

(Translation of my letter of resignation from administrative tasks in HUJI, March 12, 2024. For the original in Hebrew see [here](#).)

Asher and Tamir Shalom,

I was amazed to discover - unfortunately, indirectly and without a statement on your part - the despicable content of the letter you wrote to MK Sharren Haskel. I never thought that the Hebrew University was a Zionist institution: I saw it as an academic institution where Zionists, non-Zionists, and also people who oppose Zionism like myself can work. I also thought that the Hebrew University is led by people who are wise enough to understand that the issue of whether Israel is committing genocide in Gaza or just "normal" war crimes belongs precisely to the area where lecturers and students can express themselves freely. I have never heard of a lecturer being suspended, whatever his/her political positions may be. And I never knew there was a political position test that we are obliged to take in order to teach in the university.

It seems that I was wrong in my assessments of the university and its leaders, and I must take responsibility. I hereby announce that from now on I refuse to do any work at the university that involves its representation in Israel or abroad. Therefore, I am ceasing my work as director of the Confucius Institute and will not accept any position in the future. I inform therewith my close colleagues of this decision.

You have really disgraced the institution. I have never felt so betrayed and humiliated.

Yuri