

MEDIA RELEASE
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UJ's severance of Israeli ties

The Senate of the University of Johannesburg's decision to forfeit relations with the Ben Gurion University of Israel smells like a South African Muslim vendetta against Israel and hence against the interests of the Jewish Community in SA. In this regard the name of Professor Habib as the initiator of the boycott adds fuel to the perception of a vendetta.

It is apprehensible that the Council of the University of Johannesburg lends itself as a political tool in favour of a narrow-minded political prejudice. It is a betrayal of a culture of dialogue, debate and international cooperation. We should depoliticize science.

It is in the interest of both SA and Israel to work closely together in a scientific cooperative project in the purification of water. The SA government has relations with Israel. Hence the UJ's actions are unfriendly deeds towards a country that enjoys diplomatic privileges in SA and vice versa of SA in Israel.

Dr Christo Landman

CDP Spokesman on Foreign Affairs and Higher Education

UJ se verbreking van Israelse bande

Die senaat van die Universiteit van Johannesburg om bande met die Ben Gurion-universiteit in Israel op te skort, klink na die simptome van 'n Suid-Afrikaanse Moslem-vendetta teen Israel en dus die belange van die Joodse gemeenskap van die land.

Die naam van prof. Habib as die voorbok met die aanstigting van die veldtog, versterk die persepsie. Dit is laakbaar dat die Raad van die universiteit van Johannesburg hom aan die neus laat lei as instrument van eng politieke vooroordeel.

Dit is verraad teenoor die kultuur van dialoog, debat en internasionale samewerking. Die wetenskap moenie gepolitiseer word nie. Dit is in beide Suid-Afrika en Israel se belang om op die gebied van watersuiwering saam te werk. Die Suid-Afrikaanse regering handhaaf betrekkinge met Israel, die UJ se optrede kom neer op 'n onvriendelike daad teenoor 'n land met wie die twee lande diplomatieke privilegie ruil.

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