

**AAA Statement of Censure  
Israeli Government Policies and Practices that Threaten Academic Freedom and  
Human Rights (June 2016)**

The American Anthropological Association is dedicated to supporting the development and dissemination of anthropological knowledge, and to applying this knowledge in helping solve human problems. At the heart of anthropological knowledge is open inquiry that illuminates the patterns and processes of culture, past and present. Academic freedom is the lynchpin to open inquiry. When the Association encounters government policies and practices that pose a threat to this, we have an obligation to call attention to such threats, and to propose constructive ways in which to reduce the risk of harm to those most vulnerable.

The American Anthropological Association expresses its strong disapproval of Israeli government policies and practices that threaten academic freedom and the human rights of Palestinian and Israeli scholars. This is a statement of censure concerning these government policies and practices. The AAA has recently completed an extensive, three-year examination of anthropologically-relevant dimensions of the complex political situation in Israel-Palestine. In particular, we have concerned ourselves with the potential threats to anthropological scholars and students, their academic freedom, and their human rights posed by Israeli government policies and practices. Through a careful review of published materials and technical reports, accompanied by interviews with more than 120 subject matter experts covering a wide range of perspectives, and through observations in the locations directly affected, the AAA observes a direct link between Israeli government policies and practices and:

- restricted freedom of movement for Palestinian academics and foreign academics going to the West Bank and Gaza;
- restricted access to publications among libraries at West Bank and Gaza universities;
- disparities in Internet access that restrict academic pursuits at West Bank and Gaza universities
- unjust denial of full accreditation for Al-Quds University;
- unjust denial of freedom of expression to Palestinian and dissenting Jewish faculty and students at Israeli universities, including civil penalties for speaking publicly in opposition to government policies and practices, and a show of military force on university campuses to threaten freedom of expression;
- unjust denial of freedom to Palestinian students for gathering and action, including expression of their identity; and
- undue delays of salary payments to West Bank and Gaza university faculty.

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The American Anthropological Association will lift this statement of censure at such time that Israeli government policies and practices indicated above, many of which are codified in law, are modified. The AAA Executive Board will charge the AAA Committee for Human Rights (or its future substitute) with monitoring the situation on a regular basis.