



# BRISMES

British Society for Middle Eastern Studies

E-mail: [administrator@brismes.org](mailto:administrator@brismes.org) Website: [www.brismes.ac.uk](http://www.brismes.ac.uk)

BRISMES Administrative Office, Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL

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Molecules Editorial Office MDPI  
St. Alban-Anlage 66  
4052 Basel  
Switzerland

By Email: [molecules@mdpi.com](mailto:molecules@mdpi.com)

11 November 2020

Dear Editor,

I am writing as the President of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES), Britain's leading academic society for the Middle East with over 350 members.

I note that the forthcoming Molecules Special Issue "Advances in Organic Fluorophores: Design, Synthesis, and Applications" incorrectly lists the affiliation of the guest editor as "Ariel University, 65 Ramat HaGolan Street, Ariel, Israel":

[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules/special\\_issues/organic\\_fluorophores](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules/special_issues/organic_fluorophores)

Ariel University is on a settlement in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, not in Israel. The United Nations is unambiguous that Israeli settlements are illegal. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 of 2016, for example, states that Israel's settlement activity constitutes a "flagrant violation" of international law and has "no legal validity": <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12657.doc.htm>.

This is the position of the EU, British and Swiss governments:

<https://thepalestineproject.medium.com/eu-uk-germany-all-israeli-settlements-are-illegal-under-international-law-f61b5c11ebbe>; <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/occupied-territories-swiss-confirm-position-on-israeli-settlements/45378714>, as well as the largest and most respected global human rights organisations Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2019/01/chapter-3-israeli-settlements-and-international-law/>

In a recent letter to BRISMES President, Haleh Afshar (21.6.20), the British government affirmed, "The UK's position on Israeli settlements is clear: they are illegal under international law and damaging to renewed efforts to launch peace negotiations. The UK expressed our deep disappointment over the decision to upgrade Ariel's university centre, due to its presence in a settlement that is illegal according to international law, at the UN Security Council on 27 December 2012." The Molecules description of Ariel University as 'in Israel' thus takes a political position which is directly opposed to that of international law.



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I strongly urge you to amend the address which you give for Ariel from 'Israel' to 'Occupied Palestinian Territories' in accordance with international law, also making plain that Ariel is an illegal Israeli settlement.

Yours sincerely,

Professor The Baroness Afshar  
**President, BRISMES**