



PRESS RELEASE

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International Publishers Demand Frankfurt Book Fair Cut Ties with Israel

TORONTO, NEW YORK, LONDON – Publishers for Palestine, a coalition of more than 500 publishers in 50 countries, has issued an [open letter](#) to the Frankfurt Book Fair (Frankfurter Buchmesse) to demand that it denounce Israel's targeting of Gaza's writers, students, schools, universities, libraries, archives, and book publishers in its ongoing genocide.

The coalition has made four demands of the Book Fair: to condemn Israel's regime of genocide in Gaza and affirm the human rights of the Palestinian people; to refuse collaboration with complicit Israeli book publishers, including their participation in the Frankfurt Book Fair; to denounce the attacks on Palestinian writers, journalists, and academics and acknowledge that such attacks are part of a genocidal project seeking to erase Palestinian life and culture; and to create programming that prominently features Palestinian writers, publishers, and narratives.

In October 2023, an award ceremony for Palestinian author Adania Shibli scheduled at the Frankfurt Book Fair was cancelled and indefinitely delayed, and the Fair announced that it stood "with complete solidarity on the side of Israel."

Almost one year later, and many months after the International Court of Justice's ruling of a plausible genocide and the UN's report of Israel's scholasticide in Gaza, the Frankfurt Book Fair has only continued welcoming Israel; the Fair's 2023 pledge to increase Israeli programming remains in place for the 2024 event, a position inconsistent with its 2022 ban of Russia because of its assault on Ukraine. The Fair's direct ties to Israel and its entanglement with the German state, which explicitly supports Israel, has been [well documented](#).

"Book workers have a special role to play as purveyors of the written word because the work we do cements and legitimizes ideas and politics; as an influential cultural institution, the Frankfurt Book Fair has an opportunity and responsibility to leverage its power in this cultural sphere to pressure Israel to end its genocide of Palestinians," a member of the coalition said.

The Publishers for Palestine letter also denounces the German state's crackdown on Palestine solidarity as the backdrop of their calls. Ahead of the 2024 Fair, its organizers have announced that, "Throughout the fair, there will be an increased number of police officers in the halls, both plainclothes and in uniform."

The Frankfurt Book Fair takes place October 16-20, 2024. It is the largest and most prestigious annual international gathering of book publishers and authors, bringing in over 200,000 visitors. For publishers, the fair is a critical venue for the arrangement of translation and rights deals, as it is for exhibiting and launching books.

Launched after the 2023 FBM, Publishers for Palestine is a horizontally organized global coalition of publishers that oppose Israel's occupation and apartheid regime in Palestine; the coalition hosts and supports awareness-raising campaigns and events, tracks censorship of Palestinian writing as well as censorship of those in the publishing and media industries speaking out against the genocide, and liaises with related cultural industries that oppose Israel's apartheid regime.

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