinians”, passed by the annual meeting in 2023.
* Advocate for Norwegian higher education institutions to immediately halt all forms of institutional cooperation with higher education institutions in Israel, including formal research cooperation and exchange agreements.
* Advocate for Norwegian higher education institutions to adhere to all procurement procedures to prevent entering into any agreements with suppliers affiliated with the Israeli military or operating in the occupied Palestinian territories. SAIH will also conduct its own internal procedures regarding this issue.
* Actively support the Palestinian higher education sector through seeking partnerships and collaborations with relevant organizations and actors who shares SAIHs vision and goals.
* Provide actionable support to students and academics worldwide facing significant threats to their academic freedom and freedom of speech due to their expressions of solidarity with the Palestinian movement.