

Dear staff, faculty and students

As we grieve for our lost ones and grapple with the events of October 7th, attempting to comprehend their profound impact on our lives within and beyond campus, we find ourselves confronted with a troubling surge of disinformation and, at times, blatant incitement. These elements are inundating the social networks frequented by our community members. In light of this, I would like to clarify a few important points:

1. Contrary to what is often stated on social media, the number of cases in which members of the campus community expressed support for the violent acts of Hamas is extremely small. The vast majority of the numerous complaints we have received pertain to the same few isolated incidents.
2. Most of the cases that have been brought to our attention have already been examined for factual correctness and referred to the university's tribunal for a decision. The university tribunal is the only body authorized to rule on matters of punishment. As an institution that respects the law, we are obligated to adhere to it even in challenging times. In one of the cases, the tribunal has already imposed an interim suspension as a precautionary measure, and decisions regarding further interim suspensions in the other cases are expected to be made early next week.
3. Reports were also received about expressions of support for terrorism based on materials that were found to be false or were taken out of context. Unfortunately, many of these materials are circulated on social networks and are used for incitement against Arab students.

It is important to emphasize once again that the University's policy categorically rejects any form of support for terrorism, particularly in these difficult days, and deals with them to the fullest extent possible under the law and according to the University's regulations. The absolute majority of the campus community, Jews and Arabs alike, condemn these acts of terror and mourn deeply. Let us do our best to preserve our unity and respect the memory of the fallen and the victims.

I extend my condolences to our friends whose relatives were murdered and wish a speedy and complete recovery to the injured.

I also hope for the swift return of our abducted citizens.

Yours,

Prof. Mark Shtauf

Rector