

April 18, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION

Statement on the Arrest of Hebrew University Professor Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian

Around 5 pm on Thursday, April 18, 2024, Hebrew University professor and internationally renowned feminist scholar Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian was arrested by Israeli police at her home in the Old City of Jerusalem on the charge of incitement to violence. The police raided and searched her home and she is currently undergoing harsh and dehumanizing interrogation. Her lawyer said the charges against her are serious. Information about her release is unknown. Palestinians in Israeli detention suffer physical, emotional, and mental violence. Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian, who holds both Israeli and U.S. citizenship, has been subjected to [violent repression and harassment](#) by the Hebrew University for speaking out against the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Furthermore, she was [suspended from her teaching duties](#) in March, though later reinstated once it became clear that there is no basis for the allegations against her.

The attack against Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian is one on all Palestinian scholars, students, and activists who bring to light the violent and genocidal nature of the Israeli state, which was on full view of the world during South Africa's presentation at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). That presentation was sufficiently persuasive that the ICJ almost unanimously found in its provisional ruling on January 26, 2024 that Israel's attack on Gaza is plausibly genocide. We thus recognize this as an attempt to silence critique of Israeli state violence in a context of a society infused with open genocidal incitement and discourse. In fact, the Minister of National Security Itamar Ben Gvir welcomed the arrest and said that it "conveys an important message - whoever incites against the State of Israel, we will take action against them. They will not be able to hide behind their position or any other title." This silencing and repression endangers not only Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian, but also the lives and education of students who study, write, and are part of her intellectual community in the Hebrew University and beyond.

We, as international academics, hold the Hebrew University of Jerusalem responsible for the arrest and detention of Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian because of its persistent and public repression of her academic freedom, which led directly to today's arrest. We call on international scholars, activists, and people of conscience to demand her immediate release, and for all charges against her to be dropped. We are outraged by this unlawful action, and we refuse the continuing violence the Israeli state and its institutions wage against the Palestinian people and those who stand for justice and freedom.

Take action today for Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian's immediate release by:

1. Writing to Asher Cohen, President of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (asher.cohen@mail.huji.ac.il); Tamir Sheafer, Rector (tamir.sheafer@mail.huji.ac.il); and Asher Ben-Arieh, Dean of the School of Social Work (benarieh@mail.huji.ac.il).
2. Contacting your U.S. representatives and demanding that they (1) call for Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian's immediate release, and (2) protect the academic freedom of Palestinian scholars, students, and those speaking out against genocide.

3. Creating a social media storm by circulating our statement and calling for the immediate release of Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian; use the hashtag **#FreeNadera** and tag **@HebrewU**.

Dr. Lila Abu-Lughod, Joseph L. Bottenwieser Professor of Social Science, Columbia University
Dr. Raz Segal, Associate Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Endowed Professor in the Study of Modern Genocide, Stockton University
Dr. Sarah Ihmoud, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, The College of the Holy Cross
Dr. Sherene H. Razack, Distinguished Professor of Gender Studies, UCLA
Dr. Devin Atallah, Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Massachusetts Boston
Dr. Shahnaaz Suffla, Professor in the Institute for Social and Health Sciences, University of South Africa
Dr. Saree Makdisi, Professor of English, UCLA
Dr. Robin Kelley, Distinguished Professor of History, UCLA
Dr. Miriam Cooke, Braxton Craven Distinguished Professor Emerita of Arab Cultures, Duke University
Pregs Govender, African Gender OInstitute, UCT, Former South African MP and SA Human Rights Commissioner
Dr. Deborah Dwork, Director of the Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity, Graduate Center–City University of New York
Mimi Kirk, Adjunct Faculty, Georgetown University
Dr. Keren Weitzberg, senior lecturer, School of Politics and International Relations, fellow, Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, Queen Mary University of London
Dr. Clive Gabay, Reader in International Politics, School of Politics and International Relations, Queen Mary University of London
Dr. Vasuki Nesiah, Professor of Practice in Human Rights and International Law, NYU
Dr. Leila Farsakh, Professor of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Boston
Dr. Bram Wispelwey, Instructor, Harvard Medical School and Harvard Chan School of Public Health
Dr. David Theo Goldberg, Distinguished Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine
Miriam Ticktin, Professor of Anthropology, CUNY Graduate Center
Dr. Hoda Elsadda, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Cairo University
Dr. Fatima Sadiqi, Visiting Professor, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
Dr. Victoria Sanford, Lehman Professor of Excellence, Lehman College & the CUNY Graduate Center
Dr. Stephen Sheehi, Sultan Qaboos Professor of Middle East Studies, William & Mary.
Dr. Lara Sheehi, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Doha Institute of Graduate Studies
Dr. Rachel Rosen, University College London
Dr. Rosalind Edwards, University of Southampton UK
Dr. Lara Deeb, Professor of Anthropology, Scripps College
Dr. Gala Rexer, University College London
Dr. Heidi Morrison, Associate Professor of History, University of Wisconsin- La Crosse
Dr. Jeffrey Sacks, Associate Professor and Chair, Literature, UC Riverside

Professor Rana A. Sharif, CSU Northridge
Professor Vasuki Nesiah, Human Rights and International Law, NYU
Professor Zakia Salime, Rutgers University
Dr. Rishita Nandagiri, King's College London
Dr. Marion Kaplan, Professor Emerita of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU
Dr. Leti Volpp, University of California, Berkeley School of Law
Dr. Amahl Bishara, Associate Prof. of Anthropology, Tufts University
Dr. Taner Akçam, Director of the Armenian Genocide Research Program of PAI, UCLA
Dr. Sultan Doughan, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Goldsmiths University London
Dr. Nivi Manchanda, Associate Professor of International Politics, Queen Mary, University of London
Dr. Nadim Rouhana, Professor of International Negotiation and Conflict Studies, Tufts University
Dr. Atalia Omer, Professor of Religion, Conflict, and Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame
Dr. Minoo Moallem, Professor of Gender Studies, UC Berkeley
Dr. Shannon Speed, Professor of American Indian Studies and Gender Studies, UCLA
Dr. Noura Erakat, Associate Professor of Africana Studies, Rutgers University
Dr. Daniel Segal, Jean M. Pitzer Emeritus Professor of Anthropology and Emeritus Professor of History, Pitzer College
Dr. Darryl Li, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Associate Member of the Law School, University of Chicago
Dr. Ussama Makdisi, Professor of History and Chancellor's Chair, University of California Berkeley