



حكمة – مركز من أجل القانون الدولي وحقوق الانسان

**Hikmah – Center for International Law and Human Rights**

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13 March 2024

Prof. Asher Cohen  
President of the Hebrew University

Re: Measures against Professor Nadera Shalhoub – Kevorkian

Yesterday it was reported that the Hebrew University decided to suspend Professor Nadera Shalhoub – Kevorkian because of her opposition to Israel's assault against Gaza and her sharp critique of Zionism. This measure follows another warning one directed at Professor Shalhoub – Kevorkian in October when she circulated a petition protesting Israel's war in Gaza.

I do not intend to defend Professor Shalhoub – Kevorkian, a distinguished and rare academic who combines rigorous research with engaged public activity setting a model of decency against the clearly unjustified measure. She and others can do that probably better than me. Nor do I intend to repeat cliches about the university as a location for the free exchange of ideas or denote the illegality of your conduct in the very narrow sense of the word.

I wish however to seize this opportunity to state what is probably the obvious. Since its inception, your university has consciously played a central part in Zionist nation building in Palestine. In these circumstances it is necessarily an exercise of coloniality, apartheid, dispossession, concealment, and denial. Carried on the wings of major foreign powers to Palestine and its people, Zionism's performance proved to be hostile and abolitionable.

What your university has managed to generate is the reproduction of Zionism's society as a *heder*: untalented Ahkinazi dominance, constant Mizrahi resentment, and denial of Palestine's actuality.

Your government and military have committed genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes in the most recent war against Gaza, an occupied and enclaved area. The senior Israeli civilian and military officials are captured in two jurisdictions: the International Criminal Court's and the universal. These insidious crimes followed a consistent pattern of sadistic and pathological planning and incompetency among your government and military. They were accompanied with a societal cheering verging on the cannibalistic.

Legal banning and collective willful silence define what is not revealed about the events of October 7<sup>th</sup>. Israeli forces killed most of the Israeli civilians that day. The propaganda effort abroad led by your president has been slowly and steadily diminishing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that appears to read 'Marwan Dalal'.

Marwan Dalal

Executive Director