

6 January 2025

To the Members of the Board of Amnesty International Israel,

This is to inform you that the International Board of Amnesty International has resolved to suspend Amnesty International Israel's membership of the Amnesty Movement for a period of **two years**.

We take this action in response to evidence of endemic anti-Palestinian racism within AI Israel, which violates core human rights principles and Amnesty values, and evidence of AI Israel's misalignment with and hostility to Amnesty positions as detailed hereunder. This action is taken under the authority of Article 34 of the Statute of Amnesty International (POL 20/8464/2024) and is necessary to protect the reputation, integrity and operational coherence of the Amnesty Movement at large.

We have taken into consideration the evidence of systemic anti-Palestinian racism within AI Israel, and your failure to respond effectively to successive findings of it. That dereliction of your duties as an Amnesty board is highlighted by your failure to act on i) the notification of concerns as listed in the International Board's (IB's) letter to you of June 2022, ii) the recommendations of the July 2024 report of the investigation into anti-Palestinian racism, entitled "Towards Inclusivity and Unity" and iii) the IB letter of October 2024.

We have further considered the resignations, in October 2023 and December 2024, of AI Israel Chairs and Vice-Chairs along with other Board members, in protest against the anti-Palestinian racism within AI Israel, and the 29 November 2024 message issued by the then Chair, vice-Chair and another member of AI Israel board to Amnesty Sections Chairs explaining the reasons for their resignation.

Our concerns have been further compounded by the opinion pieces, published in the Israeli press and posts published on social media, by former Chairs and vice-Chairs of AI Israel, among others, denouncing endemic anti-Palestinian racism within AI Israel.

We have considered as well, the failures of AI Israel to align with Amnesty official positions and policies, and its public expressions of hostility to the work of the Amnesty Movement. We note in particular AI Israel's efforts to undermine the findings and recommendations of Amnesty's 2022 report on Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians and, more recently, Amnesty's 2024 report on Israel's genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. AI Israel's decision to issue a press release and public briefing ahead of the launch of the 2024 report and without prior consultation with the IS, further underscores our concerns and justifies our decision.

We consider that you have sought to discredit Amnesty's research, undermine the Movement's campaigning and call into doubt the integrity thus of the Amnesty movement as a whole. Those actions are prejudicial to Amnesty's human rights work overall, not only its vital work in regard to the human rights of Palestinians in Gaza.

The endemic anti-Palestinian racism and the actions of AI Israel against Amnesty research and positions thus represent a threat to the reputation, integrity and the operational coherence of the Movement, with grave implications for the credibility of human rights messages more broadly.

It is for the foregoing reasons that the International Board has resolved that it can no longer entrust AI Israel with the privileges of representing the name, identity, assets and interests of Amnesty International at the national level. Therefore, in fulfilment of its own duties to protect the interests and viability of the Amnesty Movement globally, and under the statutory authority, the International Board hereby suspends AI Israel for a period of two years with effect from the date of receipt of this letter.

Effectively, from that moment onwards and for a period then of two years, you will no longer have the authority to act in any way or manner on behalf of the Amnesty International movement.

You may not represent yourselves or hold yourselves out as part of Amnesty International movement to any audience. You may not, in any way or form, use the Amnesty International name or logo in any external communications. You may not use the Amnesty International Trademark. Further, you are no longer authorized to participate in any Amnesty International global governance meetings or processes during the two-year period of your suspension.

The International Board will establish a Review Committee mandated to determine whether or not there is a future, beyond the two-year suspension period, for AI Israel within the Amnesty Movement. You are requested to fully cooperate with the work of that Review Committee.

If the Review Committee recommends a return to full membership for the Israel entity, a Road Map shall first be put in place to ensure that all our concerns, including those pertaining to endemic anti-Palestinian racism and to non-alignment with the policies of the Amnesty movement, are fully addressed and do not recur. You will be asked to take concrete steps in implementation of that road map before any reinstatement of AI Israel can be considered by the International Board. Your progress in doing so will be assessed by the International Board at the end of the first year of suspension and further into the second year.

However, if the Review Committee recommends the permanent termination of AI Israel's membership of the Amnesty Movement, the International Board will take into account your progress in addressing the concerns the International Board have raised alongside the reasoning of the Review Committee. We will then issue a decision accordingly.

The International Board will issue a separate letter regarding the mandate and composition of the Review Committee.

We hereby notify you also that we are suspending the disbursement of the first RAM funding tranche for 2025 until such time as the Secretary General is satisfied that the IS has reached a fair and reasonable agreement with you on the amounts required to cover relevant contractual costs, such as staff salaries. The Movement Building programme will issue you a separate message on this aspect.

All this said, under the Statute of Amnesty International you have the right to appeal this suspension.

To lodge such an appeal, you are obliged to include the full name/s of the petitioner(s), their contact details and the status of each person within the membership entity.

To be deemed official, any appeal on behalf of the entity must be made by (i) a board member authorized by the majority of the board; or by (ii) a representative of the entity's membership acting with the support of a relevant proportion of the membership as determined by the Membership Review Committee, taking into account all the circumstances. The appeal must also set out a summary of your reasons and grounds of appeal.

Your appeal must be received by the Amnesty Secretary General at secgen@amnesty.org, within 30 days of the date of this communication.

The Secretary General will then forward your appeal to the Coordinator of the Membership Review Committee. Copies will also be provided to the International Board and the Chair of the Global Assembly for their information.

In conclusion, we wish to advise that information regarding the suspension of AI Israel from membership of the Amnesty Movement, and about the process ahead, will be shared with the Amnesty movement at the same time that this letter is sent to you.

The International Board asks that the Chair or in their absence the Vice-Chair or a board member authorized by a majority of the board and the Director of Amnesty International Israel communicate this decision to the entity's staff and membership.

The International Board understands that this is difficult news to receive. Be assured that it is a decision that is in no way taken lightly, but one arrived at only after much reflection and after our earlier recommended steps to address these concerns failed to alter the circumstances.

The decision to suspend AI Israel for a period of two years is taken also with much regret but is adopted wholeheartedly as being necessary to secure the best interests of the Movement as a whole so that it may continue to act with coherence, integrity and credibility for the sake of the universal human rights values that Amnesty holds so dear.

Yours,

Tiumalu Lauvale Peter Fa'afiu



Interim Chair, International Board