



To:
Assoc/Prof Sun Teck Tan
President of IOI

25 September 2024

RE: [The IOI response to the conflict in Gaza](#)

We, members of '[BaShaar](#) – Academic Community for Israeli Society'*, have read the IOI's (International Olympiad in Informatics) decision to sanction Israel for its role in the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

We are deeply concerned that your announcement fails to recognize the full scope of events since Hamas' brutal attack on Israeli civilians on October 7th, 2023, presenting an incomplete and one-sided view of the situation.

The events of October 7th were not merely another clash between Israel and Hamas. Hamas terrorists perpetrated atrocities against more than 1200 Israelis, including the elderly, men, women, children, and babies. The attacks involved torture, mutilation, and murder, with victims being shot, beheaded, and burned alive. Women were subjected to sexual violence before being killed. Over 200 Israelis were taken hostage, including vulnerable individuals such as the elderly, children, and babies. Hamas continues to use both these hostages and Gaza civilians as human shields. As of today, 101 hostages remain in captivity, enduring dire conditions without access to humanitarian aid.

The [code of conduct of the IOI](#) states: "Everyone involved with IOI is committed to accepting all participants for who they are, and providing an environment where everyone with a passion for informatics is comfortable and included."


The academic sphere, whether in science or humanities, like sport competitions, should remain a safe space that opposes all forms of discrimination, including racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Israel sentiments. We urge the IOI to be sensitive to the sufferings on all sides and to provide a safe space for all participants.

"BaShaar" has consistently advocated and continues to do so, for the Israeli government to act in accordance with the laws of war and to minimize harm to civilian populations, even during times of conflict. We stress the importance of ensuring humanitarian aid, shelter, food, and medical care for the civilian population in Gaza.

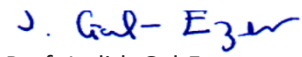
"BaShaar" therefore calls upon the IOI to reconsider its decision. While it is legitimate to express criticism and strong concerns about Israeli policies and actions, resorting to boycotts or sanctions is not the appropriate course of action.

We strongly encourage the IOI to maintain its commitment to inclusivity and provide a safe space for all participants, including Israelis. By fostering dialogue and understanding, rather than exclusion, the IOI can better uphold its values and contribute to a more inclusive scientific community.

Hoping for better days for all



Dr. Vered Ariel Nahari
CEO, BaShaar



Prof. Judith Gal-Ezer
Head of 'Standing at the Gate' Initiative for
Safeguarding Academic Freedom, BaShaar

"[BaShaar](#) – Academic Community for Israeli Society" is a registered non-profit and non-governmental organization, established in 1999 by academic leaders. BaShaar lists over 2,000 senior faculty members from all institutions of higher education in Israel, including former presidents and rectors, Nobel Laureates, laureates of the Israel Prize and other prestige awards.