Maja van der Velden Dept. of Informatics University of Oslo



### Overview

I. How are our workplaces involved?

II. How are tech workers responding and organising?

III. What can we do in Norway?

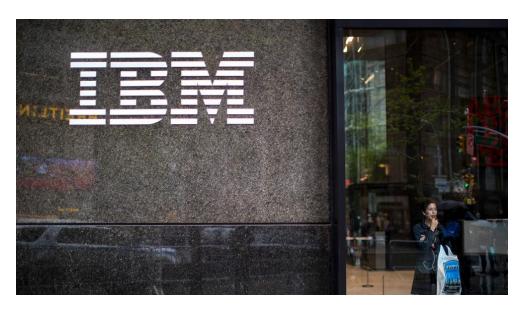
# I. How are our Norwegian workplaces involved?

- They have Israeli subsidiaries that are supporting genocide and apartheid
- They buy technology and services from companies supporting genocide and apartheid
- They sell technology or services that are at risk of being used in genocide and apartheid
- They participate in Horizon (EU-funded) research projects alongside Israeli companies and institutions
- They have institutional agreements with Israeli universities and research institutions

### They have subsidiaries in Norway and Israel









### Our workplaces buy their products and services











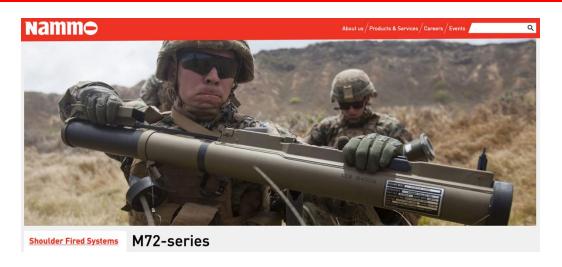








### Our workplaces sell technology or services that are at risk of being used in genocide and apartheid









### US Army Signs Five-Year Deal for Teledyne FLIR's **Black Hornet 4 Nano Drones**





# They have research cooperation through EU Horizon funding

### Forskerforum



Norske og israelske forskningsmiljøer samarbeider i 54 ulike EU-prosjekter, viser Forskerforums gjennomgang. Bilde fra en demonstrasjon til støtte for Palestina i Oslo tidligere i år. Foto: Fartein Rudjord.

### Norsk-israelsk samarbeid i 54 forskningsprosjekter

"Since 7 October 2023, the EU has approved 130 Horizon Europe research projects involving Israeli participants, which have received a total of €126 million. At least two of these projects directly fund the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), one of Israel's largest arms companies, which is in receipt of almost €640,000."

"EU-GLOCTER (2024 - 2027) is worth a total of €2.6 million and is involving a collaboration with various partners including Israel's Reichman University and Counter-Terrorism Solutions Ltd. Other projects are similarly problematic and involve funding for surveillance, digital advances and technology – this at a time when Israel is waging a war that is highly dependent on hightech digital war tools."

[Partners in Crime: EU complicity in Israel's Genocide in Gaza – tni.org]

## They have institutional agreements with Israeli universities

UiS ends institutional cooperation with Israel

### **UiB avslutter utvekslingsavtale** med israelsk universitet

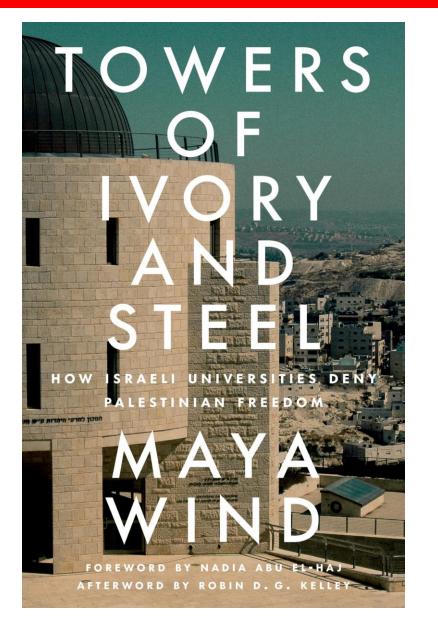
Det juridiske fakultetet ved Universitetet i Bergen har vedtatt å si opp utvekslingsavtalen som fakultetet har med Tel Aviv University.

### OsloMet vedtar å fryse israelsk avtale

NTNU vedtar boikott av israelske akademiske institusjoner

Nord universitet fryser utvekslingsavtaler med Israel

**USN** avslutter samarbeid med israelske universiteter



II. How are tech workers responding and organising

- Tech mot Folkemord
- Tech Divestment Network
- No Tech for Apartheid (Google and Amazon)
- No Azure for Apartheid (Microsoft)
- Workplace retaliation

### Tech mot folkemord

# Raser mot AI-konferanse: Innovasjon for et mer effektivt folkemord?

– Hvordan kan man diskutere sikkerhet og tillit når man samtidig samarbeider med selskaper som aktivt bidrar til undertrykkelse, overvåkning, okkupasjon og folkemord? spør Tech mot folkemord-gruppa.



Fra demonstrasjonen til Tech mot folkemord-gruppa utenfor AI-konferanse til GoForIt. 📸: Privat

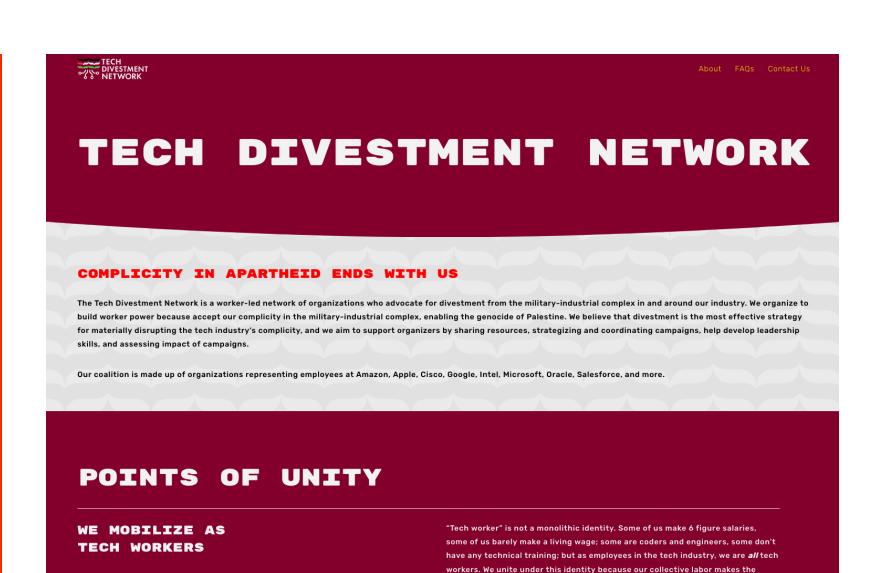
PUBLISERT: 23. OKTOBER 2024 KL. 13.20



[techmotfolkemord.io]



## Tech Divestment Network



world of tech possible.

## No Tech for Apartheid



### **NO TECH FOR APARTHEID**

As the Israeli Occupation Forces bombed homes, clinics, and schools in Gaza and threatened to push Palestinian families from their homes in Jerusalem May 2021, Amazon Web Services and Google Cloud executives signed a \$1.22 billion contract to provide cloud technology to the Israeli government and military. By doing business with Israeli apartheid, Amazon and Google will make it easier for the Israeli government to surveil Palestinians and force them off their land.

We're heeding the call from over 1000 Google and Amazon workers to rise up against the contract, known as Project Nimbus. Technology should be used to bring people together, not enable apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and settler-colonialism. Following in the footsteps of those who fought to divest from apartheid South Africa and won, it's our responsibility to rise up in support of Palestinian freedom. The Amazon and Google execs who signed this contract can still choose to be on the right side of history.

Here's where you come in: Add your name below to demand that Amazon CEO Andy Jassy, Amazon Web Services CEO Adam Selipsky, Google CEO Sundar Pichai, and Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian end all ties with Israeli apartheid and cut the Project Nimbus contract. Rise up with us to say: No Tech For Apartheid.

Demand Amazon & Google stop doing business with Israeli apartheid & powering the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza

# No Azure for Apartheid

#### We refuse to be complicit.

Join the growing No Tech for Apartheid movement and demand that Microsoft live up to its purported ethical values—by ending its direct and indirect complicity in Israeli apartheid and genocide.

Join us, alongside students, teachers, activists, cultural workers, healthcare workers, and trade unions, alongside the International Court of Justice, alongside ordinary people in the streets and Palestinians worldwide, in building a new future where Palestine is free.

Read and sign our petition

### **Our demands**

### 1 IOF off Azure

End Microsoft's complicity in Israeli genocide and apartheid by terminating all Azure contracts and partnerships with the Israeli military and government.

### 2 Disclose all ties

Make all ties to the Israeli state, military, and tech industry publicly known, including weapons manufacturers and contractors. Conduct a transparent and independent audit of Microsoft's technology contracts, services, and investments.

### 3 Call for a ceasefire

Honor the demands of over 1,000 employees who signed a petition calling on Microsoft's leadership to publicly endorse an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

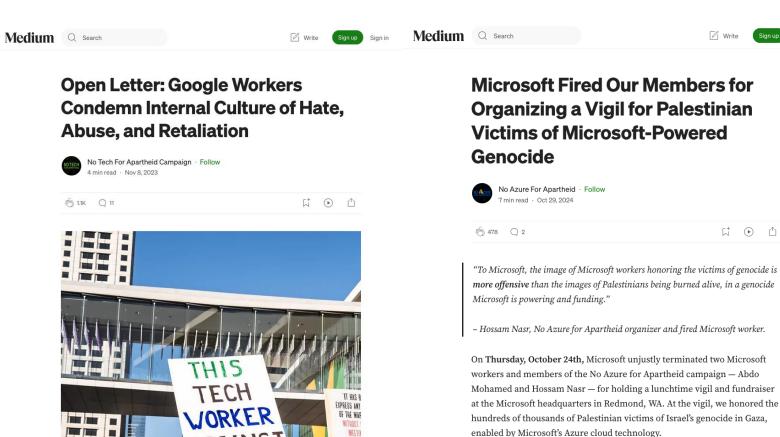
### 4 Protect employees

Ensure the safety of Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, and allied employees by protecting pro-Palestinian speech, actions, and fundraising initiatives on internal company platforms.

No Azure For Apartheid is part of the No Tech For Apartheid network.

For press inquiries, please contact microsoftnota@gmail.com.

## Workplace retaliation



#### We honored our martyrs

Over 200 employees joined the vigil both in person and virtually, where we honored the lives of Shaban al-Dalou, a software engineering student in Gaza who was burned alive by Israeli bombs two weeks ago; Mai Ubeid, a former Google intern who was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza; and Ayşenur Ezgi Eygi, a Seattle community member and University of Washington graduate, who was killed by an Israeli sniper bullet to the head in September 2024. As

### **Tech Workers Testimonies**



[7amleh.org]



■ WIRED SECURITY POLITICS GEAR THE BIG STORY BUSINESS SCIENCE CULTURE MORE ✓ SIGN IN

PARESH DAVE BUSINESS OCT 38, 2824 7:88 AM

### **'Double Standards and Hypocrisy': The Dissent at Cisco Over the War in Gaza**

Employees at Cisco revealed to WIRED the challenges they've encountered while petitioning for the cancellation of contracts with Israel and greater recognition of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza



Cisco Systems headquarters in San Jose, California. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID PAUL MORRIS/GETTY IMAGES

Join a union or professional organisation that stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people



Norske myndigheter må sette makt

NITO fordømmer de siste ukenes grusomme voldsutøvelse mot sivile borgere i Israel og

Palestina. NITO krever at folkeretten overholdes og at sivile beskyttes.

Våre tanker går til alle ofre for den nådeløse volden som utøves, og til deres

NITO stiller seg regjeringens holdning og gir full støtte til FNs generalsekretær

Gjennom mediene får vi en kontinuerlig og hjerteskjærende oppdatering av den

katastrofale situasjonen som utspiller seg i Gaza. De brutale angrepene og

drapene på israelske sivile utført av Hamas 7. oktober fordømmes av oss alle, og vi krever umiddelbar og betingelsesløs løslatelse av alle gisler uskadd.

Kamphandlingene vi ser i Gaza nå må stoppes. Det internasionale samfunnet

må trå til for å sikre at alle sivile beskyttes, og sikre at alle parter respekterer

Verken drap på israelske sivile utført av Hamas eller den israelske regjeringen nådeløse bombardement av folket i Gaza vil bidra til å skape fred i området.

uten frykt, der fred og demokrati skal være en på respekt for folkeretten og

Som en del av en internasjonal fagbevegelse, er NITO del av en solidarisk fredsbevegelse. Sammen har vi et sterkt engasjement for en fredelig verden

Guterres' initiativ og budskap. NITO mener at Sikkerhetsrådet må sørge for å

bak kravet om en våpenhvile mellom

Kontakt NITO

epost@nito.no

politikk

Oversikt NITOs

NITOs politikkhefte 2024-2027

22053500

By courageously heeding the Palestinian BDS Call, issued by an absolute majority in Palestinian civil society in 2005. LO joins some of the world's most

Brazil's CUT, Quebec's CSN and the Irish ICTU, in calling for meaningful BDS

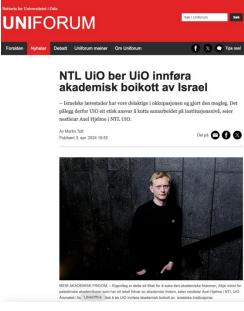
important trade union federations, including South Africa's COSATU,

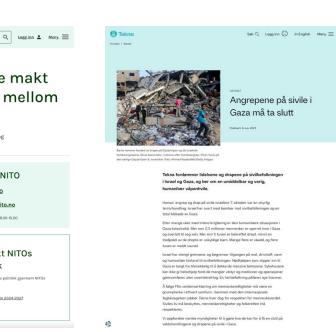
Hamas og Israel

handling og bli enige om en humanitær våpenhvile.

grunnleggende prinsipper i krigens folkerett.

**DINITO** 







# Den norske dataforening?

onder en produjener et il Signer hav de ban for å til en slutt på

Maja van der Velden 16

Maja van der Velden 16

# III. What can we do in Norway?

- Boycott Israeli tech and find alternatives
- Use Norwegian or Nordic-owned and operated data centres
- Support your colleagues by signing their petitions
- Refer to human rights and genocide in your tender documents
- Volunteer for Tech for Palestine
- Declare your company, institution, team or research group an 'Apartheid-free Zone'
- Twin your company or institution with a Palestinian one
- Organise a day of action, join a demonstration or join an organisation (Jewish Voices for a Just Peace Norway; Palestine Committee, etc.)
- Write a letter to the editor or demand your professional organisation or union to speak out about the genocide and apartheid in Palestine
- Follow-up meeting on the publication of the Report by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories to the Human Rights Council 58th session (March 2025).

### Boycott Israeli tech

### **#BoycottForPalestine**

### There are always tech alternatives

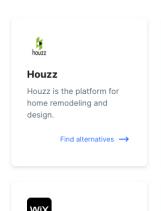
Our mission is to provide great alternatives to all tech companies that contribute to the Palestinian genocide that you can use TODAY.

Find an alternative to...



#### **Most Visited Websites**

Let's Boycott

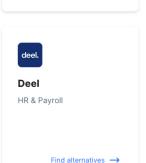


Create websites without

Find alternatives ->

Wix

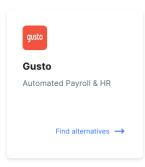
coding



Find alternatives →

eToro

Investment platform

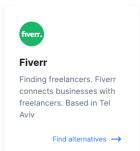


Monday

Collaboration tool

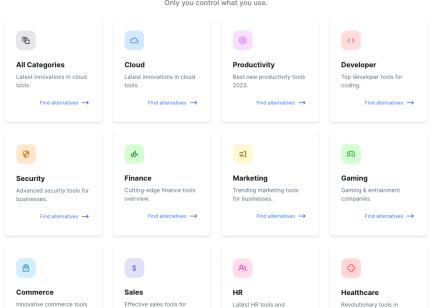
Find alternatives →





#### **Find Alternatives**

Only you control what you use.



Latest HR tools and

Find alternatives ->

healthcare sector.

Find alternatives →

Innovative commerce tools

for retail & e-commerce.

### **Boycott lists**



WHAT IS BDS? GET INVOLVED



### Guide to BDS Boycott & Pressure Corporate Priority Targeting

December 6, 2024 / By Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC) /

Boycott these companies now for their complicity in Israel's occupation, apartheid and genocide against Palestinians.

### Priority boycott targets of the BDS movement:

























Sodastream DISNEO+ RE/MAX

Pressure targets of the BDS movement:





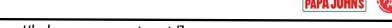


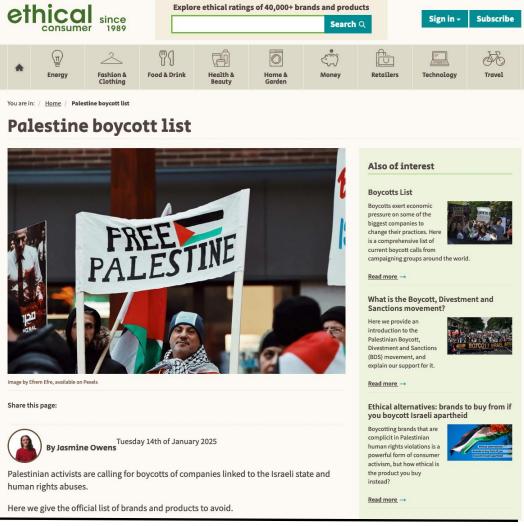
Organic boycotts supported by the BDS movement:





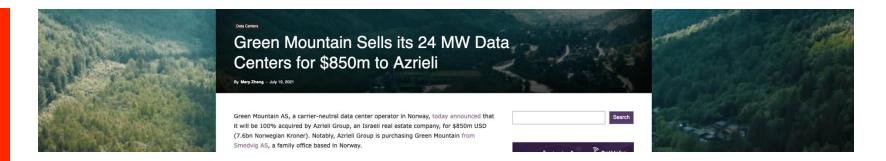






[https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/ethical-campaignsboycotts/palestine-boycott-list]

# Use Norwegian or Nordic-owned and operated data centres



- Azrieli Ltd is an Israeli real estate company and 100% owner of four Green Mountain data centres in Norway (Hamar, Enebakk, Rjukan, Rennesøy).
- Until 2016, Azrieli used to own real estate in the illegal settlements Ariel, Ma'ale Efraim, Ma'ale Adumim, Kedumim, Eli, Kfar Adumim, Almo, and in Ramot Alon and Sheikh Jarrah in East-Jerusalem.
- The Azrieli Foundation donates large sums to IDF-linked organisations. In the past, they have funded Im Tirtzu to fight academic boycotts of Israeli universities.

### Create and sign petitions

### Demand Amazon & Google stop doing business with Israeli apartheid & powering the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza

#### 103705

Goal: 105000

By taking this action, you agree to receive emails from MPower Change, Jewish Voice for Peace, The Action Center on Race and The Economy, Adalah Justice Project, American Muslims for Palestine, Athena, BDS Berlin BDS Movement, Carceral Tech Resistance Network, Dissenters, Eyewitness Palestine, Fight For The Future, If NotNow, Media Justice, National Lawyers Guild, the Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy/Rabet, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Warehouse Worker Resource Center, The US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, and World Beyond War. You can unsubscribe at any time using the instructions provided in the emails

First Name 3

Last Name

#### Email Address <sup>1</sup>

Dear Amazon and Google Executives Andy Jassy, Adam Selipsky, Sundar Pichai, and Thomas Kurian,

I'm writing to you with urgency and in solidarity with the hundreds of Amazon and Google workers bravely calling for Google and Amazon to immediately cancel your \$1.2 billion contract for Project Nimbus and stop doing business with the Israeli apartheid government and military,

This demand is urgent. Your technology is directly supporting the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Gaza and the recent

#### **Add Your Voice**

This campaign is hosted by MPower Change. By submitting your data you agree to recieve periodic updates from MPower Change via the contact information you provided. We will protect your privacy, and keep you informed about this campaign and others.

No Azure for Apartheid Get involved

### No Azure for Apartheid: IOF off Azure

Add your signature (for Microsoft employees)

#### The current moment

Over the past seven months, Israel has been conducting a brutal and deadly genocidal assault on the Gaza Strip. As of the time of writing, Israel has killed over 35,000 Palestinians, most of whom are children and women. Israel has killed more aid workers than in any single conflict in history, and more journalists than killed by any army in a single year. Israel has bombed schools, hospitals, places of worship, refugee camps, and destroyed all aspects of civilian life in the Gaza Strip. Through a deliberate Israeli policy of starvation, 100% of the population in the Gaza Strip is facing crisis-level starvation—the steepest decline in a population's nutrition level in recorded history.

In what is dubbed the world's first Al-assisted, algorithmic genocide, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)—more accurately dubbed the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF)—have been using AI systems such as the Gospel and Lavender to accelerate their genocide. This follows a pattern of the use of AI and Cloud technologies to advance and accelerate oppression against the Palestinian people. Israel's regime of domination and oppression against the Palestinian people for over 76 years has been dubbed by multiple human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and even Israel's own B'Tselem as an apartheid regime. Al systems such as Wolf Pack and Mabat 2000 accelerate this system of surveillance, oppression, and apartheid.

#### Our role

As technology workers, we are hyper aware of the fact that our work—especially with the advancement of AI and cloud technologies has the potential to enable any company and any organization to inflict harm and violate human rights. The products and services we build are being used and distributed around the globe to surveil, censor, and destroy. We cannot stand by while our labor is utilized to aid in the oppression of innocent people.

Microsoft continually flouts that its Corporate Social Responsibility commitments include a commitment to "protect fundamental rights." In Microsoft's own words, "respecting human rights is a core value of Microsoft." It was this core value that was cited when Microsoft decided to suspend new sales in Russia, following its illegal invasion of Ukraine. Yet, faced with multiple reports of the IOF's repeated violations of international law, including a ruling by the International Court of Justice that labelled its action as a plausible genocide, Microsoft has remained silent.

Microsoft has not only remained silent, but is actively complicit in the ongoing Nakba, supporting and enabling an apartheid state, by continuing to sell cloud and AI services to the IOF. Within the workplace, Microsoft continues to punish, repress, silence, and retaliate against its ampleyees for speaking out against what's bappaning in Dalastine and continues to food into the hostile anvironment it has

# Refer to human rights and genocide in your tender documents

- All companies have a responsibility to respect human rights (UN Guiding Principles)
- That responsibility is also Norwegian law (Åpenhetsloven)
- Suppliers should be asked about their human rights policies and due diligence practices
- If companies claim to respect human rights, demand information about how they do so

# Actively use the Norwegian Transparency Act (Åpenhetsloven)



#### Kontakt oss

Du er her: Forside / Fagområde vi fører tilsyn med / Åpenhetsloven / The Transparency Act

### The Transparency Act

Publisert: 29, august 2023 Oppdatert: 01, nov 2024

#### Contents on this page

#### Who does the Transparency Act apply to?

- Foreign enterprises

#### Duty to carry out due diligence

- Foreign enterprises' due diligence duties
- OECD Guidelines and further due diligence guidance

#### Duty to account for due diligence

- Describing findings, measures and results
- Formal requirements
- Accounting for due diligence in a group of enterprises

#### Duty to provide information

- Requesting information

#### The role of the Norwegian Consumer Authority

- How to contact us

"The Act shall promote enterprises' respect for fundamental human rights and decent working conditions in connection with the production of goods and the provision of services and ensure the general public access to information regarding how enterprises address adverse impacts on fundamental human rights and decent working conditions." Source: The Transparency Act, section 1 (Lovdata)



#### Kontakt oss

Du er her: Forside / Fagområde vi fører tilsyn med / Åpenhetsloven / Processing information requests

### Processing information requests

Oppdatert: 23, apr 2024

#### Contents on this page

Who can send information requests?

How can enterprises receive information requests?

Which deadlines apply?

Which types of questions must be answered?

What is an "adequate" answer?

Are enterprises obligated to carry out additional investigations in order to provide an adequate

Can enterprises refer to other enterprises?

Which language should an information request be answered in?

When can enterprises deny an information request?

«The Transparency Act shall promote enterprises' respect for fundamental human rights and decent working conditions in connection with the production of goods and the provision of services and ensure the general public access to information regarding how enterprises address adverse impacts on fundamental human rights and decent working conditions.» Source: The Transparency Act section 1 (Lovdata)

[https://www.forbrukertilsynet.no/vi-jobbermed/apenhetsloven/the-transparency-act]

### Tech for Palestine

### **Tech for Palestine**

A loose coalition of 8,000+ founders, engineers, product marketers, community builders, investors, and other tech folks working towards Palestinian freedom.

We use our skills, networks, and professional experiences to end the dehumanization of Palestinians, support projects that empower Palestinians globally, and give a voice to those who courageously choose to speak up.

### Want to get involved?

What started as an aligned collective on a Discord server has grown into a nonprofit incubator that supports projects from idea to launch.

Submit your project to get mentorship and access to a skilled, supportive tech community

Volunteer Apply to volunteer for any of our current or future projects

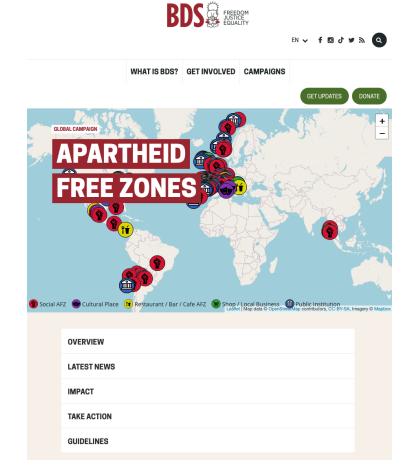
Community Get involved by finding likeminded tech folk on our Discord server



# Declare your organisation an Apartheidfree Zone



https://palestinakomiteen.no/boikott-bds/45apartheidfrie-soner



https://bdsmovement.net/apartheid-free-zones

Twin your company or institution with a Palestinian one



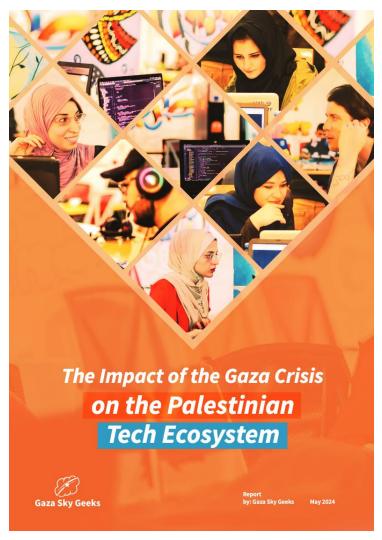
### **OUR PROGRAMS**







[gazaskygeeks.com]

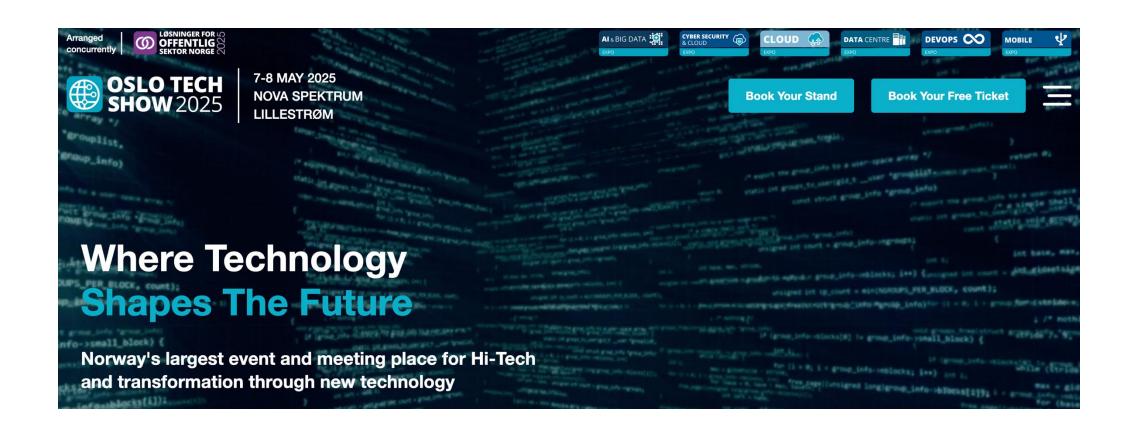


[https://gazaskygeeks.com/the-impact-ofgaza-crisis-on-the-palestinian-techecosystem/]





# Organise | mobilise | network



# Organise | mobilise | network

# Follow-up meeting in Norway

 Report by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories (Francesca Albanese) to the Human Rights Council 58th session

 broader investigation into the involvement of business enterprises, including financial institutions such as banks, pension funds, insurance companies, universities, as well as private military and security companies (PMSC) and weapons manufacturers (WM).

# Possible complicity in genocide and apartheid

 Providing the means to kill: Liability may arise for a company where it provides dual-use material – such as data - to governments or armed groups who use those products to commit atrocities.



E.g., allegations that **WhatsApp** data (Meta) is used in system that target Palestinians

 Allowing use of company assets for abuses: A company may face liability if it provides facilities such digital infrastructure used in the perpetration of international crimes.



E.g., allegations that **Amazon, Google, and Microsoft** provided data centre services to the Israeli military



### Thank you

Maja van der Velden majava@ifi.uio.no