

Update 3 – 17 June 2025

Dear UM community,

We are writing to update you on the progress of the work of the Human Rights Advisory Committee. Below, we share updates on our work, both on Israel/Palestine and Sudan, we again call for input during consultation meetings, and we reflect briefly on HRAC communication.

Progress on Israel/Palestine (phases 1 and 2)

We have finished our phase 1 report (analysis country situation) on Israel/Palestine and shared this report with the Executive Board on the 30th of May. As promised in our last update, a detailed announcement of the report's findings can be found [here](#). In short, the report concludes, in line with the findings of among others the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Criminal Court (ICC), and many other UN bodies, that there are serious indications that Israel has committed and continues to commit multiple international crimes and serious human rights violations, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and potentially acts of genocide. The HRAC also notes that there are serious indications that war crimes and crimes against humanity have been committed by various non-state armed groups in Israel. However, these have not been further considered, as Maastricht University currently appears to have no strategic partnerships in Palestine. Should such partnerships emerge, the Phase 1 report will be revised to include analysis of such international crimes or serious violations of human rights.

The committee has moved on to phase 2, analysing the role of various partners in Israel and of the specific partnership agreements. Based on these findings, the Committee will advise the Executive Board on whether to continue the partnership (and, where relevant, under which conditions). This report is expected to be published after the summer (see timeline update 2).

The committee is aware that a number of UM community members are eager for this report to be published sooner, hoping that Maastricht University will then officially cut ties with Israeli institutions. We understand these calls. However, the situation at Maastricht University is that currently, all institutional partnerships in Israel are already on hold ("frozen"). A report by the committee therefore only has the possibility to advise that this remains the same for a longer period, and/or that other (less severe or additional) measures are taken. Weighing all interests, needs, and possible consequences, we need to do this work carefully. It requires some time to think it through properly, to do our research, to listen to members of the UM and other experts. In our view, the negative effects of rushed reporting outweigh the (quite likely, minimal) potential positive effects such a rushed report might have. We believe that we can

present a fully reflective report after the summer, and are working hard to achieve this goal.

Progress on Sudan (phase 1)

In our analysis of Sudan we are about to finish phase 1. In the case of Sudan, this phase is more complicated, since the evidence regarding international crimes and serious human rights violations is not as well documented, researched, and published as is the case with Israel/Palestine. We hope to share an update on phase 1 of Sudan with you soon.

Consultations

In the last update we requested for UM staff and students to come forward to consult with the HRAC. Hereby, we repeat our call for consultations on:

1. UM strategic partnerships in Israel/Palestine
2. The (expected) positive and negative consequences of ending strategic partnerships

You can sign up for consultations (using [this form](#)) or email us at spu@maastrichtuniversity.nl. A call for consultations on Sudan will be shared in our next update.

If you would like to share your thoughts on this update, we would also be happy to hear from you by email: spu@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Visibility of HRAC and its communication

We are aware that the HRAC and its communication updates are not fully visible to all UM community members. The UM communications team is further developing a strategy to this purpose. In the meantime, if you speak with any colleagues or peers, please inform them of where they can find their information regarding the work of the committee:

For **staff**: on [UMployee group HRAC](#)

For **students**: in the UM newsletter which arrives in your email inbox