BRISMES
British Society for Middle Eastern Studies

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BRISMES Committee on Academic Freedom statement on the recent Israeli attack on the Islamic University of Gaza

The BRISMES Committee on Academic Freedom strongly condemns the latest Israeli military attack on the Islamic University of Gaza, which took place on 25 October 2026. We understand that this attack took place while classes were underway on the campus, and that the attack killed three university employees and injured several students. The university announced a temporary closure of the campus as a result of the attack, which has thereby even further disrupted students' studies.

We stand in solidarity with the Emergency Committee of Universities in Gaza in condemning this attack, which forms part of what legal and human rights experts have described as scholasticide–the systematic targeting of educational infrastructure. We furthermore emphasise that universities must remain protected spaces for learning, debate, critical inquiry, as well as freedom of expression. Violence against students and educators is unacceptable and is being deployed in contradiction with international humanitarian law and the Geneva Convention, as we have highlighted previously.

We call on the international academic community to:

- Condemn the Israeli military assault on the Islamic University of Gaza and affirm the protected status of educational institutions under international law.
- Take meaningful steps to pressure the Government of Israel to end its systematic targeting of Palestinian universities, specifically by ending partnerships with and/or divesting from institutions and organisations that are instrumental to the commission or enablement of these attacks and Israel's illegal occupation more broadly.
- Support the appeals of the Emergency Committee of Universities in Gaza, the Islamic University of Gaza, and other Palestinian universities through institutional partnerships, advocacy, and solidarity actions aimed at safeguarding their right to education, academic freedom and physical safety.

BRISMES Committee on Academic Freedom
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