

Letter of demands to the Governing Council of UPF

We write this text months into Israel's ongoing genocide in Palestine: following Israel's systematic [killing of more than 36 thousand people](#) in the Gaza Strip, half of whom are children, its intentional [starvation](#) of the Strip's population of over 2 million individuals, its total [destruction of residential areas](#) and of the [healthcare](#) and [educational](#) systems, its detention, torture, and execution of doctors, nurses, professors, journalists and others, and its increasingly bloody ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their homes in Gaza and in the rest of the occupied territories. We write this text in the wake of the [International Court of Justice](#)'s imposition of provisional measures against Israel under the Genocide Convention, and an ever-growing list of international human rights, humanitarian, and civic organizations [sounding the alarm](#) loudly over Israel's massive and rapidly escalating international crimes and their catastrophic impact on the Palestinian population. We also write this text to the backdrop of reports by international NGOs like [Amnesty International](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#), and Palestinian and Israeli NGOs, like [Al-Haq](#) and [B'Tselem](#), that document with overwhelming evidence Israel's illegal military occupation of Palestine and the system of apartheid it has imposed on the Palestinian people during the past 76 years. And finally, we write this text as part of a local and [global university movement](#), of students, faculty, and staff, that has risen in our own city and across the planet. Countless campuses have, in the last months, been pushed by their own academic communities to reckon with their complicity in the dispossession and killing of Palestinians, both historically and in the present moment.

While [other universities](#) have moved swiftly to cut any academic and economic ties that implicate them in the horrors we are watching in Gaza and throughout Palestine, Universitat Pompeu Fabra has so far failed to position itself clearly as an institution. The UPF community has mobilized itself in repeated protests during the last eight months. Students, faculty and staff have also come together to form the collective UPF in Solidarity with Palestine and to join the Red Universitaria por Palestina, which links 43 universities across Spain. These groups have made it possible for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories to present her report "[the Anatomy of a Genocide](#)" directly to UPF and other universities. They have organized presentations by Palestinian scholars, including a [devastating intervention by Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta](#) on what he witnessed, first-hand of the Israeli atrocities in Gaza while he volunteered there as a surgeon this fall. Despite all of this, UPF's administration has not seriously engaged with any of the above-mentioned activities. Neither has it taken the necessary steps to suspend its links with [complicit Israeli academic institutions](#) and enterprises, or with other corporations that aid the apartheid, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide unfolding in Palestine.

Ahead of the Consell de Govern's meeting on 4 June 2024, we urge UPF's governing bodies to act in line with the university's commitment to human rights and international law, and to uphold its democratic principles and materialize the demands of over 500 students, faculty members, and staff – including UPF Doctor Honoris Causa Angela Davis – who have signed the [letter in support of Gaza](#). To do so, we demand that the university take the following urgent and material steps:

- Suspend, with immediate effect, its mobility agreements with the following complicit Israeli universities: University of Tel-Aviv, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Haifa University, and Reichman University.
- Commit to not establishing or renewing any mobility agreements with Israeli universities while Israel continues to carry out its attacks on the Palestinian population, both in Gaza and the West Bank, in breach of their obligations as an occupying force.
- In the context of research consortia funded by the European Union, given UPF's participation in three Horizon Europe projects that include Israeli institutions or companies:
 - o Ask the European Union for the immediate and precautionary blocking of the participation of Israeli institutions or companies in all projects financed with European funds, in accordance with European treaties and the principles that underpin them.
 - o For as long as the European Union does not take such steps, refrain from participating in any academic or institutional event in which Israeli institutions or companies are involved.
- In the context of the ARTEMIS Cybersecurity Chair, which includes [Oracle](#), a technology company that directly supports the Israeli military, ask the European Union for the immediate and precautionary blocking of Oracle's participation in this Chair.
- In the context of the university's accords and agreements with companies that are linked to genocide, apartheid and occupation, suspend, with immediate effect, the cooperative education agreement with [HP Printing and Computing Solutions](#).

We, the UPF community, will not rest until our institution rids itself of agreements that tie us directly to the horrors we are witnessing in Gaza, and to the broader subjugation of the Palestinian people. We refuse to accept that UPF lags behind, implicating us all in unspeakable violence, as we watch colleagues and fellow students throughout Catalonia, Spain, and the world move their universities toward ethical commitments.

We, the undersigned collectives, while diverse in our broader political commitments, co-sign the above demands, and urge the university to comply with them:

AEP Ciutadella
Asamblea Oberta per Palestina
Assemblea Ciutadella
Collective UPF in Solidarity with Palestine
Front d'Estudiants
Juvent República Jovent
Red Universitaria por Palestina a la UPF
SEPC Ciutadella
Time is up
Universitats Amb Palestina

For the latest list of signatories, see [here](#).