

No to scientific cooperation with military

We are alarmed by a strong trend towards enhanced exploitation of science for military purposes. The 2024 report of the German Expert Panel for Research and Innovation recommends an end of the strict divide between civil and military research that is a widely accepted norm since many decades. The scientific advisors are referring as a “prominent example” to the Israeli Military Intelligence-Unit 8200, which plays a significant role in the Gaza war.

The war on Gaza, with more than 35 000 people killed and many more wounded, demolition of infrastructure, buildings, schools, universities and hospitals has triggered international protest at universities and research institutions, calling for a stop of scientific cooperation with institutes involved directly or indirectly in the war.

We are also alarmed by advertisements launched by the European Defense Fund (EDF) offering funding for joint projects.

In the spirit of the commitment of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) from 1950 and renewed in 2017 to never become engaged in scientific research for war purposes we declare, that

- we will not cooperate with any university institute or research institute actively involved in research for and support of a war
- we are committed to never become engaged in scientific research for war
- we call on universities and research institutes to adopt the Civil Clause for peaceful research
- we reject any attempt to allow military to play any role in university research and research funding