

Open Letter	
Subject	National Museum of Korea & KAIST must cancel the participation of Israel's Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in the jointly organized “CIPA 2025”
From	People in Solidarity with Palestinians
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To	National Museum of Korea KAIST
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From August 25 (Monday) to August 29 (Friday), 2025, the “CIPA 2025 SEOUL: Heritage Conservation from Bits: From Digital Documentation to Data-driven Heritage Conservation” will be held at the National Museum of Korea in Seoul. The CIPA Symposium is one of the most significant academic events globally in the field of digital heritage. This year, on its 30th anniversary, it will be co-hosted by KAIST and the National Museum of Korea under the theme of preservation of cultural heritage through digital technology.

Despite the prestigious nature of this event, the Israel Institute of Technology (Technion), a collaborator in genocide and the destruction of cultural heritage, is scheduled to participate. There is no place at a forum dedicated to the value and preservation of heritage for an institution complicit in war crimes.

We, ‘People in Solidarity with Palestinians,’ who have worked together in South Korea for an end to Israel’s massacres and for the liberation of Palestine, strongly demand that the National Museum of Korea and KAIST cancel Technion’s participation in this event.



Technion is An Institution Complicit in Genocide

Technion is not a neutral academic institution. It is clearly a collaborator in Israeli apartheid.

Technion has supported Israel's 77-year-long occupation through science and technology and maintains very close ties with the Israeli government, military, and defense industry.

It is deeply connected with Israeli defense companies such as Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, and Elbit Systems. In fact, IAI and Rafael—Israel's largest defense companies—were founded based on infrastructure developed at Technion and continue to collaborate with the university in R&D.

These companies have supplied weapons used in the current genocide in Gaza and have developed weapons systems through “live testing” on Palestinians. Technion has developed military unmanned vehicles and drones, remote-controlled bulldozers used for the demolition of Palestinian homes (an act considered collective punishment under international law), and sound weapons used to disperse protests by Palestinians. It has also established a security science and technology center to strengthen collaboration with the Israeli government and operates advanced education programs for the Israeli military.

Israel Has Systematically Destroyed Cultural Heritage

Technion has no right to hold a pre-conference workshop at CIPA 2025 under the theme “AI for Cultural Heritage Significance Assessment.”

According to the Palestine Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)—one of the founding organizations of CIPA—Israel has deliberately attacked and destroyed irreplaceable Palestinian cultural heritage in Gaza, which spans over 4,000 years of history. ICOMOS's Arab region group reports that at least two-thirds of Gaza's 350 archaeological sites, historic districts, natural landmarks, and traditional buildings have been partially or completely bombed. This constitutes a severe loss not only to Palestinian cultural and human heritage but also to global cultural heritage.

UNESCO, which manages the World Heritage List, confirmed in May that 110 heritage sites had been damaged in Gaza since October 7, 2023.

Even more horrifically, Israel is reportedly using AI to generate extensive target lists for its attacks on Gaza.



Will the National Museum of Korea and KAIST Remain Silent in the Face of Genocide? This year marks the 80th anniversary of Korea's liberation. Yet Palestinians continue to resist in pursuit of independence from Israel. Even now, Israel is expanding its settlements and stealing Palestinian land and homes. Refugees who lost their homes overnight have been fighting for decades for their right to return.

Since October 2023, over 60,000 Palestinians have been killed due to Israel's ongoing massacres. Due to Israel's total blockade, Gaza residents are suffering from extreme famine. This is clearly a "genocide by starvation."

In January 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered Israel to prevent genocidal acts and allow the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim Khan, requested arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Israel, however, has ignored all these international rulings.

Will the National Museum of Korea and KAIST still shake hands with institutions complicit in genocide?

The National Museum of Korea, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, ranked 6th globally and 1st in Asia for museum visitors in 2023, gaining worldwide recognition. KAIST, a public institution under the Ministry of Science and ICT, also bears significant social responsibility. Allowing an apartheid-complicit institution to officially participate in a major international event co-hosted by these two institutions would normalize genocide and occupation and dilute accountability.

If the National Museum of Korea and KAIST wish to stand on the side of conscience and justice, they must cancel Technion's participation in CIPA 2025 immediately.

Protests against Israel's inhumane, barbaric crimes and global solidarity with Palestine—along with calls to boycott Israel—are growing stronger every day.

In June this year, the International Sociological Association (ISA) suspended the membership of the Israeli Sociological Society (ISS) ahead of its upcoming forum for failing to denounce genocide. Likewise, the World Archaeological Congress (WAC) excluded a scholar affiliated with Ariel University—a university located in an illegal Israeli settlement—from participating in its 10th congress.



Palestinians are publicly calling on the CIPA 2025 organizing committee to exclude Technion from the symposium. (Source: PACBI, Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel)

We urge the National Museum of Korea and KAIST to listen to and accept this just demand. If not, both institutions will face strong protests, both domestically and internationally.