

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

April 17, 2026

### Statement by OSTİM Technical University on the Law Concerning the Expansion of the Death Penalty in Israel and on the Attacks by the United States/Israel on Iran

1. Since its establishment, OSTİM Technical University has strongly condemned all attacks by the State of Israel targeting civilians and the resulting humanitarian losses. These actions are rooted in terror and violence, involve the appropriation of lands belonging to Muslim and Christian Palestinians for expansionist purposes, and have turned the region into a scene of widespread bloodshed. The University underscores the importance of upholding international law, human rights, and fundamental humanitarian values and calls for increased efforts toward the establishment of lasting peace and justice.

2. OSTİM Technical University states that the death penalty law adopted by the Israeli Parliament in April, which is envisaged to apply exclusively to Palestinians, constitutes a further link in the long-standing chain of rights violations perpetrated by Israel over decades. The University strongly condemns this inhumane and discriminatory decision. This regulation, which facilitates the imposition of the death penalty in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, has been structured in a manner that particularly targets the Palestinian population living in the West Bank. OSTİM Technical University regards this initiative by Israel, as an occupying power, as representing a new manifestation of policies of denial, destruction, and political execution directed against the Palestinian people and as an attempt to further intensify the apartheid regime imposed upon them. The University once again emphasizes that the aforementioned death penalty law constitutes an inhumane and unjust form of punishment under all circumstances and warns that it may lead to irreversible errors.

3. The aforementioned law significantly exacerbates **discrimination on ethnic and national grounds**. It effectively renders the imposition of the death penalty mandatory for Palestinians who resist the seizure of their land, homes, or property, including in response to so-called civilian occupiers, settler violence, and unlawful settlement activities. It also weakens fundamental safeguards in judicial proceedings and provides for the execution of sentences within short periods. The law, which seeks to reinforce attacks by **Jewish settlers against Muslim and Christian Palestinians**, is in clear contradiction with the fundamental principles of international human rights law, particularly the right to a fair trial and the right to life. Furthermore, the elimination of the possibility of pardon or commutation of sentences will result in violations of basic rights guaranteed under international law.

4. Hosting an environment of tolerance in which international students from a total of 83 countries pursue their education, and firmly believing in the importance of peace and stability for the economic, social, and scientific development of nations, OSTİM Technical University calls upon the international community and all relevant actors to take the necessary steps to uphold the rule of law, human rights, and respect for international law. This law must be promptly reviewed and repealed in a manner consistent with international legal norms.

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5. Meanwhile, the developments initiated by the attacks of Israel and the United States on Iran and subsequently sustained by Iran's targeting of third countries pose serious risks to the future of our region and to global stability. Likewise, Israel's indiscriminate attacks in Lebanon, which have led to the displacement of more than one million people, constitute grave violations of international humanitarian law. It is evident that expansionist Israeli policies are aimed at further deepening regional instability. We express deep concern over all acts that target innocent civilians as well as schools, places of worship, and hospitals, and that destroy the country's infrastructure, thereby contributing to the escalation of violence. Such provocations are strongly condemned. Furthermore, the spread of the devastating practices witnessed in Gaza to the wider region must not be allowed.

6. The two-week temporary ceasefire agreement reached on the 40th day of the U.S.-Israel attacks on Iran and the decision of the parties to hold high-level negotiations in Islamabad are welcomed. The deadlock in these talks on April 12 is followed with concern. The ceasefire must be maintained, and dialogue and diplomacy must continue.

7. The opposition expressed by the Pope, Cardinals in the United States, and many Jewish communities against this illegitimate war offers hope to peace advocates worldwide. This war threatens food and environmental security and drives humanity toward disaster.

8. Zionism is a radical and racist ideology. It encourages attacks on civilians, universities, and scientists. It undermines hopes for peace and the future of humanity and destroys the shared values of humankind. In this context, OSTİM Technical University emphasizes the responsibility of academic institutions and intellectuals. They must not remain silent in the face of human rights violations and must defend the fundamental principles of universal law.

9. Finally, we reiterate our call for all parties not to follow Israel's expansionist and destructive course and not to resume the attacks that have been temporarily halted. We once again stress that the issues in our region must be resolved through peaceful means. We call on the United Nations and the international community to take action against the racist and unlawful steps of the occupying power, Israel.