

Israeli Military Invades Al Quds University Early Friday Morning January 29, 2016



The Israeli Military invaded Al Quds University in Abu Dies at 2:50 am on Friday, January 29, 2016 and left at 4:40 am. The force was comprised of approximately 300 soldiers and security personnel and around 20 vehicles.

The commanding officer of the Israeli force summoned university security and locked all security personnel in a room. University security offered to accompany soldiers and grant them access to any parts of the university they would like to search, but this was refused.

The military force broke into and searched all the offices of student council groups, and filled an armored vehicle with written material, computers, copy machines and other electronics. They further patrolled the entire campus taking measurements of buildings, roads and hallways across campus.

This invasion represents an ongoing trend of targeting Palestinian universities with invasions and violence. Al Quds University was attacked approximately 10 times last October 2015 and invaded twice with severe damage to campus and over 700 casualties including suffocation from tear gas and rubber bullet injuries.

Such Actions are a clear violation of international law and norms as set out in the 1907 Hague Regulations, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and customary international humanitarian law, which include the following prohibitions:

- Deliberate attacks on civilians, including students and educators.
- Deliberate attacks on civilian objects, which include education institutions not being used for military purposes.
- Failing to take all feasible precautions to minimize harm to civilians, such as using education institutions for military purposes while students and teachers remain present.
- Using students and educators as human shields by preventing civilians from leaving from education institutions that are being controlled by a military force.

Other actions that may result in violations of international human rights and humanitarian law:

The occupation or use of education institutions by armed forces and other armed groups may:

- Undermine, prevent, or deter students from realizing their right to education.
- Place students and educators at unnecessary risk of attack in violation of international humanitarian law.
- Place students and educators at unnecessary risk of abuses of their fundamental rights to personal security by occupying forces.ⁱ

We call on the international community and local private, public and non-governmental organizations to stand with us in strongly condemning such blatant acts of violence and intimidation and preventing such attacks in the future. We are a civilian institution of higher learning whose primary objective is educating Palestinian youth and preparing them for a constructive and positive future. Maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for students to learn and develop is essential to our mission and the mission of all Palestinian Universities.

ⁱ <http://www.protectingeducation.org/what-international-laws-are-violated>