

# BDS MOVEMENT | UCL

## UCL, Intel & Complicity in Israeli Apartheid, Occupation & Genocide

### Intel & Complicity in Israeli Apartheid, Occupation & Genocide

Intel Corporation is the world's biggest semiconductor chip manufacturer.<sup>1</sup> Its first development centre outside of the United States was founded in Haifa in 1974, and its first foreign factory was opened in Jerusalem in 1981. Intel Israel is a significant corporation for Israel's economy and tech sector: it is the largest private employer in Israeli hi-tech (in 2020 it had 14,000 direct employees, and 53,000 indirect employees),<sup>2</sup> and in 2022 it made up 5.5% of the hi-tech exports from Israel (1.75% of Israel's GDP).<sup>3</sup> The presence of Intel in Israel – both historically and currently – contributes to upholding the apartheid and occupation. Along with its three development centres in Haifa, Petah Tikva, and Jerusalem, Intel Israel's leading manufacturing facility is in Kiryat Gat, an Israeli settlement founded in 1954 and built on the ruins of the village Iraq al-Manshiyya,<sup>4</sup> approximately 16 miles from the Gaza Strip. One key figure in Intel's early operations in Israel explained: "we showed to other multinationals that you could be successful operating in Israel."<sup>5</sup> Although Intel Corp announced in June 2024 that it was postponing the multi-billion-dollar expansion of the Kiryat Gat facility,<sup>6</sup> the company has stated that "Israel continues to be one of our key global manufacturing and R&D sites and we remain fully committed to the region."<sup>7</sup> Intel's highest management has continued to express deep support for Zionist ideology and the actions of Israel's military during the genocide. Intel's CEO Patrick Gelsinger (in post since 2021)<sup>8</sup> said in an interview on 13 December 2023 with Fox Business that he saw Intel's involvement in Israel as "deeply personal", stating: "the Israeli people are the most resilient people on earth[...] I was just on the phone yesterday with Isaac Herzog, president of the country [...] We are deeply committed to our operations there."<sup>9</sup> Gelsinger's interview took place three days after the death toll in Gaza passed 18,000 (around 70% women and children).<sup>10</sup> Daniel Benatar (Co-General Manager of Intel Worldwide Semiconductor Manufacturing, and Co-General Manager Intel Israel) wrote in November 2023: "our hearts are with the IDF and the security forces [...] The people of Israel live and will live here forever."<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, the CEO of one of Intel Corp's subsidiaries, Mobileye (an Israeli autonomous driving company bought by Intel Corp for \$15.3bn in March

<sup>1</sup> <https://wccfttech.com/intel-quietly-becomes-worlds-biggest-chip-company-in-2023-says-gartner/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-israel-has-put-too-many-eggs-in-the-intel-basket-1001337366>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.intel.co.il/content/www/il/he/company-overview/intel-in-israel.html>; <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2024-01-01/ty-article/premium/intels-huge-investment-is-a-boon-for-israel-but-it-might-be-too-soon-to-celebrate/0000018c-b047-d45c-a98e-bb4f3f6f0000>

<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq\\_al-Manshiyya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_al-Manshiyya)

<sup>5</sup> Slide 2, <https://timeline.intel.com/1974/the-beginning-of-intel-israel>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/sjxr52eh0>; <https://www.techradar.com/pro/intel-to-halt-dollar25-billion-israel-chip-facility>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/intel-halting-25-billion-factory-expansion-israel-israeli-media-report-2024-06-10/>

<sup>8</sup> Basic overview of Patrick Gelsinger: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pat\\_Gelsinger#CEO\\_of\\_Intel\\_\(2021%E2%80%93present\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pat_Gelsinger#CEO_of_Intel_(2021%E2%80%93present)). Gelsinger also helped to establish the Sacramento-area Christian institution [William Jessup University](https://www.williamjessup.edu/), that discriminates against LGBTQ+ people (<https://jessup.edu/about/diversity-reconciliation-unity/>).

<sup>9</sup> Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-X5TBPcbfo&ab\\_channel=NimrodIsraely](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-X5TBPcbfo&ab_channel=NimrodIsraely)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/about-18000-palestinians-killed-israeli-attacks-gaza-since-october-7-gaza-health-2023-12-10/>

<sup>11</sup> Daniel Benatar's original post on LinkedIn: <https://shorturl.at/GFX2w>

2017)<sup>12</sup> has expressed clear support for Israel's military actions. Mobileye CEO Amnon Shashua tweeted about the inauguration of a new campus in Jerusalem on 26 March 2024 (attended by Yitzhak Herzog), stating: "Close to a thousand of our employees were drafted into the reserves in the first months of the war", adding that "Mobileye was born in Jerusalem, and as you can see it will stay in Jerusalem."<sup>13</sup>

Intel Corp plays an active role in the continuing genocide against the Palestinian people. Approximately 17% of its employees are on reserve duty for the Israeli Defence Force.<sup>14</sup> Intel's computer architecture programme for mobile computing is designed for use by infantry, Special Forces, and command personnel (for deployment on tanks, artillery and armoured personnel carriers) and is used to build Elbit Systems Enhanced Tactical Computers.<sup>15</sup> Intel also contributes to Israel's military through its developments in artificial intelligence. In 2018, Intel launched an artificial intelligence research centre in collaboration with Technion-Israel Institute of Technology (Technion in general is deeply implicated in the development of weapons systems and Israel Defence Force attacks on Palestinians).<sup>16</sup> Developments in AI-technology have played a significant role in the genocide. A +972 and Local Call investigation reported in November 2023: "another reason for the large number of targets, and the extensive harm to civilian life in Gaza, is the widespread use of a system called 'Habsora' ('The Gospel'), which is largely built on artificial intelligence and can 'generate targets' almost automatically at a rate that far exceeds what was previously possible. This AI system, as described by a former intelligence officer, essentially facilitates a 'mass assassination factory.'"<sup>17</sup> For more on Intel's complicity in Israeli Apartheid, Occupation and Genocide, see the factsheet published by BDS North America on 18 March 2024.<sup>18</sup>

## UCL & Intel

UCL has research connections with Intel Corp. Since 2011, as part of the university's Computer Science degree, UCL's Industry Exchange Programme<sup>19</sup> has enabled students' hands-on industry experience via collaborations with partners, including Intel.<sup>20</sup> Two mentors from Intel staff officially joined as teaching staff in 2023: Pippa Chick<sup>21</sup> (who also sits on UCL's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion panel), and Costas Stylianou.<sup>22</sup> Intel Corp sponsors and supports doctoral research at UCL:

- Intel contributes to funding for PhD Studies in the Intelligent Systems Group (part of the UCL Department of Computer Science that conducts research into the theory and application of AI).<sup>23</sup>
- Intel is one of the partner organisations with UCL's Centre for Intensive Data Science. UCL's Centres for Doctoral Training explain that "as well as offering secondment opportunities to the students, the partners also act as mentors, provide industry focussed training sessions and provide feedback on the overall training programme to ensure it is tailored to fulfil the requirements of all sectors."<sup>24</sup>
- UCL's Centre in Virtual Environments, Interaction and Visualisation lists Intel as industry sponsors.<sup>25</sup> The Centre's Engineering Doctorate has been previously sponsored by Intel.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-intel-mobileye-idUSKBN16K0ZP/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://x.com/AmnonShashua/status/1772621252017922111> (Original in Hebrew).

<sup>14</sup> Patrick Gelsing, December 2023: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-X5TBPcbfo&ab\\_channel=NimrodIsraely](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-X5TBPcbfo&ab_channel=NimrodIsraely)

<sup>15</sup> <https://elbitsystems-uk.com/what-we-do/land/network-combat-warfare/networks-and-c2/enhanced-tactical-computers-etc.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <https://medium.com/@phds4palestine/technion-exposed-israel-technology-institutes-links-with-the-idf-caffae135923>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.972mag.com/mass-assassination-factory-israel-calculated-bombing-gaza/>

<sup>18</sup> BDS North America factsheet: <https://www.scribd.com/document/714493964/BoycottIntel-Fact-Sheet>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/computer-science/collaborate/ucl-industry-exchange-network-ucl-ixn>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/computer-science/news/2023/mar/intel-supports-tech-good-projects-ucl-computer-science>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.intelcapital.com/team/pippa-chick/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/computer-science/news/2024/mar/ucl-computer-science-students-present-ai-edtech-innovations-bett>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/computer-science/research/research-groups/intelligent-systems-group>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/data-intensive-science-industry/industry-partners>

<sup>25</sup> <https://veiv.cs.ucl.ac.uk/industry.html>

<sup>26</sup> <https://veiv.cs.ucl.ac.uk/industry/veiv-sponsors/109-uncategorized/industry-sponsors/419-intel.html>

There are a number of collaborative research projects between UCL and Intel:

- In 2012, UCL, Intel and Imperial College London launched the Intel Collaborative Research institute for Sustainable Connected Cities. This was Intel's first research centre, and it is dedicated to exploring how technology can support and sustain social and economic development of cities worldwide.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2022, UCL collaborated with Intel, Microsoft and International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) to develop 'UCL MotionInput V3' software for touchless computing and 'hands-free' software.<sup>28</sup> The software was developed by UCL UCL Computer Science students.
- In 2024, there was a six-month project partnership between UCL, Intel, and Great Ormond Street Hospital. The project, called 'Matter WakeUP AI System', used Intel's own OpenVINO advanced AI technology. A number of UCL staff included: Professor Dean Mohamedally (Chief Supervisor and Professor of Computer Science), Ammanuel Letier (Associate Professor in Software Engineering), and Costas Sylianou (Intel Senior Technical Specialist and Honorary Associate Professor)<sup>29</sup>.
- The winner of London Centre for Nanotechnology's EPSRC Open Fellowship research (announced in 2022) into AI solutions, Dr Rajendran (a KCL-based researcher), will collaborate with UCL researchers Karl Friston and Alex Shluger alongside Intel as an industry collaborator.<sup>30</sup>

Perhaps most egregiously, UCL is also acting as Lead Research Organization in a £13 million UKRI-funded digital technologies project, known as 'PETRAS 2'.<sup>31</sup> This ongoing project involves multiple collaborators complicit in Israel's violence against Palestinians: including Intel, Cisco and Barclays; as well as arms manufacturing companies Airbus, Thales, Qinetiq, and Raytheon Systems - a subsidiary of one of the largest defence corporations in the world.<sup>32</sup> The research focus is in cybersecurity: it aims to provide strategic advice and policy insight to public and private sectors dealing with challenges posed by AI, to 'functionally improve the capacity of government to rise to the challenge of the 'arms race', to meet the growing need for cybersecurity expertise in government and industry, and to increase the early adoption of new technologies by industry and government partners. Given the abovementioned role of AI in facilitating the ongoing genocide, for UCL to continue playing such a central role in research partnered with such organizations - particularly with the explicit aim to increase its application in the defence industry - is ethically abhorrent and indefensible.

It is also important to note that UCL students have access to Intel software, which suggests there is some sort of ongoing agreement with Intel Corp.<sup>33</sup>

We call on UCL to:

- End all current research partnerships and collaborations with Intel
- Stop the use of Intel software and provide UCL students with an ethical alternative
- Issue a public statement condemning Intel's involvement with Israeli apartheid and occupation

---

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2012/may/ucl-intel-and-imperial-create-global-centre-research-sustainable-connected-cities>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/computer-science/collaborate/ucl-industry-exchange-network-ucl-ixn/touchless-computing-ucl-motioninput-3>

<sup>29</sup> <https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/educator-developer-blog/matter-wakeup-system-ai-intel-openvino-gestures-and-local-models/ba-p/4167129>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/kings-engineers-awarded-prestigious-research-fellowships-to-make-ai-more-trustworthy-and-sustainable>

<sup>31</sup> <https://qtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=EP%2FS035362%2F1#/tabOverview>

<sup>32</sup> <https://investigate.afsc.org/company/rtx#:~:text=The%20world's%20second%2Dlargest%20military,monitor%20the%20U.S.%E2%80%93Mexico%20border.>

<sup>33</sup> <https://intranet.ee.ucl.ac.uk/it/software/applications/quartus-prime>