



12.8.8

FIMS Statement:

It is with great indignation that I inform you of the IFMSA's decision to suspend the Israeli medical students' organization. The IFMSA, the largest medical students' organization in the world, represents students from over 130 countries and has working relationships with the UN and the WHO. This suspension can only be revoked by a two-thirds majority, which is unlikely to occur in the foreseeable future.

The motion for suspension was presented based on allegations including: genocide denial; the fact that members of the Israeli medical students' organization serve in the Israeli military; the presence of students from Ariel University in the organization; supposed threats against medical students, online harassment and hate speech; threats against the Palestinian medical students' organization; and the overall struggle of the Palestinian medical students' organization. This was in addition to rumours being spread that we are Mossad agents.

In order to move forward with a motion that included various baseless and libelous accusations, the IFMSA cancelled all due process by eliminating the longstanding requirement to hold an independent investigation, and voted to cover up the illegal process by preventing any recording of the debate or the points brought up. This discriminatory process is unprecedented as far we know, with no prior instance in IFMSA history where an NMO was suspended without a proper investigation. One more NMO was suspended on these grounds (IFMSA-Pakistan) during this General Assembly, yet in their case the investigation had been conducted and results shared before the vote.

The IFMSA released a statement claiming that "a comprehensive and inclusive debate with arguments from all sides" took place. This is completely false. The allegations were presented to us just 10 minutes prior to the vote, with no valid or legal reason for our suspension being presented. When we were given the opportunity to present our perspective, half of the delegates left the room, including many members of the executive board, and those participating online were unable to hear our arguments because the live stream was paused. As a result, they could not make an informed decision.



The longstanding animosity towards us in the IFMSA has never been felt stronger, with celebrations taking place after the vote. We do note that there were numerous students' organizations that insisted on the most basic requirement that an impartial investigation be conducted before a vote on suspension, alongside letters from various WHO officials, however the majority was not interested. The blatant disregard for all protocol and due process was even more distressing and unprofessional given that the Supervising Council of the IFMSA emailed all members to state that no attempt for an investigation was made due to "lack of verified preliminary evidence submitted".

We have consistently expressed our willingness to cooperate fully with any investigation and stressed the importance of abiding by the IFMSA's bylaws, which stipulate that no suspension can occur without an official investigation confirming the allegations. Unfortunately, our requests were ignored, and the bylaws were disregarded. This highlights the seriousness of this decision, which was regrettably omitted from the IFMSA's press release on the matter.

While the allegations presented against us were ridiculous and libelous, and are not worthy of a response, we will briefly address them to avoid the impression that silence is an admission of guilt. First, one of the guiding principles of the IFMSA, enshrined in the constitution, is that the IFMSA respects the autonomy of its members. Therefore, any claims regarding the personal lives of members are not relevant. Second, we made no threats of any nature against anyone. These allegations are based on: an unprofessional and inaccurate translation of a Facebook post written in Hebrew; our calls for the resignation of an IFMSA official who shared a story calling for genocide against Israelis; our call for the IFMSA to take action against the Palestinian medical students' organization for their explicit and public support of the October 7th massacre; and our call to the IFMSA to end the politicized social media campaign from the end of last year.

The IFMSA's statement claims that the federation is recognised as the primary representative of the medical student community, this being a testament to the significance of the IFMSA. It is thus shameful that they have decided to put their efforts into politics and discrimination. The IFMSA constitution states that it "seeks to contribute



to the creation of responsible future physicians", yet these same future physicians lack any respect for due process, proper debate, inclusion, justice and truth.

This fiasco and injustice must be communicated to all universities, media channels, and international and humanitarian bodies. The exclusion of Israeli medical students from an international body, which is supposed to be a non-political and inclusive platform, sets a dangerous precedent for further sanctions against Israel and Jewish organizations worldwide.

Yours truly,

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President of the Federation of Israeli Medical Students (FIMS)

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