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Statement on the Cancellation of an Event with
Francesca Albanese by the University of Bern

The Alliance for Critical Scholarship in Solidarity (KriSol) criticizes yet another [cancellation](#) of an event with Francesca Albanese. The event was scheduled to take place on June 30, 2025, at the University of Bern and was organized by Amnesty International Switzerland. This cancellation follows earlier cancellations of academic events with Francesca Albanese at the Freie Universität Berlin and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich in February of this year. The national and international public reactions to these cancellations already pointed to a significant loss of trust in universities as places where academic freedom and freedom of expression are respected (see [press review](#)). It is shocking that the University of Bern has now also bowed to public pressure from a few actors and that the event had to be held at an alternative location in Bern. Francesca Albanese is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

The University of Bern's accusation that an event with Albanese is not "science-based and balanced," based on reports from a lobby group and individual tweets, not only misrepresents her office but also ignores her own detailed reports ([here](#) and [here](#)) as well as those of the event organizer, Amnesty International (296-page [analysis of the situation in Gaza](#), AI December 2024). By challenging her legitimacy as a speaker with this cancellation, the University of Bern participates in the defamation of the Special Rapporteur and the United Nations, thereby undermining their credibility and international agency. This contributes to the further relativization of international law and is shocking for Switzerland, a country committed to humanitarianism. This is how academic debate and open discussion of Israel's violations of international law as well as the legal and political responsibilities of European countries are obstructed systematically. The occurrence is unacceptable with respect to the protection of academic freedom and freedom of expression, for Switzerland as a center of academic enquiry, and for democratic discourse in general.