

Europe have staged university encampments to demand that their universities end direct or indirect financial and academic links with Israeli counterparts. In some cases, their actions have led to universities cutting ties with Israeli institutions and firms involved in the ongoing bombardment of Gaza.

In her report, "Protecting the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association from stigmatisation," which includes developments about Palestine solidarity, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association Gina Romero noted that, globally, climate change and Palestine solidarity movements are facing "increased levels of stigmatisation" online and offline by authorities and non-state actors. "Students taking part in pro-Palestinian solidarity campaigns have been ... vilified as being 'violent', 'radical', 'disruptive' and 'terrorists' and subjected to abuse by law enforcement".⁵

Indeed, since October 2023, a large number of member states⁶ have violated human rights standards on the right to peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and freedom of association of those standing in solidarity with the Palestinian people and calling for a ceasefire in the region. In particular, the restrictions on protests expressing solidarity with Palestine are part of a wider pattern of violations of the right to protest across Europe.⁷ During this time, the ECF has continuously monitored restrictions, **notably in its annual Civic Space Report**.

These restrictions and repressions have contributed to further polarisation in society, leading to an increase in hate speech and hate crimes targeting both Jewish and Muslim communities in Europe. In this general context, rights restrictions by state authorities have mostly affected Palestinians, people of Arab descent and Muslim people (and those perceived as such), more than often without evidence to justify curtailment of rights. Additionally, self-described "decolonial" and anti-Zionist Jewish organisations and activists critical of Israeli policies have also been targeted in ways that could silence and marginalise them.

Below is a summary of recent restrictions that ECF could document from May to September 2024 against individuals and organisations that express solidarity with the Palestinian people. ECF is not equipped, and therefore does not intend, to provide an exhaustive collection of cases. Rather, this report presents an overarching summary, which accurately reflects the current situation for protests in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

discriminating against "non-Jewish" students, and other implicit and explicit violations of human rights and international law." See: <https://bdsmovement.net/academic-boycott>

⁵ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/226/62/pdf/n2422662.pdf>

⁶ * Our analysis includes EU members and the UK.

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<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur01/8199/2024/en/#:~:text=This%20report%20documents%20a n%20array,is%20protected%2C%20respected%20and%20fulfilled.>



International human rights standards

Everyone has the right to peaceful assembly and to free speech as outlined in [international law](#). In addition, states have an obligation to respect and ensure peaceful protest without discrimination.⁸

The right to peaceful assembly and protest is crucial for meaningful political participation. According to the [OHCHR General Comment on the right of peaceful assembly](#), “states must leave it to the participants to determine freely the purpose or any expressive content of an assembly. The approach of the authorities to peaceful assemblies and any restrictions imposed must thus in principle be content neutral and must not be based on the identity of the participants or their relationship with the authorities.”⁹

The freedom of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, as well as the right to non-discrimination are also enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

ECF documents the restrictions, taking into consideration that these rights cover all forms of peaceful activism, including protests, public campaigns, and, as confirmed by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression¹⁰, boycotts, such as the BDS movement.

We consider it even more crucial in times of conflict that society benefits from a fully functioning civic space, fundamental rights and democracy. However, since 7 October 2023 there have been a considerable number of breaches of international standards as people across Europe have expressed solidarity against the dramatic escalation of violence in the Middle East.

Increased hate crimes and attacks against Jewish and Muslim people

Since 7 October, there has been an increase in all kinds of hate crimes targeting Muslim and Jewish people across Europe. These attacks take place at a time when xenophobic and racist rhetoric is increasingly common, fuelled by far-right narratives. A significant rise in verbal threats and physical attacks against Muslim and Jewish people has been documented, with hate speech, harassment, and violence occurring in both public and private spaces.¹¹ Muslim people have been targeted with Islamophobic attacks, with women and those visibly practising their faith facing heightened risks of aggression.¹² Jewish people have also faced antisemitic hate crimes, for instance when wearing

⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-comment-no-37-article-21-right-peaceful>

⁹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-comment-no-37-article-21-right-peaceful>

¹⁰ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/247/88/pdf/n2424788.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/un-human-rights-chief-condemns-rise-hatred>

¹² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2024/03/un-experts-warn-islamophobia-rising-alarming-levels>



the kippa.¹³ Both Muslim and Jewish religious and cultural sites have been vandalised and attacked. Notable examples are the attempt to set fire to a mosque in Germany's North Rhine-Westphalia during the month of Ramadan, the most holy month for Muslims.¹⁴ A similar arson attempt and explosion was carried out against a Synagogue in La Grande-Motte in France in August 2024.¹⁵

This helps to create a climate of fear that has adversely impacted the ability of these people to feel safe, with negative repercussions on the enjoyment of fundamental rights, including the right to participate through peaceful activism. These developments highlight an overarching trend of increased attacks and hate crimes born in prejudices against targeted groups across Europe.

While fears of incitement to hate, antisemitism and islamophobia are fully legitimate and perpetrators should be held accountable through the use of legal tools, the authorities have also other responsibilities to fulfil at the same time. In particular, they have a duty to facilitate and guarantee the freedoms of expression, assembly and association for all, according to human rights standards. In the case of violent demonstrators, for example, international standards dictate that the police's response should be aimed at removing those enacting or inciting violence in order to enable peaceful protesters to continue exercising their rights. Additionally, the actions of a single individual should not be generalised to categorise an entire group as a danger or be used as a pretext for generalised restrictions. As documented below, it is concerning that these approaches are not systematically followed by public authorities.

Violations of the right to freedom of assembly and the right to protest

Peaceful protests have continued to take place across Europe in various forms, including through university encampments. However, restrictions on protests have been documented in several EU member states, including disproportionate and excessive use of force, intimidation, harassment and detention of protesters. It is important to note that the degree of violations differs between member states, with serious violations documented more frequently in some member states than others.

Disproportionate and excessive force

The use of excessive force has been documented in several member states, including the use of pepper spray, water cannon, physical violence, and kettling tactics. This creates a climate of fear and intimidation and violates international human rights standards.

According to the [OHCHR General Comment on the right of peaceful assembly](#), enforcement officials have the duty "of enabling the assembly to take place as intended, and with a view to minimising the potential for injury to any person and damage to property. [...] Law enforcement

¹³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2024/09/antisemitism-scourge-our-collective-humanity-high-commissioner>

¹⁴ <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/europe/arsonist-tries-to-attack-mosque-in-germanys-north-rhine-westphalia>

¹⁵ <https://www.brusselstimes.com/1194875/clearly-criminal-arson-attack-and-explosion-outside-synagogue-in-southern-france-tbtb>



In a separate incident, after a video of a police officer pushing a woman protester to the ground from behind went viral on social media,²⁵ Berlin police confirmed that there is an internal investigation against the police officer due to the incident.²⁶

In Belgium, a peaceful protest in front of the Israeli Embassy on 28 May was dispersed after less than an hour by the authorities, who used tear gas and a water cannon.²⁷ The police response resulted in injuries, including one protester who required eye surgery. A criminal complaint was filed against the municipality of Uccle, together with the mayor, and the police unit that was involved. Amnesty Belgium condemned the incident and reiterated that although the protest was unauthorised, this did not justify the disproportionate use of force.²⁸ According to international law, notification must not be required for spontaneous assemblies, which typically respond to new events, for which there is not enough time to provide notice, and these protests are covered by the right to assembly. Additionally, participants should be allowed to assemble within the sight and sound of their target audience.

In the Netherlands, on 7 May police broke up an encampment with a bulldozer at the University of Amsterdam. According to the Dutch Scholars for Palestine, riot police violently arrested and beat over 150 students and staff, with some being wounded to the point of losing consciousness.²⁹

On 8 May, Austrian police reportedly forcibly cleared a solidarity camp at the University of Vienna using drones, SWAT units, surveillance vehicles, and a crane. Students and supporters were physically removed, and journalists were barred from the site. Police also used excessive force against demonstrators who protested the eviction, threatened them with arrest, and took record of their identification.³⁰

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x.com/derJamesJackson/status/1825464780309532848?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1825464780309532848%7Ctwgr%5E0d8b8293588f911e8a2a4ee00c994eaf920204d7%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.tagesspiegel.de%2Fberlin%2Fnach-brutaler-szene-bei-palastina-demo-berliner-polizei-ermittelt-gegen-eigenen-beamten-12229805.html

²⁶ <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/nach-brutaler-szene-bei-palastina-demo-berliner-polizei-ermittelt-gegen-eigenen-beamten-12229805.html>

²⁷ <https://www.rtbef.be/article/conflit-au-proche-orient-une-mobilisation-devant-l-ambassade-d-israel-a-uccle-reprimee-par-la-police-11380640>

²⁸ <https://www.amnesty.be/infos/actualites/manif-ambassade-israel-bruxelles;>
[https://www.lavenir.net/regions/bruxelles/2024/05/30/conflit-israelo-palestinien-une-plainte-contre-le-bourgmestre-duccle-apres-la-manifestation-a-lambassade-disrael-U254PE4RCRAXNM2PWXQ2SBBUDY/;](https://www.lavenir.net/regions/bruxelles/2024/05/30/conflit-israelo-palestinien-une-plainte-contre-le-bourgmestre-duccle-apres-la-manifestation-a-lambassade-disrael-U254PE4RCRAXNM2PWXQ2SBBUDY/)
<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20240530-criminal-complaint-filed-in-belgium-over-police-use-of-force-at-pro-palestine-protest/>

²⁹ <https://www.dutchscholarsforpalestine.nl/uva-staff-statement;>
<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/dutch-police-end-pro-palestinian-demonstration-amsterdam-university-2024-05-07/> ; <https://www.aljazeera.com/program/newsfeed/2024/5/9/dutch-police-bulldoze-camp-to-break-up-anti-gaza-war-student-protest>

³⁰ <https://www.instagram.com/p/C63SekNgXDu/?igsh=MWRwN3h0N2xnNnBlbg==;>
https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20240512_OTS0017/gewaltsame-raeumung-des-palaestina-protest-camps-im-alten-akh; [https://bds-info.at/statement-in-solidarity-with-the-students-palestine-solidarity-camp-at-the-university-of-vienna-and-on-the-numerous-attacks-received/;](https://bds-info.at/statement-in-solidarity-with-the-students-palestine-solidarity-camp-at-the-university-of-vienna-and-on-the-numerous-attacks-received/)



On the same day, a counter-protest was staged by the Jewish Austrian Students (JöH) and the Alliance against Anti-Semitism (BGA) Vienna³¹. It is reported that police set up barriers to rightly separate the two groups from each other and to ensure sufficient safety distance. However, police reported that since some protesters did not comply with the request, they recorded some identities.³² Additionally, the use of kettling has been reported.

In a statement, the University of Vienna distanced itself from the student encampments, accusing the students of “anti-Semitism” and the “trivialisation of terror.” It mentioned that it is concerned for the safety of Jewish students.³³ In response to the university, several employees and students at the University of Vienna and other universities noted that the university’s response to the encampment is part of “an established pattern” of censoring voices that are critical of Israeli policies³⁴

The use of excessive force was also documented in [France](#)³⁵, [Italy](#)³⁶, [Greece](#)³⁷, [Spain](#)³⁸ and the [United Kingdom](#)³⁹.

<https://www.derstandard.at/story/3000000219391/pro-palaestina-camp-an-uni-campus-in-wien-geraeumt;>
See another incident here: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C98M9C5sWKQ/?igsh=MWlZOTlwNzlxajkwZg==>

³¹ <https://www.diepresse.com/18446290/gegendemo-bei-pro-palaestina-protestcamp-am-campus-der-uni-wien>

³² <https://www.derstandard.at/story/3000000219346/proisraelische-demo-gegen-protestcamp-auf-wiener-uni-areal-im-alten-akh>

³³ <https://www.univie.ac.at/ueber-uns/weitere-informationen/israel-statement/>

³⁴

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdRatqr0dolzBmXPtHU4ZD9sNHTL9R_yhthO1799JDZVyZGmZAVvIewform; See examples of censoring Palestinian solidarity:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdURShhPCmZsfFoleOZ4-iDAgli3wtkSI80Xb1fpQsjkgGLsg/viewform>;

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeU11BfrDi96YZeQo9EC3rycZN-no9zLYEFkBkQZv1QUMK8DQ/viewform>

³⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/gaza-protesters-disrupt-pariss-sorbonne-university-2024-04-29/>

³⁶<https://www.romatoday.it/cronaca/corteo-roma-1-giugno.html>;

<https://www.lindipendente.online/2024/05/29/finenze-perquisite-le-case-dei-manifestanti-pro-palestina-mentre-non-si-arrestano-le-proteste/>

³⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/clashes-break-out-pro-palestinian-rally-greece-2024-05-07/>;

<https://www.news247.gr/ellada/sintagma-ximika-kai-sproximata-apo-ta-mat-se-poreia-gia-tin-palaistini-eikones/>; <https://www.in.gr/2024/05/07/greece/entasi-ximika-kai-krotou-lampsis-sto-syntagma-se-sygentrosi-gia-tin-palaistini/>

³⁸ https://www.eldiario.es/sevilla/policia-desaloja-golpes-estudiantes-encerrados-universidad-sevilla-matanza-gaza_1_11438471.html; https://www.elconfidencial.com/espana/andalucia/2024-06-11/desalojo-policial-universidad-sevilla-estudiantes-2mpa_3900627/

³⁹ <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/video/travel/riot-like-situation-on-london-streets-eight-arrests-at-pro-palestinian-march-watch/vi-AA1qcpyK?ocid=BingNewsVerp#details>;

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13824187/Pro-Palestine-protest-Israeli-embassy-Met-Police-London.html>



Intimidation, harassment and detention of peaceful protesters

According to international human rights standards, “*practices of indiscriminate mass arrest prior to, during, or following an assembly are arbitrary and thus unlawful.*”⁴⁰ The detention of protesters has been documented in several member states including in Austria⁴¹, Belgium⁴², Denmark⁴³, Germany⁴⁴, Greece⁴⁵, Netherlands⁴⁶, Portugal⁴⁷ and Spain⁴⁸. It is important to note that in some cases these restrictions were imposed by both law enforcement and by academic institutions.

In Germany, Palestinian-German activist Salah Said has received several home visits by the police in relation to his Palestinian rights activism, during which his phones and devices were confiscated⁴⁹. In addition, the ELSC, which provides legal support to the Palestine solidarity movement, explained in a statement that the “countless criminal charges and misdemeanours [...] brought against the Palestine solidarity movement” have often been dropped because these cases are fully covered by freedom of expression. They explain that “The outcome of the legal proceedings shows that the repression serves primarily to intimidate the Palestinian movement. This intimidation particularly affects people financially and/or legally at risk in residency status. This is a form of structural racist violence.”⁵⁰

In Denmark, on 11 September, environmental activist Greta Thunberg was arrested by Danish police during a protest at the University of Copenhagen. Thunberg was among those detained by

⁴⁰ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g20/232/15/pdf/g2023215.pdf>

⁴¹ https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20240512_OTS0017/gewaltsame-raeumung-des-palaestina-protest-camps-im-alten-akh; <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20240530-austria-arrests-16-students-during-pro-palestine-protest/>; <https://www.derstandard.at/story/3000000219391/pro-palaestina-camp-an-uni-campus-in-wien-geraeumt>

⁴² <https://www.liguedh.be/une-dizaine-dong-et-syndicats-sinquietent-des-mesures-repressives-qui-visent-le-mouvement-propalestinien-en-belgique/>; https://www.instagram.com/p/C93VcVptoEw/?img_index=1

⁴³ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/sep/04/greta-thunberg-arrested-at-gaza-war-protest-in-copenhagen>

⁴⁴ <https://www.newarab.com/news/children-young-7-arrested-german-police-gaza-demos>; <https://mondoweiss.net/2024/10/german-police-raid-homes-of-palestine-activists-in-lead-up-to-october-7-commemorations/>

⁴⁵ <https://www.news247.gr/ellada/nomiki-se-sillipseis-metatrapikeis-oi-prosagoges-meta-tin-ekkenosi-tis-katalipsis/>

⁴⁶ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/7/police-break-up-pro-palestine-protests-at-berlin-amsterdam-campus>; <https://www.parool.nl/amsterdam/zo-verliep-het-pro-palestijnse-protest-op-uva-campus-roeterseiland-b821327c?referrer=https://www.google.com/>

⁴⁷ <https://sicnoticias.pt/pais/2024-05-09-video-oito-estudantes-detidos-em-protesto-pro-palestina-na-universidade-de-lisboa-61559cee>

⁴⁸ <https://www.noticiasdenavarra.com/sucesos/2024/04/15/detenidos-resistencia-colorante-rojo-fuente-merindades-pamplona-8117382.html>

⁴⁹ <https://www.newarab.com/analysis/how-germany-silenced-pro-palestine-activists-during-euros>; <https://www.sicht-vom-hochblauen.de/der-menschenrechtsaktivist-salah-said-berichtet-von-seinen-haeufigen-polizeibesuchen-bei-ihm-zu-hause-in-berlin-von-ayse-isin-kirenci/>

⁵⁰ <https://elsc.support/news/dozens-of-cases-dropped-in-germany-failed-attempts-at-intimidation>



police, who reported six arrests in total. The demonstration aimed to demand an academic boycott of Israeli institutions.⁵¹

On 10 May, eight students were detained by police during a protest at the University of Lisbon in Portugal,⁵² after they were instructed to do so by the university faculty. On 8 September, police in Athens evacuated a squat at the Law School occupied by students in solidarity with Palestine and detained 28 people. The protests continued with a rally demanding the acquittal of the arrested students.⁵³

There have also been several cases of intimidation and harassment of protesters, in particular against students, taking part in university encampment actions.

Since 30 August, at least 70 people involved with the student movement at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium or those who supported the encampment received summonses from the Brussels police related to their activities in the university encampments, following complaints by ULB authorities. A coalition of NGOs, including Amnesty International Belgium and the *Ligue des droits humains*, raised concerns over the measures, noting that the repression of the pro-Palestinian movement by various authorities "has continued to intensify."⁵⁴

In France, 25 students from Sciences Po in Paris have been summoned by the university to appear for a disciplinary hearing for participating in a blockade and occupation.⁵⁵

In Italy, police reportedly searched the apartments of those who participated in a solidarity march in Tuscany outside the US consulate.⁵⁶ SUDD Cobas, a worker's union that participated in the protest reported that it faced "serious intimidating action" from the Florentine police. According to

⁵¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/sep/04/greta-thunberg-arrested-at-gaza-war-protest-in-copenhagen>

⁵² <https://sicnoticias.pt/pais/2024-05-09-video-oito-estudantes-detidos-em-protesto-pro-palestina-na-universidade-de-lisboa-61559cee>; <https://www.publico.pt/2024/05/10/p3/noticia/estudantes-detidos-protesto-propalestina-libertados-2089960>

⁵³ <https://www.news247.gr/ellada/nomiki-se-sillipseis-metatrapikeis-oi-prosagoges-meta-tin-ekkenosi-tis-katalipsis/>; <https://www.news247.gr/politiki/mitsotakis-gia-nomiki-gelasmnoi-an-nomizoun-oti-tha-kanoun-afta-pou-eidan-allou/>; <https://www.cnn.gr/ellada/story/419190/katalipsi-nomikis-se-28-syllipseis-metatrapikeis-oi-prosagoges-anoikse-ksana-i-sxoli>

⁵⁴ <https://bx1.be/categories/news/occupation-de-lulb-des-etudiants-vises-par-des-plaintes-pour-appartenance-a-un-groupe-haineux/> ; <https://www.liguedh.be/une-dizaine-dong-et-syndicats-sinquietent-des-mesures-repressives-qui-visent-le-mouvement-propalestinien-en-belgique/>

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https://x.com/AerReims/status/1815413218149298349?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1815413218149298349%7Ctwgr%5Ea00fc89b34c15736392489ba4bc1b2030fe141f7%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalestinevaincra.com%2F2024%2F07%2F25-etudiants-de-sciences-po-sont-convoques-en-section-disciplinaire-pour-leur-engagement-pro-palestinien%2F;

<https://www.revolutionpermanente.fr/Nouvelle-vague-de-repression-a-Sciences-Po-25-etudiants-mobilises-pour-la-Palestine-poursuivis>; <https://palestinevaincra.com/2024/07/25-etudiants-de-sciences-po-sont-convoques-en-section-disciplinaire-pour-leur-engagement-pro-palestinien/>;

https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2024/05/23/sciences-po-huit-etudiants-poursuivis-en-section-disciplinaire-apres-l-occupation-d-un-amphitheatre-en-soutien-au-peuple-palestinien_6235100_3224.html

⁵⁶ <https://www.lindipendente.online/2024/05/29/finenze-perquisite-le-case-dei-manifestanti-pro-palestina-mentre-non-si-arrestano-le-proteste/>



the union, the search operations began at 6am and took place at the home of their union coordinator and other union members.⁵⁷

Censoring Palestine solidarity

Freedom of expression continues to be restricted in several member states, with legitimate criticism of Israeli authorities unduly conflated with antisemitism and “apology for terrorism” and used to silence all activists and organisations. Human rights organisations,⁵⁸ including some Jewish organisations,⁵⁹ have cautioned against conflating advocacy on the rights of Palestinians with antisemitism which has often led to chill and sometimes suppress, non-violent protest, activism and speech critical of Israel, including in the US and Europe.⁶⁰

It is important to note that restrictions on free expression have been imposed by several actors including law enforcement, government officials, academic and cultural institutions.

In Graz, Austria, public authorities carried out an investigation and audit into Rahma Austria, a humanitarian aid organisation which provides support to people in Gaza, which resulted in the seizure of €600,000 and the closure of their bank accounts.⁶¹ Earlier proceedings against the organisation for terrorist financing and money laundering have largely been discontinued.⁶² The organisation, which believes that the investigation is politically motivated, was previously targeted during Operation Luxor- where police carried out unlawful raids largely targeting Muslim individuals and organisations.⁶³

In Germany, the censoring of free expression includes the cancellation of guest speakers at lectures or events, the cancellation of art exhibitions, and the censoring of Palestinian symbols such as the watermelon, the Palestinian flag or the Keffiyeh.⁶⁴ In early June, the University of Heidelberg cancelled a lecture by Palestinian American journalist Hebh Jamal who was due to speak about “about manufacturing consent for genocide and German censorship of Palestinians”.⁶⁵ This comes after the CDU raised its concerns over antisemitism in a letter to the

⁵⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=963685855548490&set=a.469003151683432>

⁵⁸ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/04/04/human-rights-and-other-civil-society-groups-urge-united-nations-respect-human>

⁵⁹ <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/resource/zionism/>

⁶⁰ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/04/04/human-rights-and-other-civil-society-groups-urge-united-nations-respect-human> ; <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/a77512-combating-glorification-nazism-neo-nazism-and-other-practices>

⁶¹ <https://www.rahma-austria.at/de/medien/837-pressekonferenz-zu-den-vorwuerfen-und-der-vorgehensweise-der-staatsanwaltschaft-graz>; <https://steiermark.orf.at/stories/3256113/>

⁶² <https://www.sn.at/panorama/oesterreich/knapp-euro-rahma-austria-158017897>

⁶³ <https://web.archive.org/web/20201125113514/https://dokustelle.at/offener-brief-an-regierung> <https://www.rahma-austria.at/de/medien/831-stellungnahme-des-hilfsvereins-rahma-austria-zu-den-aktuellen-vorwuerfen>; <https://www.profil.at/oesterreich/operation-luxor-nehammers-debakel/402385727>

⁶⁴ https://www.instagram.com/archive_of_silence/?hl=en

⁶⁵ https://x.com/hebh_jamal/status/1797949877412040928; <https://www.bild.de/politik/inland/heidelberg-terror-skandal-erschuettert-deutsche-top-uni-665ecd37c34cbc2d431c1014>



university.⁶⁶ Jamal has faced ongoing smear campaign which has branded her as a “ Hamas fanatic”, “terror sympathiser,” and “Jew hater⁶⁷.” In another example, after Berlin police evicted an encampment at the Free University at the request of the university administrators, over a thousand university lecturers wrote an open letter defending free speech and their students’ ability to protest free from police persecution⁶⁸. Germany’s Education Minister, Bettina Stark-Watzinger, expressed outrage at the statement.⁶⁹ According to leaked emails, Watzinger went beyond criticism and attempted to investigate if the ministry had grounds to cut grant funding to signatories of the open letter and whether they had broken criminal law.⁷⁰

In Portugal, on 25 July, during a Europa League match between Sp. Braga and Petah Tikva, some fans displayed a Palestinian flag. The PSP removed the flag after it “caused unease” among the Israeli delegation and fans.⁷¹ International standards say that waving a flag – any flag – is a form of expression and freedom of political expression that should enjoy maximum legal protection and should not be restricted.⁷²

In May 2024 in Spain, the Rocafort City Council, governed by PP and Vox, removed a mural in solidarity with Palestine, created by illustrator María Martínez.⁷³ The council justified the removal by citing a prohibition on politically themed murals. Martínez criticised the removal as direct censorship and part of a broader pattern of suppression of politically engaged art.⁷⁴

Journalist and anti-racist activist, Youssef M. Ouled is facing a SLAPP (strategic lawsuit against public participation) by the Movement Against Intolerance (MCI), for alleged “anti-Semitism” due to his posts condemning Israeli actions in Gaza.⁷⁵

In the United Kingdom, on 21 May police charged Marieha Hussain in connection with a controversial placard that depicted a coconut during a protest in solidarity with Palestine.⁷⁶ The

⁶⁶ <https://www.bild.de/politik/inland/heidelberg-terror-skandal-erschuettert-deutsche-top-uni-665ecd37c34cbc2d431c1014>

⁶⁷ <https://www.newarab.com/opinion/germany-cancelled-me-speaking-out-gaza-so-i-persisted>

⁶⁸ <https://www.the-berliner.com/english-news-berlin/berlin-university-lecturers-sign-open-letter-solidarity-protesting-students/> ;

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVy2D5Xy_DMiaMx2TsE7YediR6qifxoLDP1zIjKzEI9t1LWw/viewform?s=09

⁶⁹ <https://www.bild.de/politik/inland/uni-lehrkraefte-unterstuetzen-krawall-studenten-die-universitaeter-663cb4dfa8485058948a470e>

⁷⁰ <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/universities/german-science-official-steps-down-row-about-pro-palestine-protest>

⁷¹ <https://rr.sapo.pt/bola-branca/noticia/futebol-nacional/2024/07/25/bandeira-da-palestina-obriga-a-intervencao-da-psp-na-bancada-de-braga/387706/>

⁷² <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/247/88/pdf/n2424788.pdf>

⁷³ <https://www.elsaltodiario.com/censura/rocafort-censura-solidaridad-pueblo-palestino>

⁷⁴ <https://directa.cat/la-censura-en-lart-impulsada-pel-pp-i-vox-no-pot-quedar-impune/>

⁷⁵ <https://www.publico.es/sociedad/demandan-antisemitismo-activista-antirracista-denuncia-genocidio-israel-gaza.html>

⁷⁶ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/21/uk-police-charge-pro-palestine-protester-behind-divisive-coconut-placard>



placard led to allegations of incitement and hate speech. However, on 13 September, Hussain was found not guilty of a racially aggravated public order offence.⁷⁷

⁷⁷<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/sep/13/pro-palestine-protester-cleared-racial-offence-coconut-placard-sunak-braverman>

