

The Responsibility of ETH Zurich: Analysis of the spread of Anti-Semitism and Hate Propaganda



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Report on Anti-Semitic Content and Incitement Against Israel at the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich

Introduction

This report documents the misuse of academic resources and platforms at the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich to disseminate content that is directed against the State of Israel and promotes anti-Semitic stereotypes. The materials analyzed, as evidenced in a series of screenshots, originate both from external websites that were accessible via ETH links and from materials directly accessible through the Department of Architecture at ETH. This content contributes to demonizing the image of Israel and denigrating Jewish people by distorting historical facts and propagating one-sided narratives that focus exclusively on the Palestinian point of view. The extent of the propaganda as described here is unparalleled in any other conflict and demonstrates a unique focus on and against Israel.

The aim of this report is to highlight the seriousness of this propaganda, which not only aims to provide a politically one-sided portrayal of the Middle East conflict, but also deliberately incites hatred and hostility towards Israel and the Jewish people. The report is divided into different sections, using screenshots to show how this content is systematic and supported.

Antisemitism today comes in various forms, and one of the more subtle yet dangerous forms is the so-called "new antisemitism", in which hatred against Jews is expressed not directly, but through the delegitimization of the state of Israel and the spread of disinformation. Such practices are not only dangerous for the Jewish community in Israel and worldwide, but also for the academic environment, which depends on freedom, tolerance and respectful discourse.

In the context of an international academic institution such as ETH Zurich, it is of the utmost importance that scientific discourse is balanced and based on facts. Academic freedom does not mean that propaganda or hate speech can be tolerated, but that it must be challenged in the spirit of critical and pluralistic thinking. However, when a platform is provided for clearly biased and defamatory content against Israel, this must be considered a serious problem that undermines academic standards and the fundamental values of an open society.

The following sections of this report analyze the specific content documented in the screenshots provided. Each screenshot is examined in terms of the type of content presented and its anti-Semitic or anti-Israel bias. Particular attention is paid to how this content contributes to the spread of prejudice and false information about Israel and the Jewish people.

In addition, the extent to which this content is legitimized by linking or distribution via platforms of the Department of Architecture ETH Zurich is examined.

The information contained in the screenshots ranges from defamatory articles about the Israeli army to distorted historical accounts of the Middle East conflict. These materials promote a one-sided narrative that portrays Israel as the sole aggressor and the Palestinian people as the sole victims, without considering the complexity of the conflict or Israel's legitimate security interests. Such content not only ignores the historical facts, but also promotes a culture of hostility and mistrust towards Israel and Jews in general.

This report will detail the individual pieces of evidence and highlight the ways in which this content contributes to the spread of hate and prejudice. It will conclude by setting out what is expected to be done to deal with such content in the future, to preserve its academic integrity and to create an environment free from antisemitism and hate speech.

Methodology and Content

The data in this report comes from a series of archived web pages and links that were originally published or forwarded by the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich. These pages, which were previously publicly accessible, have been backed up over time by web archive services such as the Wayback Machine. This archiving process ensures that the content remains accessible to enable accurate analysis and review. However, it is notable that the Department of Architecture ETH Zurich has deleted web pages following written requests for this content, giving the impression that the materials should be removed from the public domain.

The analysis of this content shows a clear anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic tendency. In particular, the deletion of the problematic websites contradicts the standards of an academic institution that should be committed to transparency and education. In a written reply, Mr. Borer, Head of University Communications at ETH, emphasized that "freedom of opinion and freedom of teaching and research" are of great importance. However, freedom of opinion and freedom of teaching were never called into question. The crucial point is that the websites were actively deleted instead of facing an open discussion. Mr. Borer's assertion that the Internet itself has an archive function, and that content can therefore not be deleted contradicts the measures that were taken to actively remove this content from the Internet.

To verify the authenticity and responsibility of the content, a team from the Swiss Israeli Society (GSI) carried out extensive research, including downloading and checking all relevant archived data (Wayback Machine) up to 2024. In some cases, authors and responsible persons from the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich who were involved in the publication of these materials were identified.

However, there were also cases in which it was not possible to identify the authors due to insufficient or concealed information.

This report documents numerous examples of content that purposefully promotes hatred and hostility towards Israel and the Jewish people and shows how the Department of Architecture ETH Zurich is trying to evade confrontation by deleting these materials. All screenshots for this report were taken on October 8 and 9, 2024.

Evidence of Anti-Semitic and Anti-Israeli Content from the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich

Analysis of the Seminar Week "Landna(h)me: An Excursion to Israel and the Palestinian Autonomous Territories"

The first screenshots provided document an excursion by the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich entitled "Landna(h)me: An excursion to Israel and the Palestinian Autonomous Territories". The title indicates a problematic presentation of the topic, as the term "Landna(h)me" (land grab) contains an implicit attribution of blame to Israel and supports the narrative of an illegal occupation. This anchors a one-sided view that distorts the complex geopolitical background of the region.

In terms of content, the program of the seminar week focuses strongly on Palestinian narratives and invites speakers such as Alessandro Petti and Sandi Hilal, who are known for their anti-Israeli positions. The lecture title "Oush Grab, Return to Nature" implies that the Israeli presence in certain areas is not "natural", which is another example of subliminal anti-Zionism. These statements, combined with the participation of DAAR (Decolonizing Architecture Art Residency), which is strongly against the state of Israel and its architecture, contribute to a mood of delegitimization of Israel.

Further information includes a reference to the "Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel", which promotes the academic and cultural boycott of Israel. This campaign is part of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which is classified as anti-Semitic as it aims to isolate and boycott Israel. By linking directly to this campaign on the official website of the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich, the BDS movement is actively supported and promoted. This shows a clearly one-sided and discriminatory attitude towards Israel and people of the Jewish faith.

Additionally, among the related links is "Breaking the Silence", an organization known for portraying Israel's military actions in an extremely negative and often distorted manner in order to undermine the moral integrity of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Such content promotes the narrative that Israel systematically violates international law and contributes to the demonization of the Jewish state.

The combination of a one-sided choice of topics, anti-Israeli lecturers and support for BDS-affiliated organizations shows a clear anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic bias in the academic presentation of the seminar week. These screenshots clearly demonstrate that through this event, the Department of Architecture ETH Zurich is providing a platform for the spread of hatred and prejudice against Israel and the Jewish people.

Below are screenshots (outlined in black for visibility) as images that serve as evidence. The website has not been accessible since at least 8.10.2024 and has been deleted. The screenshots are from the above archive, are partially referenced in the text and appear consecutively.

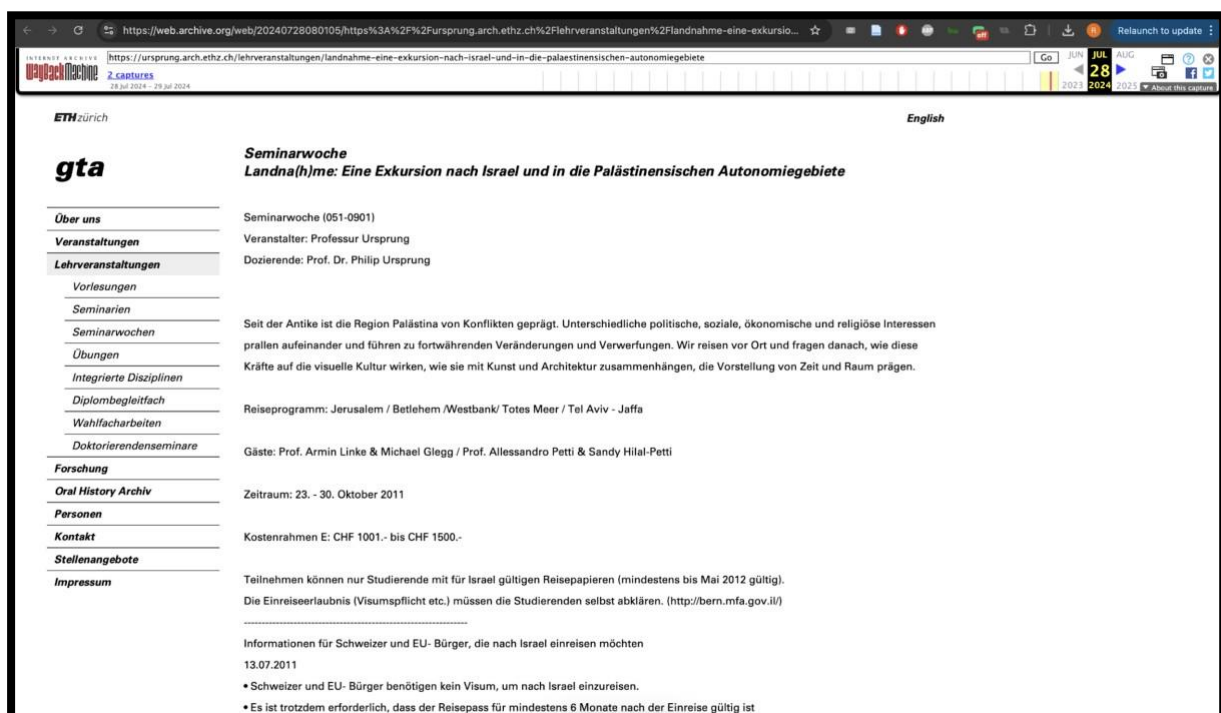


Figure 1: Screenshot of the seminar week "Landna(h)me: An excursion to Israel and the Palestinian Autonomous Territories" at the Department of Architecture ETH Zurich. The title of the event implies a one-sided and negative portrayal of the Israeli presence in the region, which indicates an anti-Israeli tendency.

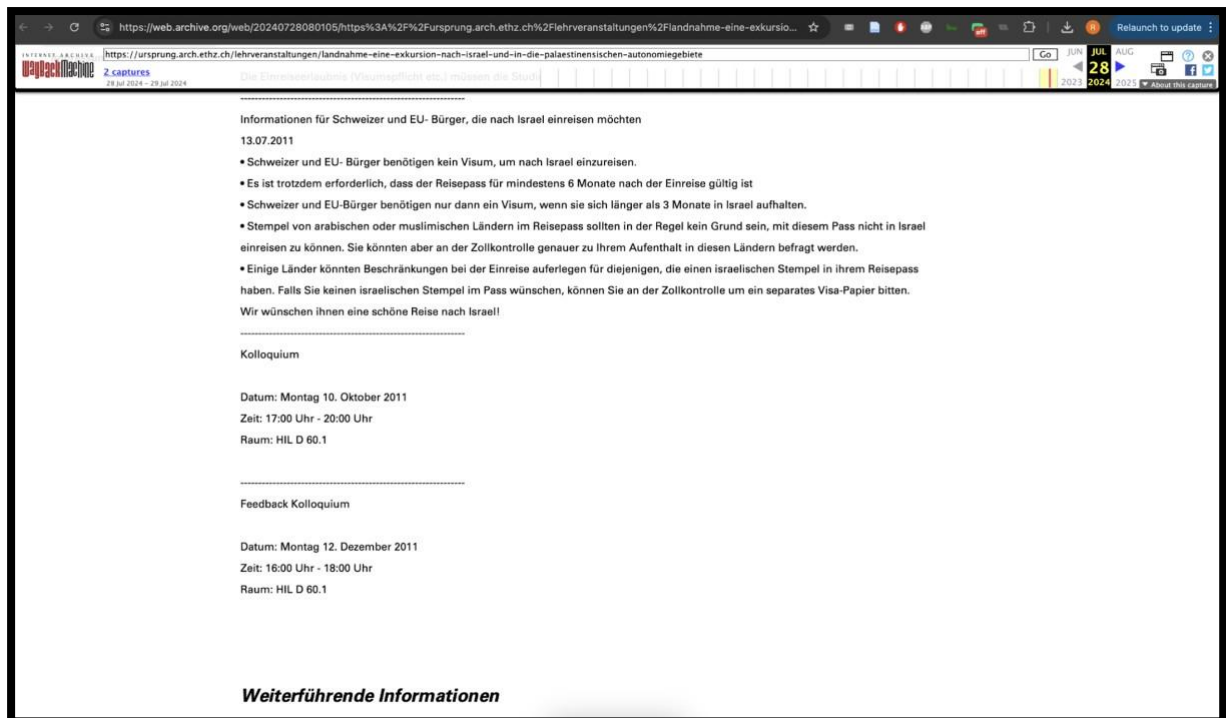


Figure 2: Detailed description of the program of the seminar week, which focuses on Palestinian perspectives and shows a one-sided representation of the conflict. Speakers such as Alessandro Petti and Sandi Hilal are known for their anti-Israeli positions.

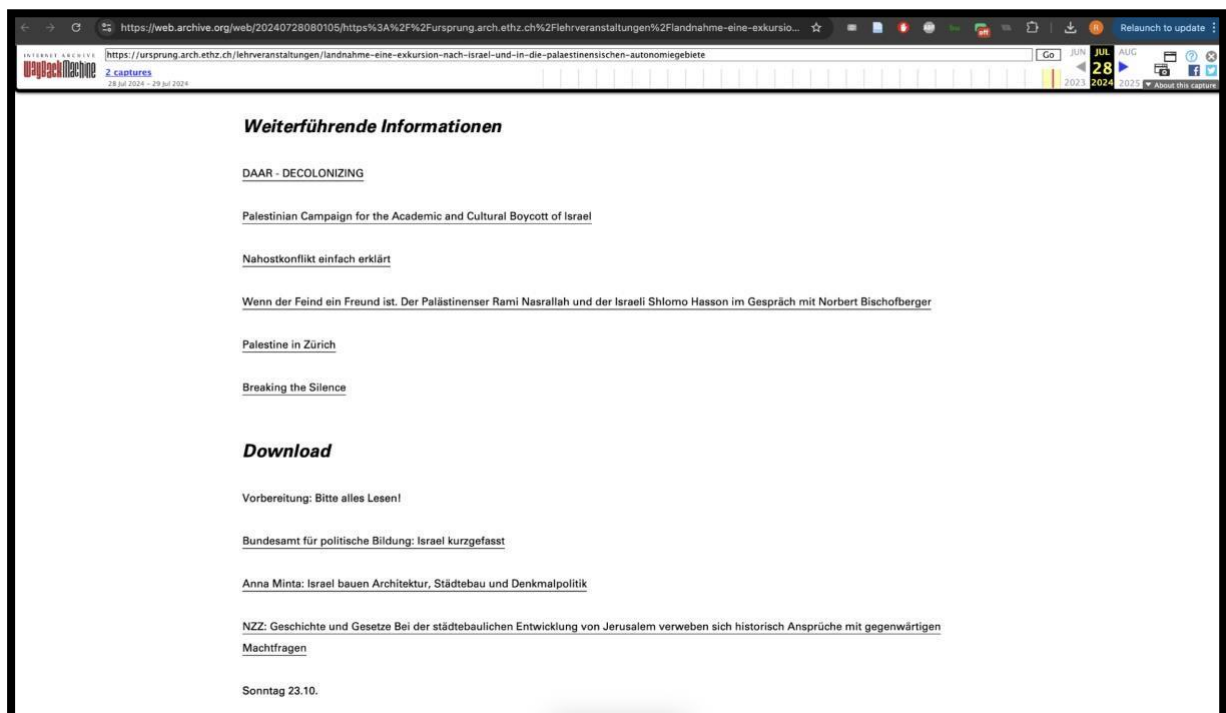


Figure 3: Further information from the seminar week refers to the "Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel", which supports the academic and cultural boycott of Israel. The link to this campaign on the ETH website promotes the anti-Israeli narrative.

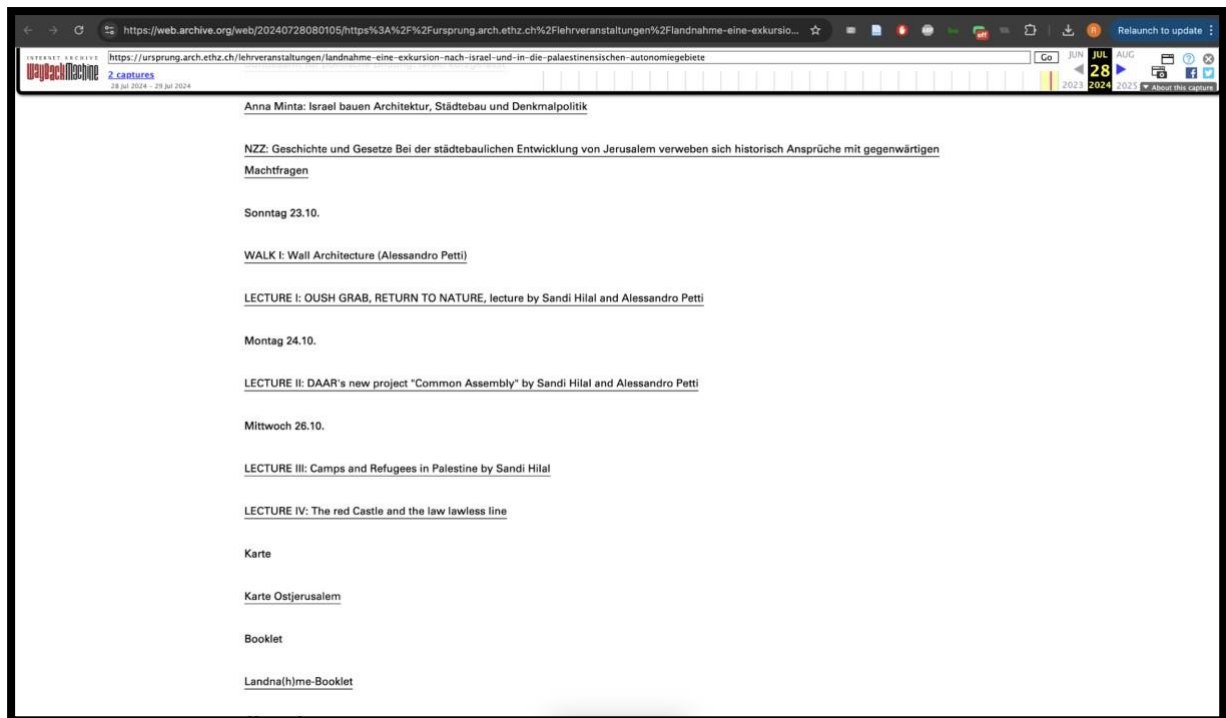


Figure 4: Further web links lead to "Breaking the Silence", an organization that unilaterally criticizes Israel's military behaviour and thus contributes to the demonization of the state of Israel. Such links show the promotion of anti-Israeli propaganda.

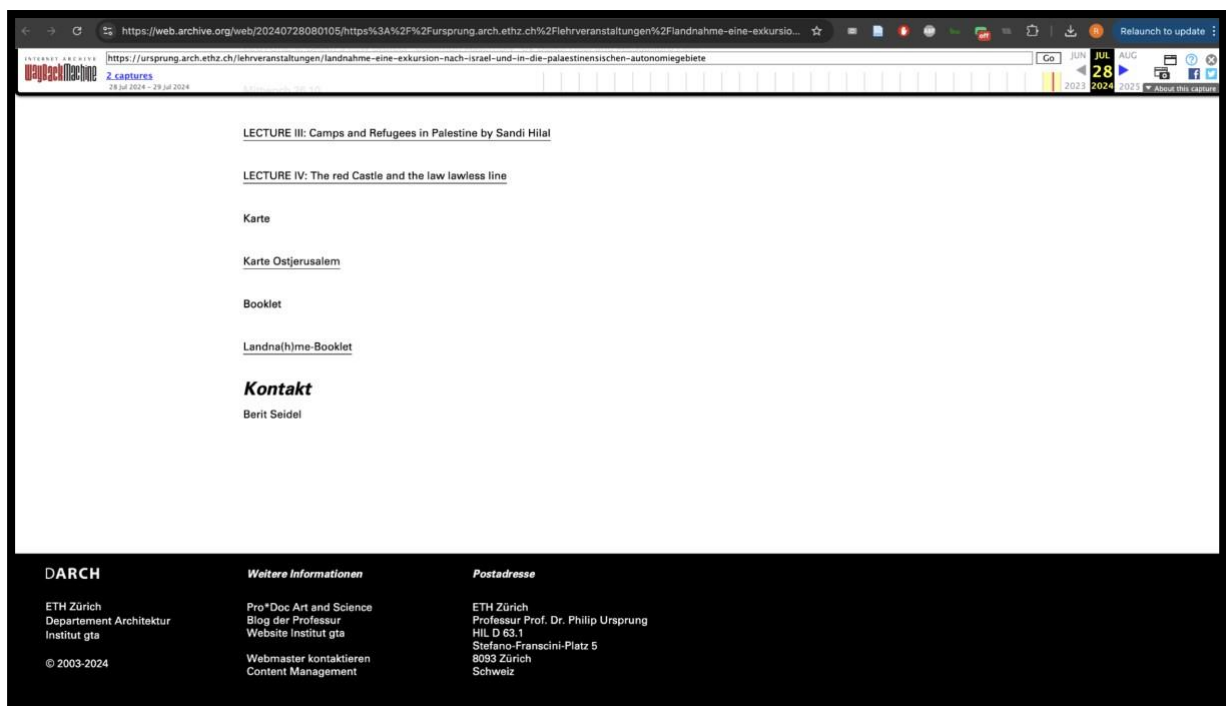


Figure 5: Additional materials from the seminar week, such as lectures and maps, emphasize the anti-Israeli orientation of the event. The focus portrays the Israeli presence as unnatural and illegitimate.

The following documents the links to the above screenshots, if they are still accessible (as of October 8 and 9, 2024). All the following content has been officially recommended under the domain of the Department of Architecture ETH Zurich to prepare participants for the "Seminar Week".

DAAR - Decolonization and its Anti-Israeli Tendencies

The section of DAAR (Decolonizing Architecture Art Research) refers to a long history of destruction and reconstruction in the Palestinian region. The narrative describes the destruction of residential areas in Gaza by the Israeli army, such as the Al Nada neighborhood, and presents Israel's military actions as the main cause of suffering for the Palestinian population. It emphasizes that Israel is deliberately destroying residential areas and that the Palestinian population continues to be oppressed and displaced. Such narratives, which portray Israel as the sole aggressor and destructive, promote a one-sided view that ignores the complex geopolitical and security realities of the conflict.

The emphasis on the continuous "destruction and reconstruction pattern" suggests that the destruction of Palestinian territories is part of a systematic, long-term strategy by Israel to destroy and control Palestinian land and lives. This reinforces anti-Semitic stereotypes that portray Israel as a brutal and oppressive state that deliberately seeks civilian casualties. It also discredits Israel's security policy by portraying the military operations in Gaza exclusively from the perspective of Palestinian victims, while ignoring or trivializing the threats posed by terrorist groups such as Hamas.

Another point of concern is the emphasis on "decolonization". This idea implies that Israel is a colonialist state that unlawfully occupies Palestinian land. This portrayal ignores the historical and legal complexity of the region, as well as the fact that the Jewish state is the result of international recognition and legal processes. By portraying Israel as an occupying power, false notions of "colonialism" are brought to the forefront, calling into question Israel's legitimacy and contributing to the demonization of the Jewish state and people.

Such one-sided portrayals and the rhetoric of "decolonization" reinforce anti-Semitic narratives by portraying Israel as an illegal occupier while ignoring legitimate security concerns and the historical presence of the Jewish people in the region.

The following screenshots (outlined in black for visibility) are provided as evidence.

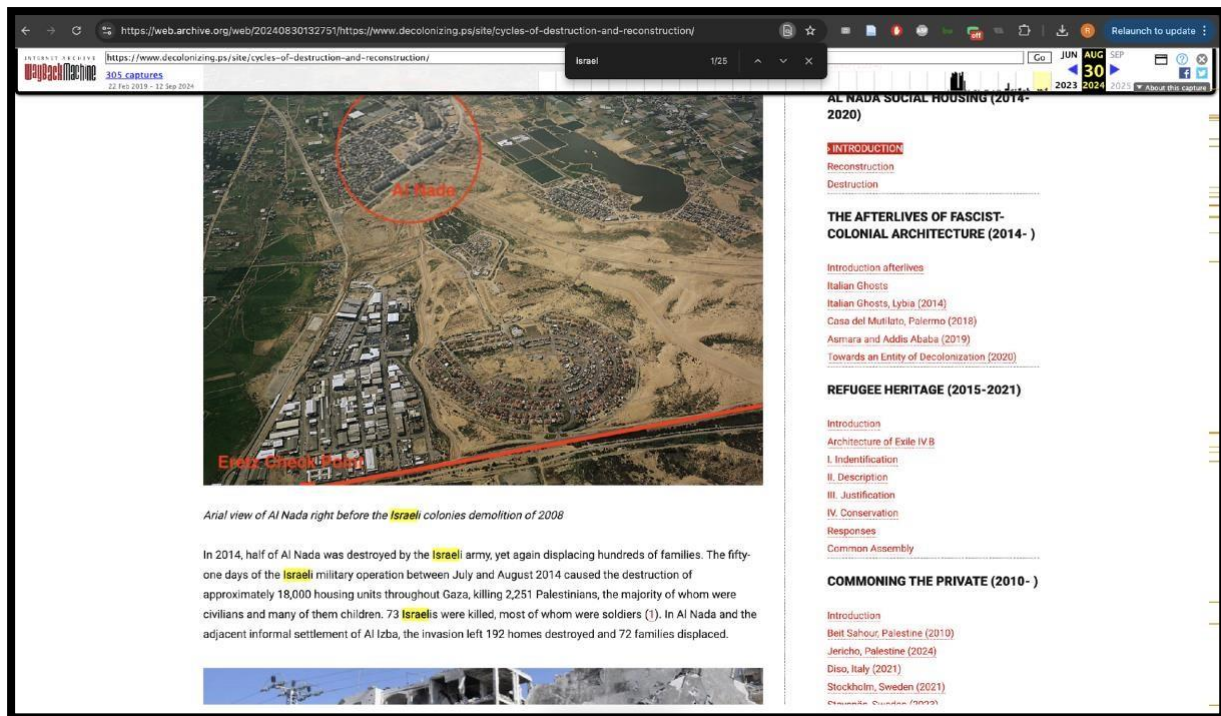


Figure 6: This aerial view of Al Nada shows the neighborhood before its partial destruction by the Israeli military in 2014. The image highlights the proximity to Israeli settlements and the Erez checkpoint, which played a strategic role in the conflict. The description blames Israel alone for the destruction, without considering the complexity of the situation, and presents this as targeted aggression against Palestinian civilians.

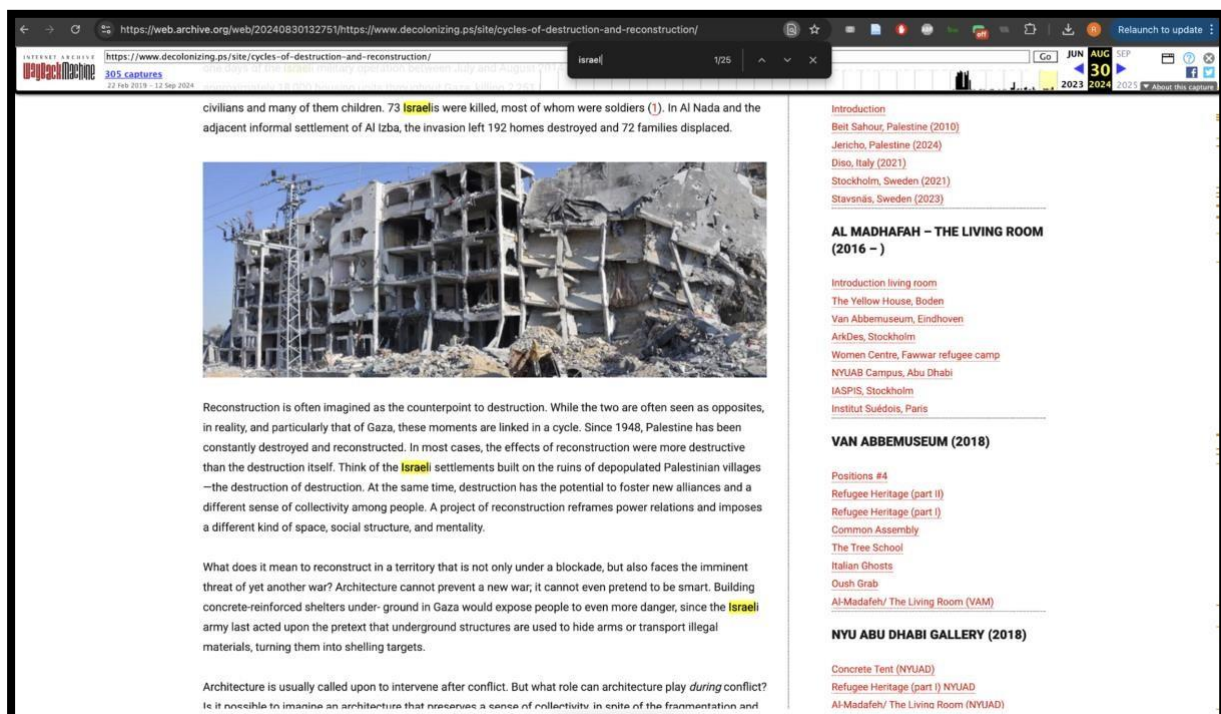


Figure 7: This image shows the aftermath of the Israeli military operation in Al Nada, in which buildings were destroyed, and families were reportedly displaced. The accompanying narrative presents the destruction as part of a recurring cycle emanating from Israeli forces, once again presenting Israel as the main aggressor without mentioning the military or security context.

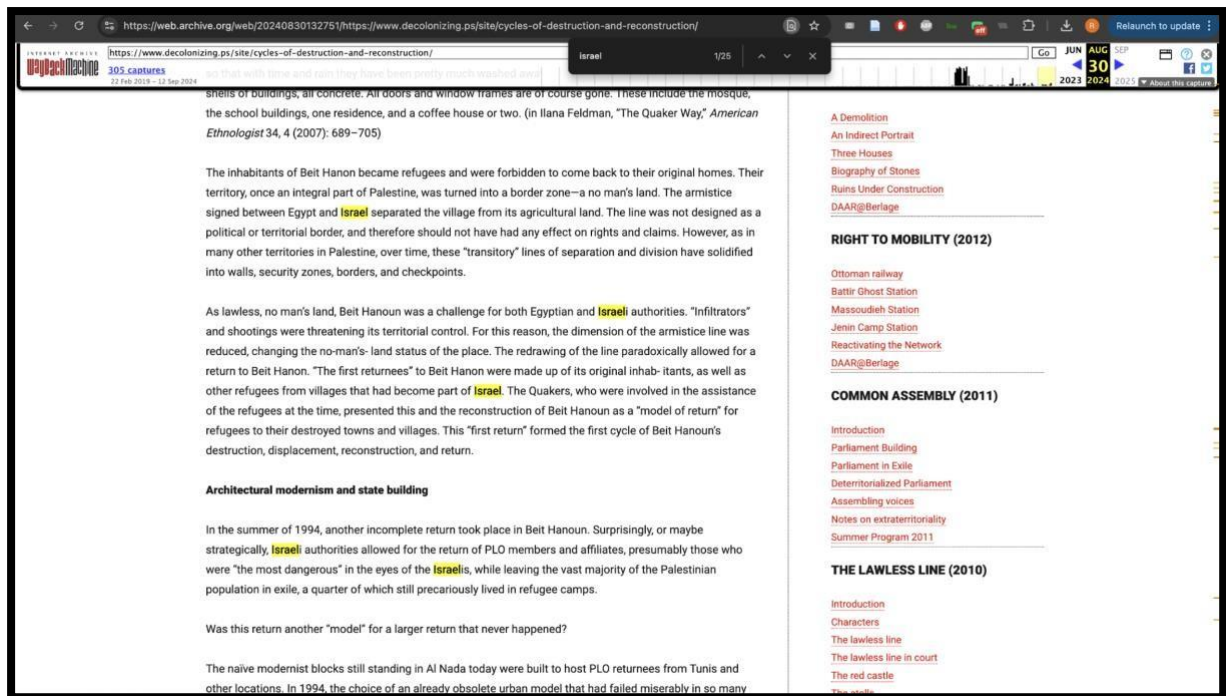


Figure 8: This screenshot focuses on the destruction of Palestinian homes and juxtaposes them with Israeli settlements built on the ruins of Palestinian villages. Israeli settlements are referred to as the "destruction of destruction", highlighting an ongoing cycle of violence and territory grabbing and further fueling negative feelings towards Israel without shedding light on the wider historical or political context.

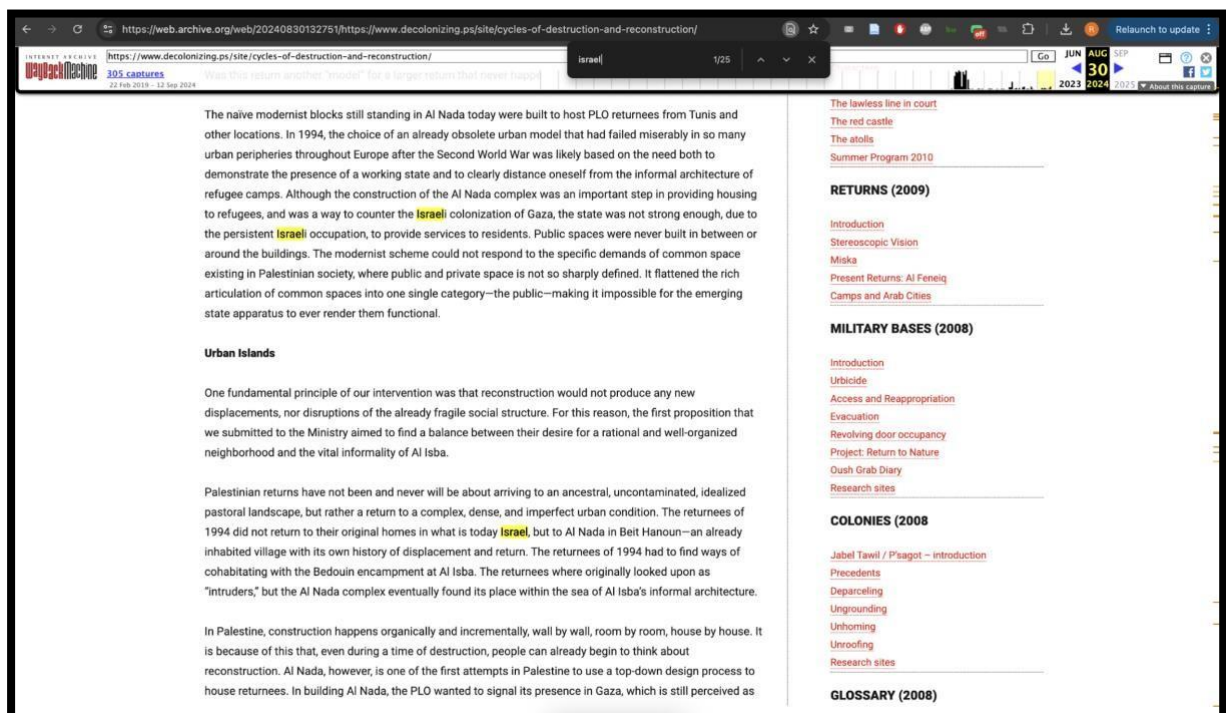


Figure 9: This section describes the relationship between destruction and reconstruction, with a negative portrayal of Israel's role in the conflict. The focus is on Israel's military aggression, while the Palestinian political context or internal problems are barely mentioned, supporting a narrative that holds Israel solely responsible for the ongoing suffering in the region.

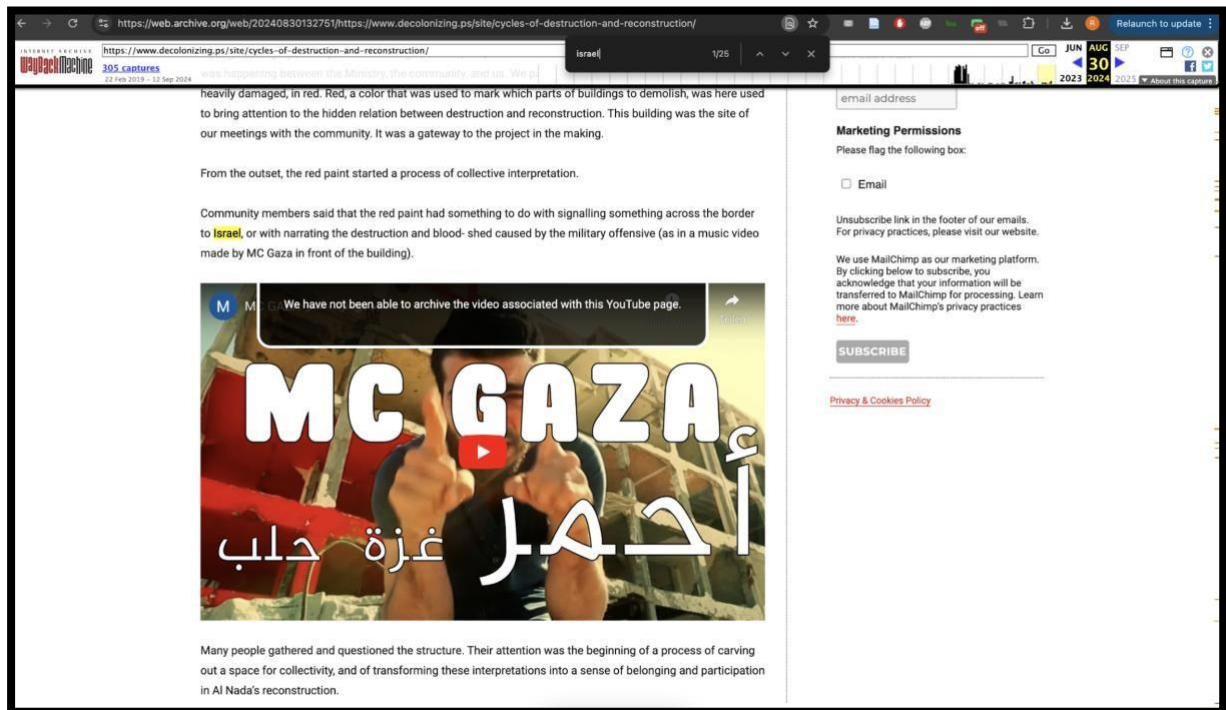


Figure 10: The screenshot shows an image from a music video filmed in Gaza in front of a destroyed building. The red color on the building is interpreted by locals as a signal to Israel, reinforcing a narrative of destruction associated with Israeli military action. The combination of media and architecture is used to further emphasize the theme of destruction by Israel.

The text in Fig. 10 is "Community members said that the red paint had something to do with signalling something across the border to Israel, or with narrating the destruction and blood- shed caused by the military offensive (as in a music video by MC Gaza in front of the building)."

The Problematic Agenda of the PACBI Campaign and its Impact on the Israeli Palestinian Conflict

The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) was launched in 2004 to extend the international boycott movement against Israel to the academic and cultural sectors. The aim of the campaign is to strengthen resistance to the Israeli occupation, discrimination and dispossession of Palestinians by boycotting all forms of cooperation with Israeli academic and cultural institutions. The PACBI claims that these institutions work closely with the Israeli government and military and thus play an active role in the "oppression" of the Palestinian people. The website, which is now redirected to the BDS movement, explicitly states that it fights against the Israeli policy of the "apartheid state" and calls on people and organizations worldwide to join this boycott.

The problematic nature of this boycott lies not only in its explicitly anti-Israeli agenda, but also in its disproportionate demonization of Israel. The PACBI and the BDS movement do not limit themselves to criticizing specific Israeli political measures but call for the international isolation of Israel's entire academic, cultural and economic life. This approach encourages anti-Semitic narratives by portraying Israel as the sole problem in the Middle East conflict and reducing the complexity of the conflict to a simple perpetrator-victim relationship. Such a portrayal ignores the responsibility and offenses of other actors in the conflict and exacerbates existing tensions.

What is particularly problematic is that PACBI aims to undermine academic freedom by blocking any collaboration and intellectual exchange with Israeli universities and cultural practitioners. Science and art, which are traditionally platforms for dialog and international understanding, are being turned into tools of political isolation by this campaign. By refusing to engage in dialogue and deliberately demonizing Israeli institutions, PACBI promotes a one-sided view that fuels conflict and makes solutions more difficult.

The boycott, as called for by PACBI, also encroaches on individual freedom by urging artists, academics and scientists not only to speak out against Israeli policies, but also to break off personal and professional relationships with Israeli colleagues. This form of campaign thus not only harms the institutions concerned in Israel, but also international scientific and cultural exchange. The attempt to isolate Israel internationally ultimately does not serve peace or a just solution to the conflict, but rather contributes to the hardening of the fronts and promotes hatred against the Jewish state.

The PACBI campaign portrays Israeli academic and cultural institutions as complicit in alleged systematic oppression, while at the same time positioning the Palestinian perspective as morally superior and innocent. This is done without recognizing the complex realities of the Israeli Palestinian conflict, which has brought suffering and victims on both sides.

Such calls for boycotts contribute to polarization by preventing dialogue and peaceful cooperation, and fuel anti-Semitic resentment by portraying Israel as uniquely evil.

Overall, not only does PACBI not contribute to conflict resolution, but its one-sided and simplistic narrative reinforces existing tensions and hatred against Israel and the Jewish people. By specifically targeting the boycott of Israeli institutions, PACBI exacerbates isolation and contributes to further entrenching the conflict rather than promoting ways towards a peaceful and just solution.

The Department of Architecture ETH Zurich recommends this content as preparation for the "Seminar Week". The recommended content and the link to the BDS movement website are problematic for several reasons. First, the BDS movement material, as seen on these linked websites, promotes narratives that equate Israeli policies with apartheid and colonialism and use emotionally charged language that contributes to polarization rather than dialogue. This content accuses Israel of "ethnic cleansing" and "war crimes" without context or balanced analysis and evidence, exacerbating tensions rather than promoting mutual understanding or academic debate.

In addition, the BDS movement has been criticized for pursuing goals aimed at isolating Israel culturally, economically and academically, which critics argue undermines the possibilities for cooperation and a peaceful solution. By being linked to this movement, the position of the Department of Architecture ETH Zurich as an educational institution is called into question, which has a negative impact on its reputation in the international academic community.

The following screenshots (outlined in black for visibility) are provided as evidence.

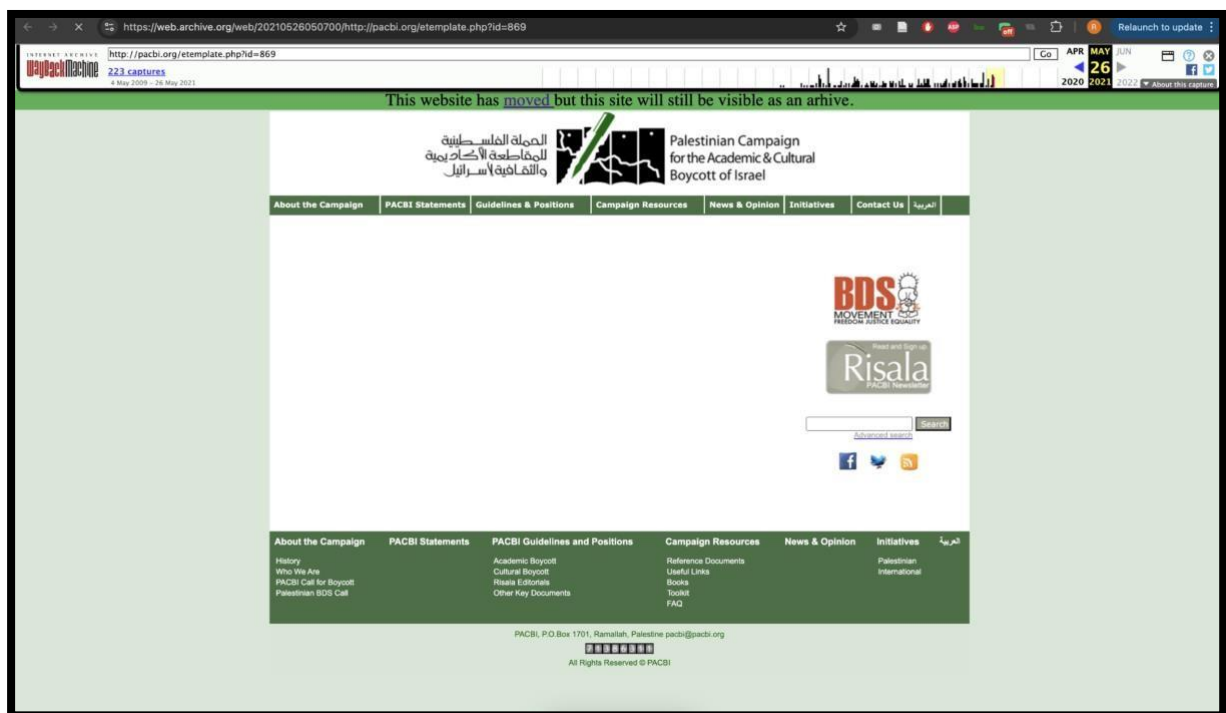


Figure 11: This screenshot shows the homepage of the PACBI (Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel), a platform that promotes the boycott of Israeli institutions. The campaign is part of the broader BDS movement (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions). Although it purports to focus only on institutions, the site contributes to a sentiment that can foster anti-Israel and anti-Jewish feelings by portraying Israel as a state that commits systematic violations against the Palestinians (continued in Fig.16, below).

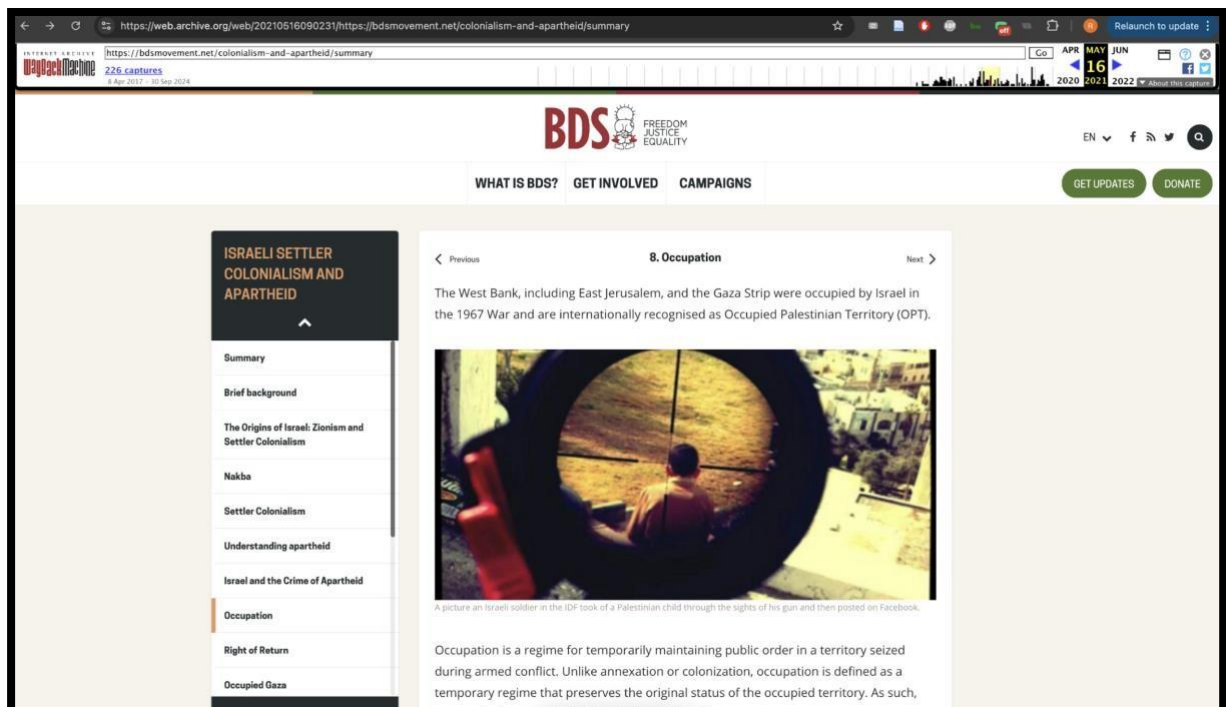


Figure 12: This section discusses Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories after 1967 and presents it as colonialism and apartheid. The use of terms such as "apartheid" and "colonialism" associates Israel with brutal, oppressive systems. The photo, in which a rifle scope is pointed at a child, has no reliable source and stirs up feelings of hatred against the Jewish people.

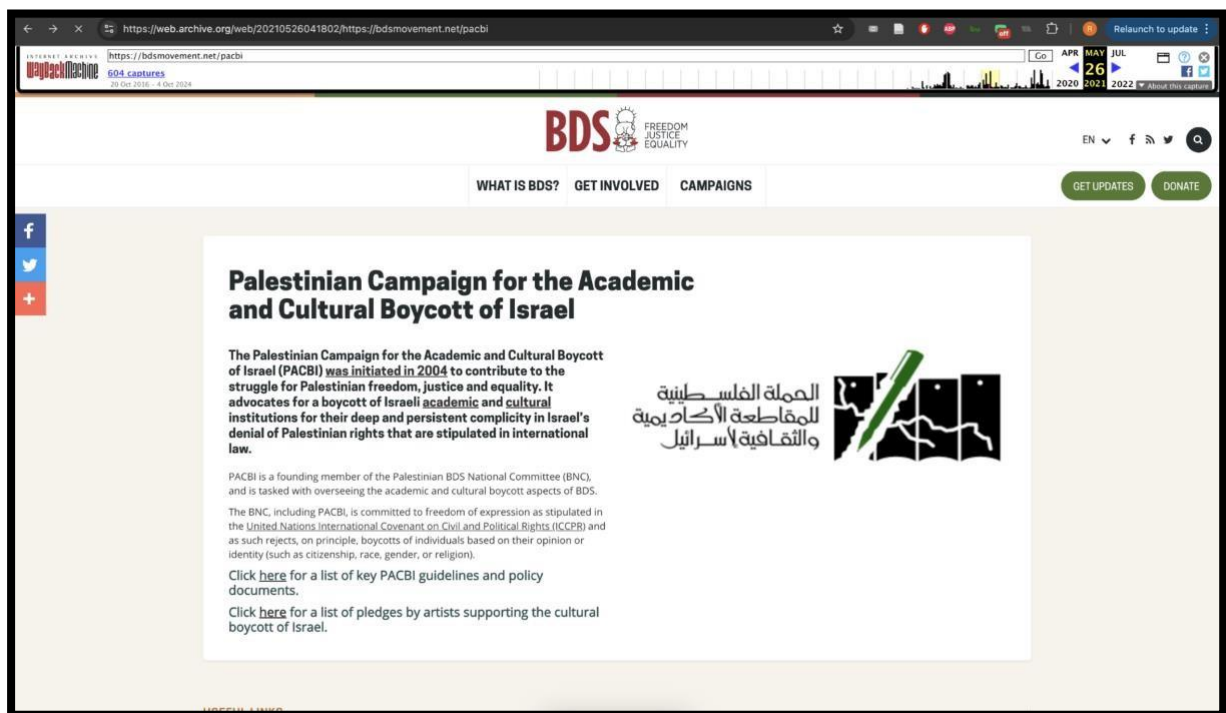


Figure 13: PACBI promotes the boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions, claiming that they are complicit in the occupation of Palestinian territories. The campaign portrays the Israeli academic sector as part of a larger system of oppression and reinforces its call for global isolation.

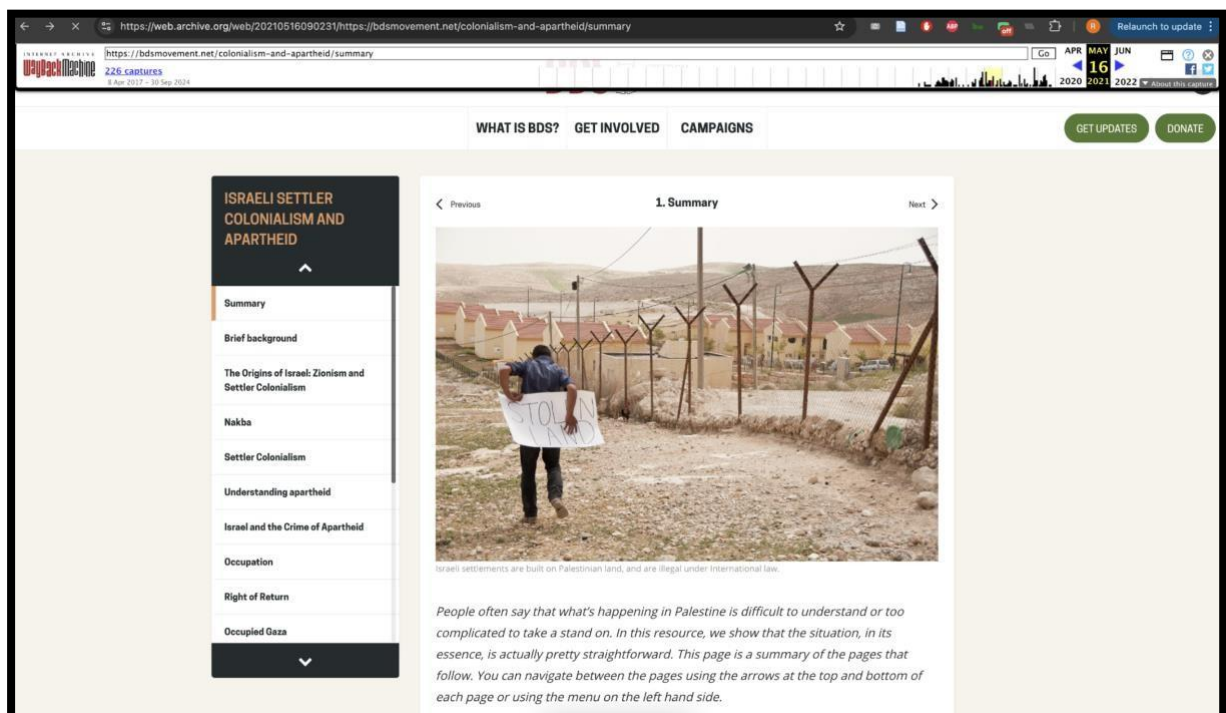


Figure 14: This screenshot accuses Israel of ethnic cleansing and apartheid and compares the state to colonial regimes that oppressed indigenous populations. The image shows Israeli settlements as illegal and part of a plan to dispossess Palestinians.

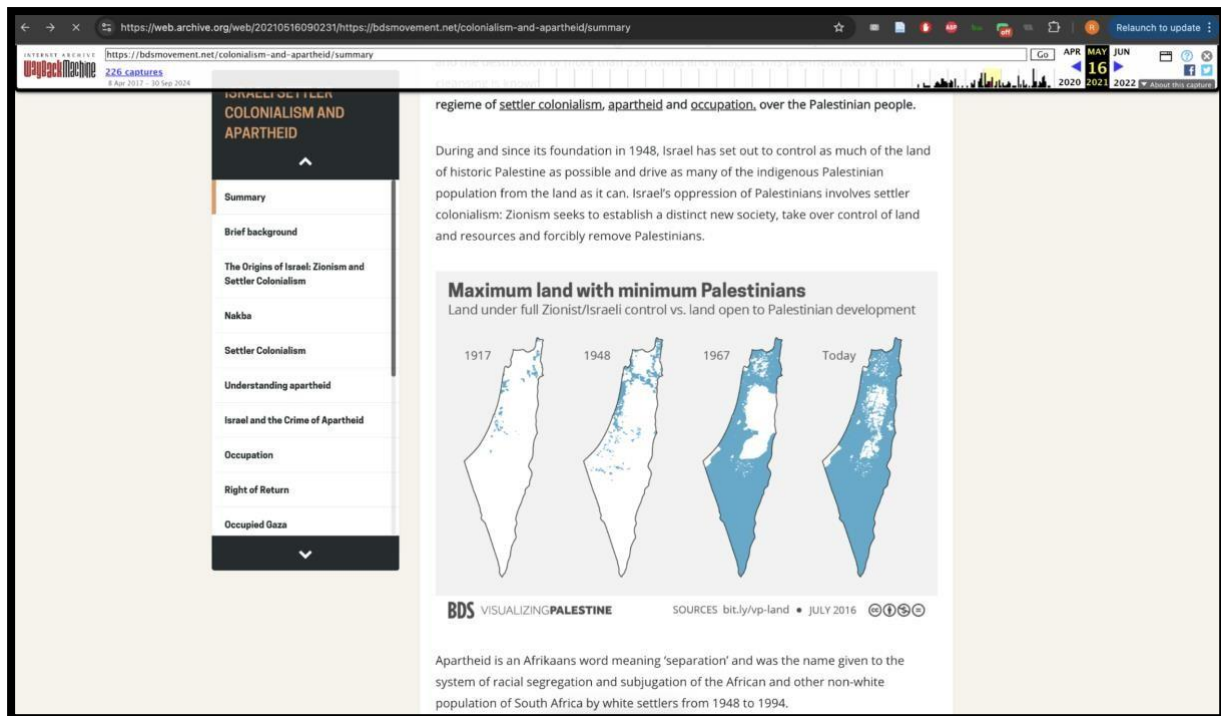


Figure 15: This visual map shows a reduction in Palestinian land since 1917 and depicts Zionist and Israeli land gains. The labeling implies that Israel's policy aims to maximize land control while minimizing the Palestinian presence.

nents	PACBI Guidelines and Positions	Campaign Resources
	Academic Boycott Cultural Boycott Risala Editorials Other Key Documents	Reference Documents Useful Links Books Toolkit FAQ
PACBI, P.O.Box 1701, Ramallah, Palestine pacbi@pacbi.org 71386311 All Rights Reserved © PACBI		

Figure 16: The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) seems to have a post office box in Ramallah as its primary contact address.

These screenshots represent only a small selection of the total content of these links and are by no means exhaustive. There is much more material distributed on these pages. In conclusion to this paragraph, it should be noted that all of this is official material published by the Department of Architecture ETH Zurich, which is intended as preparatory

information. The Department of Architecture ETH Zurich provides information on this and other content that is not exhaustively documented here.

Removal of content online

The links ("Middle East conflict simply explained" and "When the enemy is a friend. The Palestinian Rami Nasrallah and the Israeli Shlomo Hasson in conversation with Norbert Bischofberger") relating to the Middle East conflict, such as the conversation between the Palestinian Rami Nasrallah and the Israeli Shlomo Hasson with Norbert Bischofberger, have been archived but are apparently no longer accessible. This content, which was originally published, appears to have been removed for unknown reasons, restricting access to important information about the problem at the Department of Architecture ETH Zurich. This is particularly noteworthy as these archived pages were otherwise used as valuable resources for addressing the issue.



Figure 17: Compare Fig. 3: The links "Middle East conflict simply explained" and "When the enemy is a friend. The Palestinian Rami Nasrallah and the Israeli Shlomo Hasson in conversation with Norbert Bischofberger" are no longer accessible or could not be found online (since at least October 8, 2024) despite archiving.

The Website "Café Palestine" - The Department of Architecture ETH Zurich Shows Israel as a Constant Aggressor

The website "Café Palestine" offers a platform that focuses on events, discussions and educational offers on the topic of Palestine. It is noticeable that the content presented there often promotes a highly one-sided and polemical portrayal of the Middle East conflict. First and foremost, an anti-Israeli perspective is presented that completely ignores the complex realities of the conflict and Israel's legitimate security concerns. Instead, a picture is painted that consistently portrays Israel as the aggressor, while Palestinian narratives are reproduced without critical reflection.

Content of this kind contributes to stirring up hatred against Israel and the Jewish people and reinforces anti-Semitic stereotypes by collectively demonizing the Israeli population as oppressors. The selective presentation and omission of key historical and geopolitical contexts creates a distorted image that has the potential to foster anti-Semitic resentment. Such platforms not only propagate a radical political stance, but also contribute to further deliberately polarizing public discourse and deepening the divide between different perspectives on the conflict.

Below are screenshots (outlined in black for visibility) to serve as evidence.

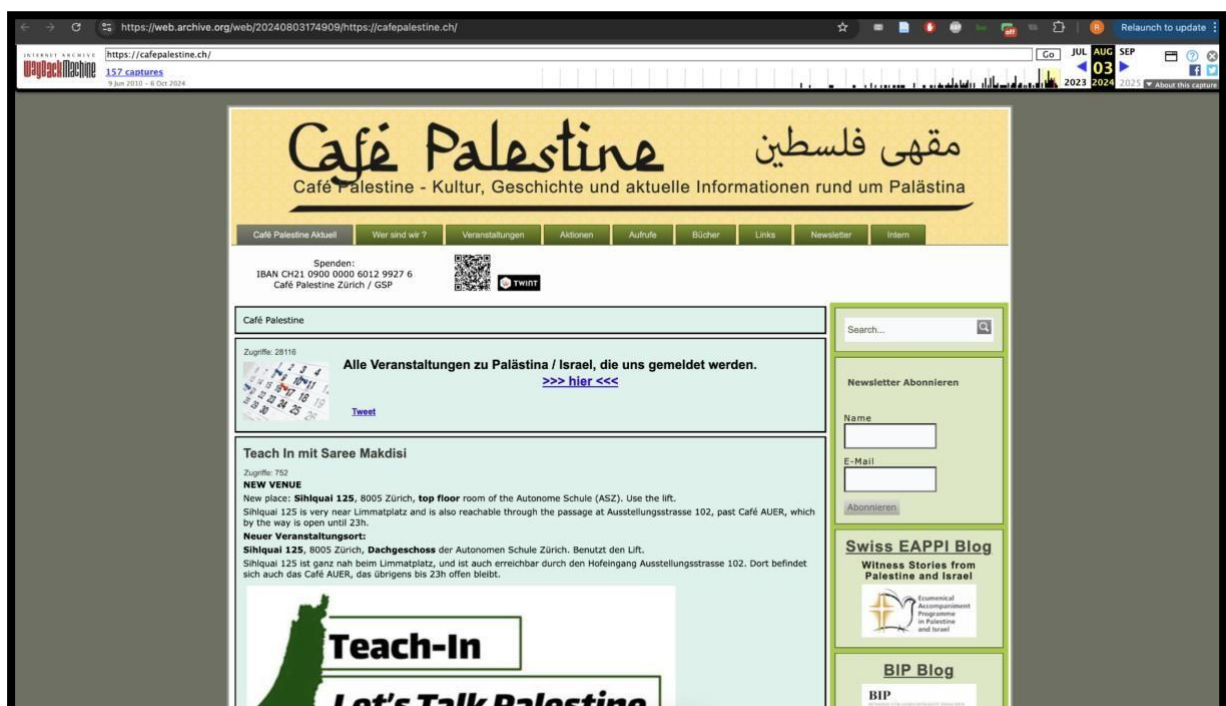


Figure 18: This screenshot shows the home page of Café Palestine, which advertises various events and information on the topic of Palestine. The platform, which is primarily dedicated to education and dialog, contains a donation account and various links to other pro-Palestinian organizations.

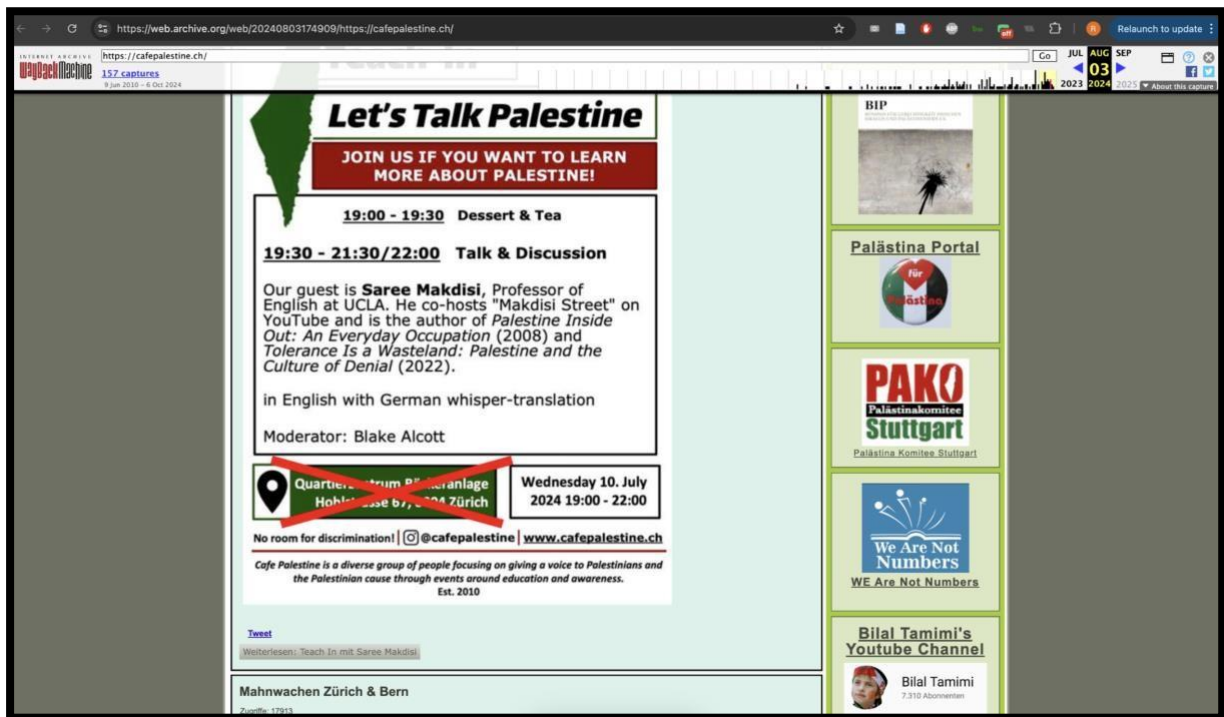


Figure 19: This announcement promotes a discussion event with Saree Makdisi, professor at UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles, CA), which deals with the Palestinian question. Reference will be made to the book "Palestine Inside Out: An Everyday Occupation", which sharply criticizes the Israeli occupation. The event conveys a strongly one-sided view of the Middle East conflict and promotes narratives that portray Israel as a systematic oppressor without allowing for a differentiated discussion of the complex geopolitical background. Such events reinforce anti-Israeli attitudes by not offering balanced perspectives.

The Palestine Portal: Promoting hostility against Israel

The "Palestine Portal" is a long-standing platform dedicated to the dissemination of news and information on the Middle East conflict. Since its foundation in 2002, it has developed into a central point of contact for people who want to find out about the conflict from a pro-Palestinian perspective. However, it is noticeable that the reporting on this site is extremely one-sided and almost exclusively portrays the Israeli side as the aggressor, while Palestinian acts of violence or the complex background to the conflict are hardly ever discussed.

At the heart of the "Palestine Portal" is the portrayal of Israel as an occupying power that systematically targets the Palestinian people, commits serious human rights violations and even genocide. Such terms and accusations, which are often used without differentiation or historical context, inflame the mood and contribute to increasing hostility towards Israel and the Jewish people. This paints a picture that not only denigrates the state of Israel, but also feeds anti-Semitic tendencies by making Jewish people collectively responsible for the actions of the Israeli state.

The portal presents daily news stories that regularly use terms such as "ethnic cleansing", "apartheid" and "war crimes" to describe Israel's actions, and links to a variety of sources that support this one-sided view. These portrayals, which are often deliberately polarizing and emotionalizing, ignore the historical, political and security backgrounds that shape the conflict and promote a black-and-white thinking that undermines any attempts at dialogue or peace resolution.

The following screenshots (outlined in black for visibility) are provided as evidence.

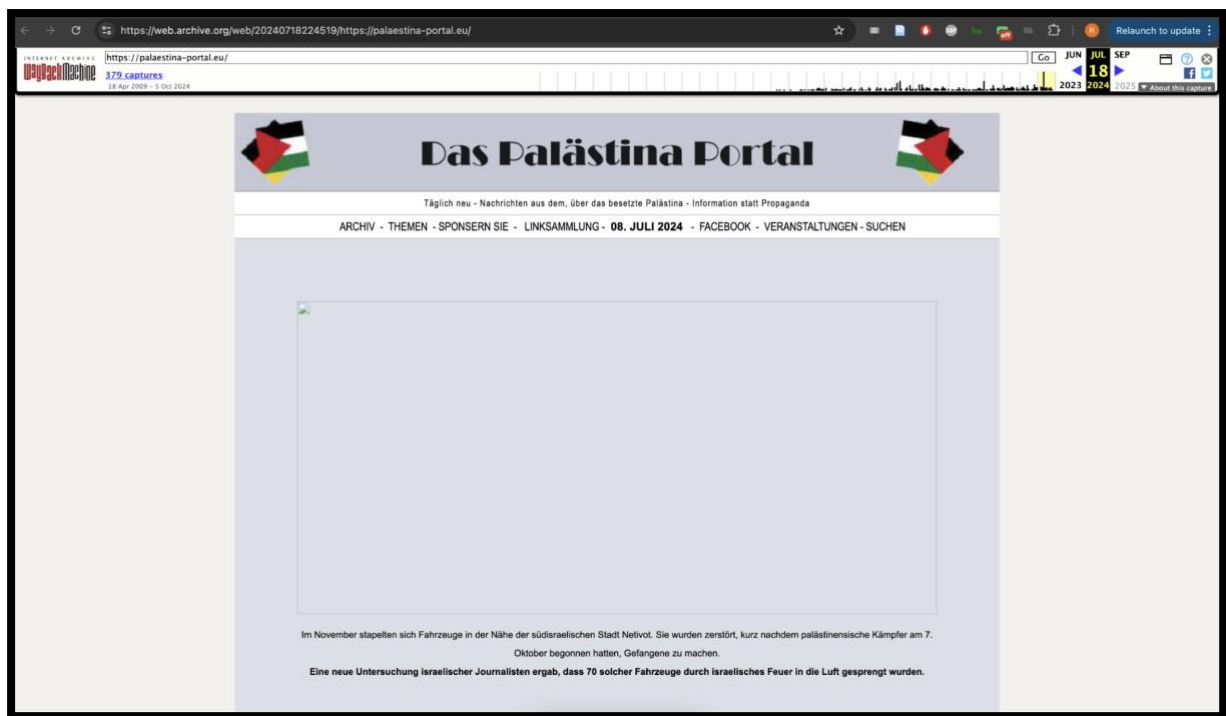


Figure 20: This image shows the homepage of the "Palestine Portal", which provides daily news about the situation in Palestine. The website claims to provide "information instead of propaganda", but the focus of the reporting shows a one-sided representation of events in the Middle East conflict. Readers are confronted with anti-Israeli rhetoric that portrays Israel as consistently hostile to Palestinians. The image on the website could not be displayed on October 8 and 9, 2024.

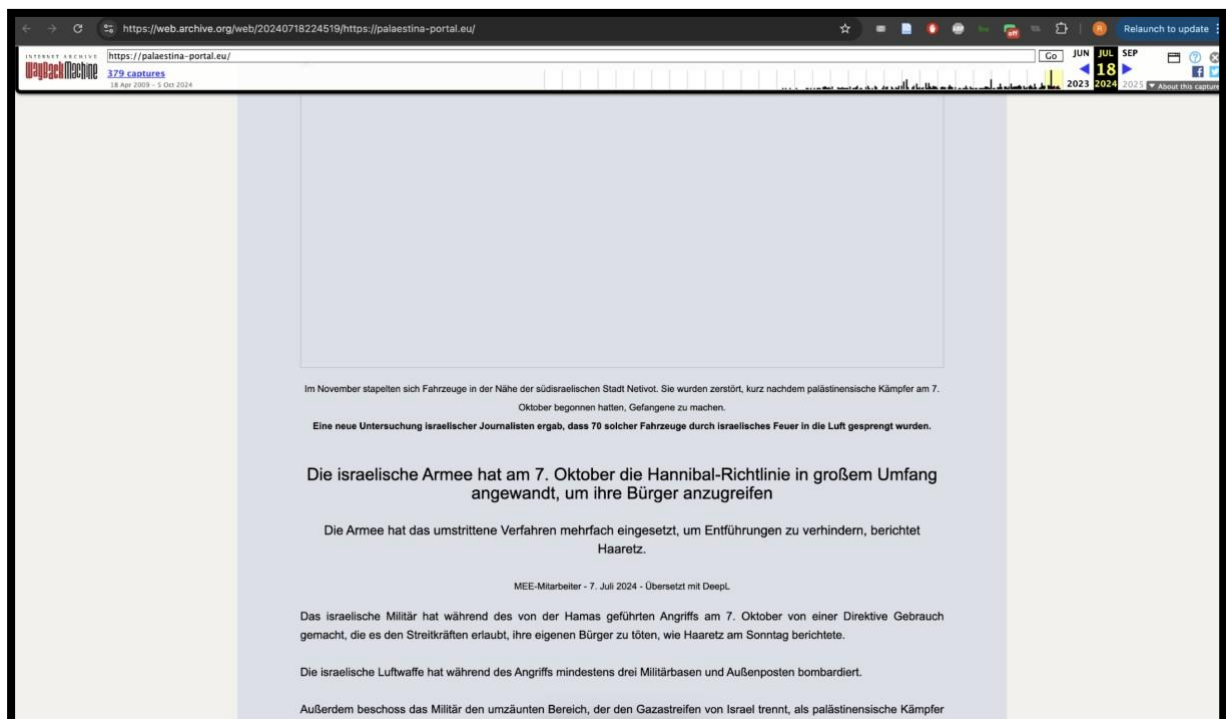


Figure 21: This screenshot details the Israeli army's so-called "Hannibal Directive", which was applied during the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023. The depiction suggests that the Israeli army deliberately targeted its own citizens, which is a distorted and questionable interpretation that incites hatred. The headline itself ("The Israeli army used the Hannibal directive on a large scale on October 7 to attack its citizens") portrays

Israel as a ruthless aggressor. These screenshots clearly show how the "Palestine Portal", through its choice of words and selective reporting, contributes to reinforcing a hostile mood towards Israel and creating a narrative image that greatly distorts reality.

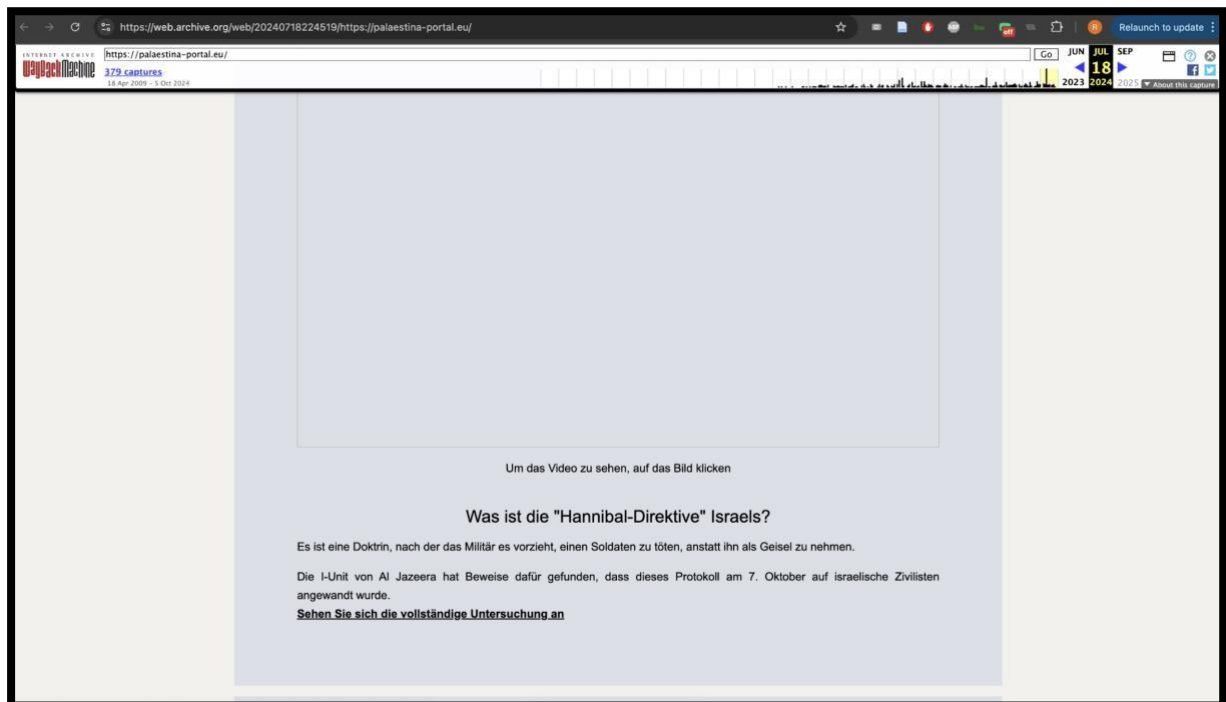


Figure 22: This screenshot shows an article on the "Palestine Portal" website claiming that the Israeli army targeted its own civilians during the Gaza conflict. The article refers to the controversial "Hannibal Directive", which allegedly allows Israeli forces to take extreme measures, including killing its own soldiers to prevent their capture. The text makes serious accusations against Israel, portraying it as a state willing to sacrifice its own citizens under military orders. (The links on this page have not been accessible since at least October 8, 2024).

The Credibility of the "Breaking the Silence" Website and its Use to Spread Hate by the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich

The "Breaking the Silence" website is a platform that gives former Israeli soldiers the opportunity to share their personal experiences during their service in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The stated aim of the platform is to raise awareness of the complex ethical and moral challenges soldiers face during their service. These insights are intended to promote a public discussion about the impact of military operations and occupation in the Israeli Palestinian conflict.

However, this publication provides a highly focused, critical perspective on the Israeli military and its role in the conflict. Critics point out that the necessary context of threats from militant groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as the general security situation in which Israel finds itself, is not sufficiently considered. This one-sided portrayal of the conflict could easily lead to a distorted perception that neglects the complex geopolitical and security challenges facing Israel.

Another critical point is the misuse of this platform by the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich, which presents the content of "Breaking the Silence" in a context that, according to the criticism, is specifically aimed at painting a negative picture of Israel. Instead of promoting a balanced discussion, the reports from "Breaking the Silence" were used to reinforce a politically one-sided portrayal that goes beyond legitimate criticism and contributes to stirring up anti-Semitic sentiment.

In this context, it is argued that the dissemination of such content without the necessary security policy context and consideration of the threats posed by terrorist groups can lead to a blanket condemnation of Israel. This harbors the danger that not only the state of Israel, but also the Jewish people will be targeted by prejudice and resentment.

Criticism of the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich is directed at the fact that academic platforms and resources are being used to disseminate a politically and morally one-sided perspective that does not correspond to the principles of balanced academic debate. It deliberately prevents an environment in which legitimate criticism of political and military decisions can be voiced without promoting prejudice or one-sided apportionment of blame.

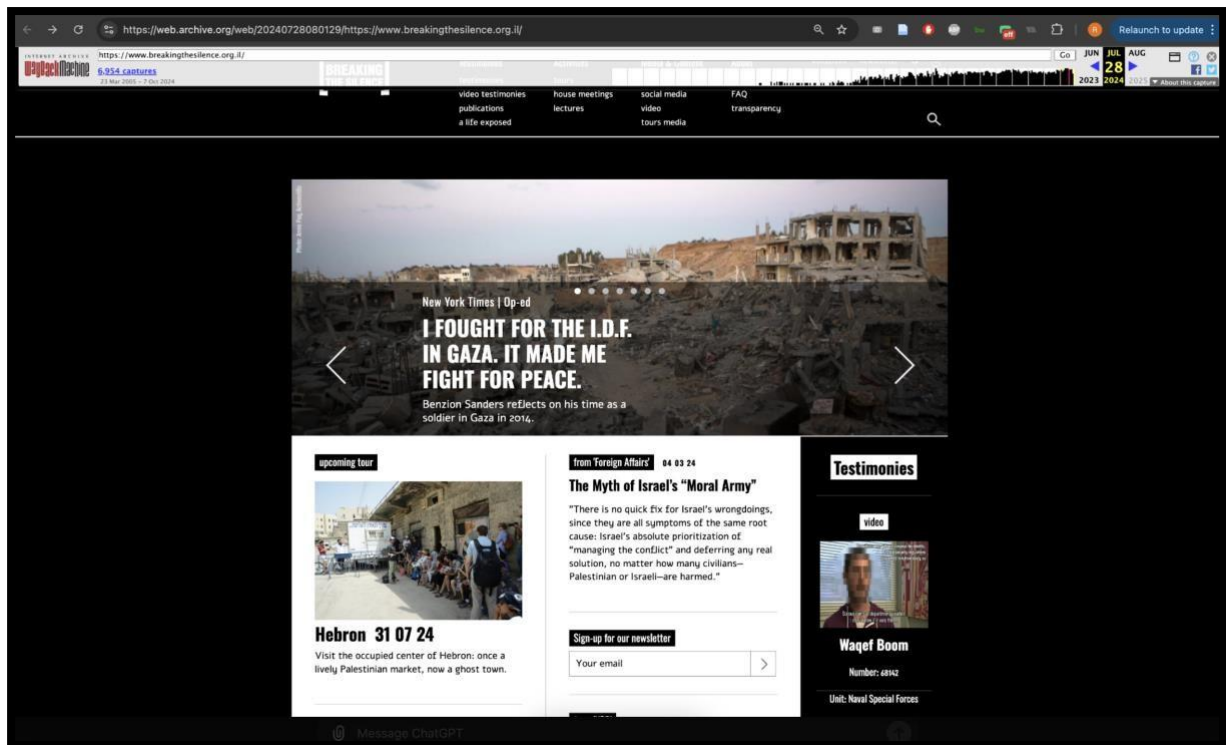


Figure 24: This image shows the homepage of "Breaking the Silence", a platform on which former Israeli soldiers share reports and testimonies about their time in military service. The focus of the reports is on critical confrontations with the Israeli military and the treatment of Palestinians. ETH uses this platform as an example of alleged Israeli war crimes, which leads to the dissemination of a one-sided and strongly anti-Israeli narrative. The credibility of the reports is not sufficiently verified, which instrumentalizes the platform as a tool for spreading hatred against Israel.

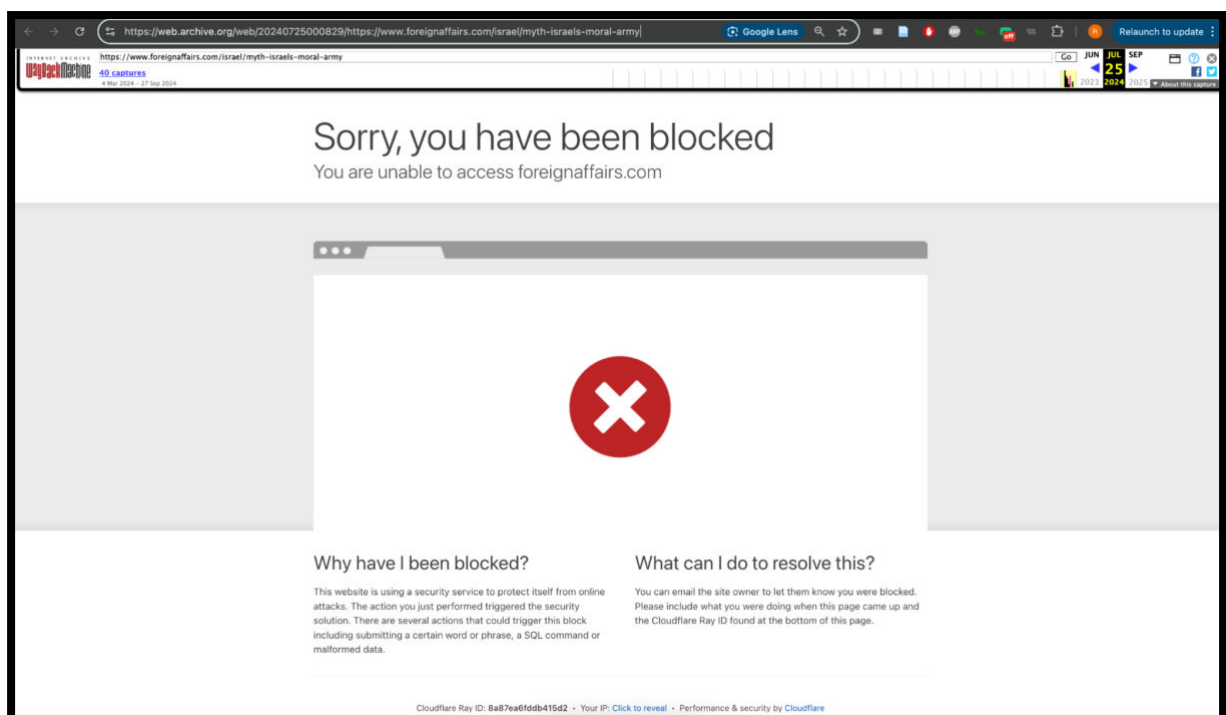


Figure 25: This image shows blocked access to an article on Foreign Affairs that questions the myth of the moral superiority of the Israeli army. ETH relies on such sources to cast Israel and its military operations in a negative light. The platform is used to portray Israel as an aggressive actor without allowing for a differentiated view of the conflict or Israel's security situation, which contributes to fomenting prejudice and hatred against the Jewish state. The content has been inaccessible since at least October 8, 2024.

All further content on the website of the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich mentioned at the beginning of this report, which was originally publicly accessible, is now no longer available. These websites contained problematic representations and publications that clearly exhibited anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli tendencies. The fact that this content was deleted after public criticism was voiced reinforces the suspicion that an attempt is being made to remove these problematic publications from the public discourse.

This is in clear contradiction to the role of an academic institution that is committed to transparency and education. Instead of openly discussing the content and engaging in a critical debate, the materials in question were silently removed without a detailed explanation or apology being issued to the public.

The website, which originally served as a platform for discussions on architectural and socio-political topics, became a space in which content critical of Israel and anti-Semitic content was disseminated. However, this content was no longer fact-checked or questioned, but simply deleted over time. The public statement on this process, as recorded in Mr. Borer's e-mail, attempts to relativize the process by emphasizing that the Internet "archives itself". However, this is in clear contradiction to the actual measures taken to actively and deliberately remove content from servers.

The deletion of this content and the resulting lack of transparency raise legitimate questions about the responsibility of the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich as an academic institution. An open discourse about problematic content would have been the appropriate response to ensure that such tendencies are recognized, analyzed and clearly condemned. But by actively deleting and hiding the content, this process is made more difficult and trust in ethical standards is called into question. However, the archiving of the deleted pages by services such as the Wayback Machine makes it possible to continue to analyze some of this content and examine it in connection with the dissemination of anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic positions.

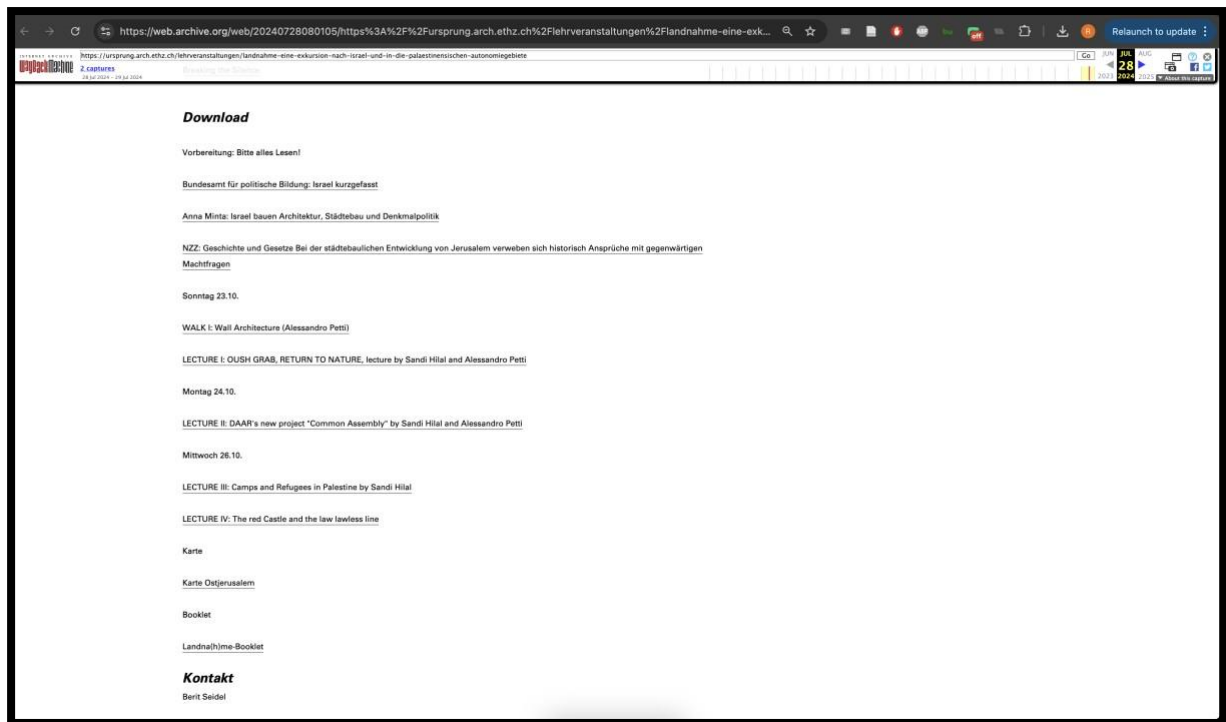


Figure 26: All content listed under "Download" is not or no longer accessible. The document Landna(h)me-Booklet" has been removed since at least October 8, 2024.

One of Many Examples of Anti-Semitic Incitement in 2024: An Example After October 7, 2023

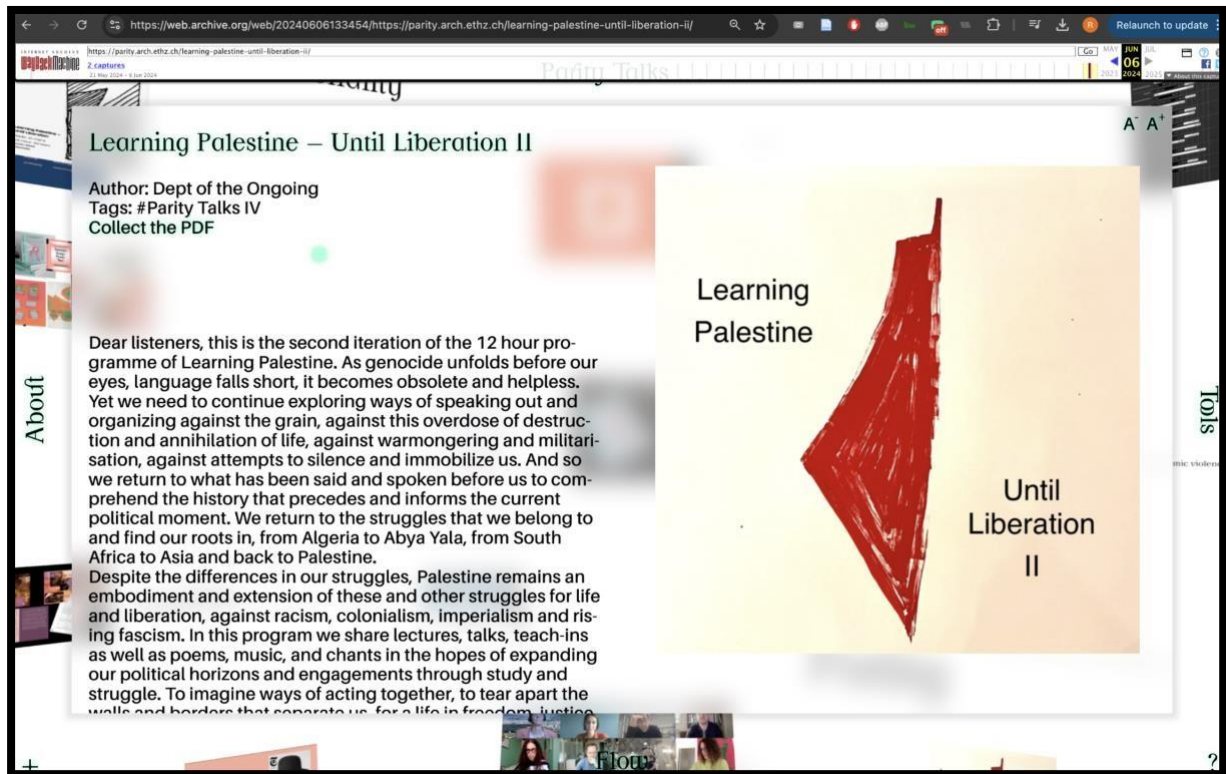


Figure 27: A screenshot from the year 2024, published on the "Parity Talks IV" platform of ETH Zurich. The title "Learning Palestine - Until Liberation II" and the map of Palestine depicted, which erases the state of Israel, underline the anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli message. The text speaks of "genocide" and "destruction of life", which further intensifies the agitation against Israel and the Jewish people, and contradicts the academic standards of the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich.

The screenshot in Fig. 27 shows a page entitled "Learning Palestine - Until Liberation II", which was created by the Parity Talks IV group in the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich. The text on this page addresses the alleged unfolding of a genocide before the readers' eyes and calls for resistance against what is described as "warmongering and militarization". The language of this text is highly emotional and polemical, and it uses terms such as "destruction and annihilation of life" as well as "genocide" to establish a clear link between Israel's activities and the most serious human rights violations such as genocide. This is particularly problematic as it supports the narrative that Israel is pursuing a policy of extermination against the Palestinian population, which has clear anti-Semitic connotations.

The image of a stylized map that reads "Learning Palestine Until Liberation II" is also telling. It shows the entire territory of Israel, and the Palestinian territories colored in red, without respecting Israel's borders or recognizing the state of Israel's right to exist. This points to the idea that the "liberation of Palestine" is only complete if Israel no longer exists as a state.

Such representations are not only anti-Semitic, but also inflammatory, as they suggest that the state of Israel in its current form is illegitimate and must be "liberated", which would jeopardize the existence of millions of Jews in this area.

This content was published after October 7, 2023, the day Hamas carried out a massive terrorist attack on Israel, killing and injuring numerous civilians. Against this backdrop, the publication of this content becomes even more problematic, as it creates a context in which violence against Israel is not only justified, but even glorified. No attempt is made to engage in a nuanced discussion, but instead a clear culprit is named - Israel - and a call is made for some kind of revolutionary liberation.

The fact that this content was published by the [Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich](#) is contrary to academic standards of critical thinking, nuanced analysis, attitude and the promotion of open and respectful discourse. The language and imagery of the text are clearly political and inflammatory and are contrary to the values of a university committed to truth, research and education.

Furthermore, the text completely ignores the complex historical and political realities of the Israeli Palestinian conflict and simplifies the situation in a way that serves to incite hatred against Israel and the Jewish people. The [Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich](#), as an academic institution, should rather push for a differentiated and fact-based discussion and not provide a platform for polemical and inflammatory content.

It is also significant that this content was published after October 7, 2023 - a date that is associated with great pain for many Israelis and Jews worldwide due to the brutal terrorist attacks by Hamas. That such a publication comes from an academic institution such as the [Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich](#) gives the impression that the institution either does not recognize the significance of these attacks or is even willing to promote anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic rhetoric.

Overall, this screenshot clearly shows how the Parity Talks at the [Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich](#) have created a platform for content that is clearly anti-Semitic and incites hatred against the state of Israel and Jews. This contradicts the fundamental values of an academic institution that is committed to promoting knowledge and critical thinking. It is imperative that such content is reviewed, and measures are taken to ensure that its platforms do not contribute to the spread of hatred and violence.

Why the Agitation of the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich Must Be Stopped

The Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich is recognized as a leading academic institution in Switzerland and worldwide for its scientific excellence, innovative spirit and contribution to the global research community. It stands for values such as objectivity, scientific integrity, academic freedom and respect for all people. It is therefore vital that ETH Zurich's Department of Architecture protects this reputation and ensures that it is not associated with content that incites hatred and hostility towards certain groups of people. In particular, the recently published content directed against the State of Israel and the Jewish people clearly violates ethical and moral principles.

Protection of Academic Integrity

The academic institution has a moral and ethical responsibility to provide an environment that allows for the free exchange of ideas and opinions, without this resulting in hatred, discrimination or defamation. The dissemination of content that denies Israel's right to exist, as described in this report and as expressed in the "Parity Talks IV" contradicts the fundamental values of academic freedom and objectivity. The freedom of research is not called into question. Academic institutions are places of dialog and enlightenment, not propaganda and agitation. By tolerating such content, the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich is jeopardizing its own credibility and undermining academic discourse.

The depiction of Israel on the aforementioned map, which effectively erases the state, is a clear signal of delegitimization and agitation. This type of presentation does not lead to a balanced discussion about the Middle East conflict, but rather exacerbates tensions and promotes hostility. Such behavior has no place in an institution dedicated to truth, science and respect for humanity.

Responsibility Towards Society

The Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich is not only a university, but also an institution that plays an important role in society. As such, it has a special responsibility to be a role model for ethical behavior and social responsibility. By allowing anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli content to be published on its platforms, it is not only damaging its own reputation, but also social cohesion. Such content helps to reinforce existing prejudices and enemy stereotypes, which ultimately leads to verbal and physical violence and discrimination.

At a time when anti-Semitism is on the rise worldwide, a leading institution should do everything in its power to combat any form of discrimination and to combat hatred. Switzerland has a long tradition of neutrality and respect for all people and cultures. By disregarding this tradition by promoting such content on its platforms, the Department of

Architecture at ETH Zurich is not only jeopardizing its reputation, but also the values that the country stands for.

Threat to International Reputation

ETH Zurich enjoys a high reputation worldwide and is a respected institution for many international students, researchers and partners. This reputation is based on its scientific excellence and its commitment to integrity and impartiality. By promoting content that conveys a one-sided and inflammatory view of the Middle East conflict, ETH Zurich's Department of Architecture risks permanently damaging this reputation. Academic freedom does not mean that any opinion or content can be disseminated unfiltered, especially if this content incites hatred and violence.

International partners and sponsors, including other renowned universities and scientific organizations, could and will question the collaboration if they see that the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich does not take a firm stance against the dissemination of hate content. It is essential for a world-class institution to clearly distance itself from such content and ensure that it does not contribute to the spread of hate speech or discrimination.

Loss of Academic Privileges for Those Responsible

Individuals who deliberately disseminate content that promotes hatred or prejudice on ETH Zurich's Department of Architecture platforms or encourages its dissemination should no longer have the privilege of being associated with such a prestigious institution. Academic institutions contribute not only to the transmission of knowledge, but also to the shaping of values and responsibility. Students, researchers and teachers should always act with the awareness that their words and actions have an impact on others.

The dissemination of anti-Semitic or anti-Israeli content fundamentally contradicts the values of the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich. It is unacceptable that people who promote such content remain part of this institution. The public's trust in science and the academic community is based on them behaving ethically and actively opposing any form of discrimination. Those who do not respect these values should lose their connection to ETH Zurich.

The Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich as a Moral Authority

It is of great importance that it is perceived not only as a scientific authority, but also as a moral one. In an increasingly polarized world, the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich must be a beacon of enlightenment, tolerance and respect. It must show that it is prepared to take responsibility and act against all forms of hatred and discrimination. This also means that it takes clear measures when people or groups try to misuse its platforms to spread hate speech.

Conclusion and Further Investigations

The Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich faces a significant challenge in maintaining its role as a leading academic institution and continuing to stand up for ethical and scientific values. It is of the utmost importance that the university takes its responsibility seriously and takes measures to prevent the dissemination of content that promotes hatred, hostility or prejudice. In this context, it is necessary that individuals who directly or indirectly contribute to the dissemination of such content are held legally responsible. The Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich must ensure that it upholds the ethical standards expected of it and that it promotes an environment free from discrimination and prejudice.

This report was prepared by concerned Swiss citizens to highlight the worrying content and developments in connection with anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli statements at the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich.