

Dear CvB,

At the moment of writing, the UN reports 9 weeks of full aid blockade on Gaza. On the 25th of April, the UN Human Rights Office reported: *"Extremely high civilian casualties over 18 months do not appear to have prompted any changes in Israeli targeting practices and policies, a pattern indicating at the very least a complete disregard for the lives of civilians in Gaza. Matched with Israel's policy of deliberately blocking life-saving assistance from entering the Gaza Strip, these policies appear to be aimed at punishing the civilian population of Gaza and inflicting on them conditions of life increasingly incompatible with their continued existence as a group in Gaza."* After 19 months of genocide against the Palestinian people, you have still not taken any action to break ties with complicit

Israeli institutions. Despite all the evidence we have presented, you choose to ignore staff and students who have spoken out against WUR's complicity through many petitions, protests and negotiations. You claim to want dialogue but you'd rather ignore staff and students to protect your positions. You even chose to use violence against students and staff during the eviction of the camp in November.

In the past year Tilburg University, Erasmus University, Leiden University and others have established independent ethical committees that have produced reports to their University boards providing advice on their ties with Israeli institutions and companies. Most have de facto concluded that breaking ties is the moral responsibility of their respective boards. Many of the partners discussed in the reports are also current partners of Wageningen University. Our demand of immediately breaking ties with Israeli institutions that are complicit in genocide stands. A clear case for breaking the ties and extensive research has already been produced by the ethical committees on many of WUR's partners (which can be read in the attached pdfs).

Since you have ignored the evidence and arguments that staff and students have provided over the last year, Wageningen for Palestine now calls for the establishment of an independent ethical committee at WUR as well. They will be tasked with examining the conduct of WUR's partners in Israel, international law and the moral responsibility of the WUR, in order to produce a report with binding advice on the future of ties that WUR has with Israeli partners. The process of installing this ethical committee should be independent, democratic and transparent. When you are forming this committee, we should be contacted to make sure that the previously mentioned conditions are met.

There is plenty of evidence already of why the institutional ties with Israel should be cut, including international law (ICJ and ICC), Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Oxfam International, and countless academic reports and papers; as well as the experiences of Palestinian people. This should already be more than enough evidence to immediately freeze and cut the ties, but this ethical committee is yet another opportunity to assess the ethics of your ties.

The fact that you have not taken this step before, and the fact that you stand for quality of life while not even reflecting on your contribution to mass death is extremely shameful. We thus urge you to do this now. Despite your complicity with the ongoing genocide and your choice to use violence against students and employees, this movement has been able to keep all its actions peaceful. Considering the increasing violence that your silence is supporting, we are forced to escalate when the demands are not met within a reasonable timeframe. We are sure you have seen the anger and deep disappointment expressed at other universities. Do not think you should be exempt from this, or that your actions deserve any less reaction from students and staff. We would all like to prevent that, so please move to the right side of history and join us in fighting against colonialism, racism and genocide!

Kind regards,

Wageningen for Palestine