



The Lester and Sally Entin  
Faculty of Humanities  
Tel Aviv University

# The Irwin Cotler Institute | Democracy | Human Rights | Justice Review of Academic Year 2023-2024







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**Democracy | Human Rights | Justice**  
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Democracy | Human Rights | Justice

# Review of Academic Year 2023-2024

<https://cotler.tau.ac.il>



**The Irwin Cotler Institute** is devoted to instruction, training, and policy-oriented research on human rights, democracy, justice, and the fight against antisemitism and racism at large. The Institute operates the annual Irwin Cotler Fellowship Program, which brings together 20 international students for weekly lectures and projects on human rights and democracy, engages them in discussions about Israeli society, its history, diversity and challenges, organizes field trips to historical sites and communities across the country, and trains participants how to advocate for righteous causes in their home countries in the face of shifting social landscapes.

The Institute also organizes instructional workshops for policymakers, law enforcement officials, media professionals, and educators around the world on the contemporary challenges to democracy, democratization and human rights, and the means to fight racism at large, and antisemitism specifically; convenes research seminars; and supports original policy-oriented research in diverse disciplines.

You are welcome to visit: <https://cotler.tau.ac.il>

# Table of Contents

<b>The Irwin Cotler Fellowship Program</b>	4
Testimonials, Class of 2024	4
Fellows' Workshops	6
Lectures	7
Field Trips	9
Special Events	10
<b>Making a Difference around the World</b>	12
Alumni in Action	12
Workshops and Briefings	14
Latvia	14
Finland	14
New Zealand	15
<b>Annual Antisemitism Worldwide Report</b>	17
<b>Seminars</b>	19
<b>Board of Governors Forum</b>	20
<b>Plaque Unveiling Ceremony</b>	21

# The Irwin Cotler Fellowship Program

## TESTIMONIALS, CLASS OF 2024

The academic year 2023-2024 has been particularly complicated, but the Irwin Cotler Fellows proved up to the challenge, taking part in a program rich with lectures, field trips and workshops that acquainted them with Israeli society, history, landmarks and landscapes, and informed them on the means to promote human rights and democracy and to fight antisemitism and racism at large. The fellows came from Nigeria, Morocco, the United States, Hungary, Denmark, India, Portugal, New Zealand, Austria, Belgium, and Turkey. Upon the conclusion of the program, several described the impact it had on them.



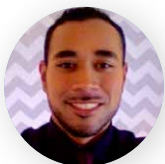
*“It has been an incredibly enriching experience for me. The insightful discussions and collaborative projects have broadened my understanding of key issues, and made me closer to the Jewish culture and to Israel. I feel more equipped and inspired to contribute meaningfully to these important conversations in the future, and I am very grateful for this opportunity. Hopefully, my engagement does not stop here!”*

– Dacha Azelmad (Morocco)



*“A key aspect of my transformative time in Israel was the Cotler Fellowship. It was an excellent platform for me to meet incredible individuals with whom I became connected. First and foremost, it educated me: My eyes were opened to the beauty, diversity, complexity, and intricacy of the world around me. Being a part of this group was an incredible blessing, and I will forever radiate the lessons I learned from it, whether intentionally or not.”*

– João Reis (Portugal)



*“My experience in the Fellowship Program has been truly transformative, emphasizing the promotion of human rights and addressing the complex challenges faced by democracies today. The program provided an immersive exploration of Israel’s history through insightful field trips, tours, and lectures while equipping me with crucial skills in public speaking and advocacy. This journey has not only enriched my professional capabilities but has also deepened my commitment to championing human rights and democracy.”*

– Joshua G. Cardenas (United States)



*“My experiences in the Fellowship were truly enriching as I embarked on this path with my desire to take an active role in the development of bilateral relations between Turkey and Israel. The program provided an in-depth and dynamic environment, offering a realistic and fair portrayal of how today’s complex issues are framed. I must admit that the program was beyond my expectations, both in terms of comprehensive content and the interactive teaching style. I enjoyed every moment of the program. Field trips planned through program activities reinforced the topics we covered, providing real-world context to our discussions. The diversity of the class was incredible because it provided me with different insights, meaning I spent quality time in meetings and learning from others who attended the program.”*

**– Gülsen Aşam (Turkey)**



*“I am absolutely grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of the Fellowship. Through my time, I have been introduced to new perspectives, new experiences, and a range of interesting people and topics. I will bring these with me in my future endeavors. I am also grateful for the opportunity and encouragement of pursuing my own independent workshop. The fellowship has been impactful and I am honored to have participated.”*

**– Julie Jakobsgaard (Denmark)**



*“The Irwin Cotler Fellowship Program has truly been a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me. Through an array of fascinating lectures on topics ranging from democracy, the revival of Hebrew, contemporary antisemitism, the Holocaust, and human rights, I’ve gained invaluable knowledge. Combined with field trips that exposed us to Israel’s geographical, historical, and cultural diversity, this program has given me an understanding and appreciation of Israel, democracy, human rights, and justice that I otherwise never would have acquired. Additionally, the opportunity to help arrange and take part in a seminar trip to my home country, New Zealand, has been the perfect culmination of an unforgettable program.”*

**–Markus McCraith (New Zealand)**



*“My experience in the Irwin Cotler Fellowship Program has been remarkable, filled with constant inspiration from Professor Irwin Cotler’s unwavering dedication to human rights and democracy. The Fellowship enriched my understanding of the fight against antisemitism and highlighted the critical importance of speaking up against human rights violations. Visiting historical sites like Yad Vashem, the Babylonian Jewish Heritage Museum, and the Herzl Museum deepened my appreciation for the culture and diversity of Israel, motivating me to dream and work towards realizing the African and Nigerian dreams.”*

**– Veronica Pana Igube (Nigeria)**

## FELLOWS' WORKSHOPS

As part of their fellowship program, Irwin Cotler Fellows are required to initiate, organize and lead an international workshop pertaining to their studies at the Irwin Cotler Institute. Some of the workshops conducted online are posted the Institute's website and on YouTube. Several of the online workshops have not been posted on YouTube to protect the safety of the fellows involved. Here are a few examples.

- Julie Jakobsgaard (Denmark, MA) – *Antisemitism: Its Development and Present State in Denmark*
- Joshua G. Cardenas (United States, M.DM) – *Balancing Tech Innovation & Ethics During Times of Crisis*
- Mrinal Kashyap (India, Post-doctoral Fellow) – *Israel-India Relations and Antisemitism Awareness*
- Veronica Pana Igube (Nigeria, LL.M) – *Strategies for Combating Online Hate*

Other workshops given by Fellows this year included: **Anna Balogh (Hungary, MA)** on environmental peace building and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; **Gülsen Aşam (Turkey, MA)** on the Syrian refugee crisis and the response of the Turkish government; **Akman Sofuoğlu (Turkey, MA)** on Israel and misconceptions about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; **Dacha Azelmad (Morocco, MA)** on preserving Jewish memory in Morocco; and **Ari Spielman (United States, MA)** on social movements in Israel following October 7.

### BDS did not stop Fellow Ari Spielman



“I gave my presentation at my alma mater, SUNY Albany, in New York, U.S. The presentation was about Social Movements in Israel following October 7th and my involvement. I shared pictures I had taken to document events happening in the country. I spoke about the various aid groups such as the Operation Manna, the NGO I started with fellow TAU International students as well as volunteering initiatives such as working on farms in the south. I also spoke about hostage and anti government protests and what mass democratic participation is like in Israel.

I was worried about giving the talk initially. The University Student Union had just passed a BDS bill, the first in the SUNY system. Yet in the end we still had a good turnout, with no issues.

I felt very confident with how I was able to present the information, and convey what has been occurring in Israel in an understandable way to the audience. My time as a Cotler fellow helped me improve my public speaking, and ability to efficiently share information.

I am very grateful for having been given the opportunity to do the presentation.”



# LECTURES – CLASS OF 2024

## ▶ Fighting Racism and Antisemitism

### **Prof. Irwin Cotler**

- The History and Legal Framework of Human Rights in the 20th Century; Challenges in the Struggle against Racism and Antisemitism; The Post-October 7 Explosion of Antisemitism

### **Prof. Uriya Shavit**

- Antisemitism in the Arab World

### **Dr. Carl Yonker**

- Contemporary Manifestations of Antisemitism in Europe and the United States

### **Dr. Matthias J. Becker**

- Decoding Antisemitism Online

### **Mr. Noah Abrahams**

- Why I left the BBC



## ▶ The History of the Holocaust and Its Lessons

### **Prof. Dina Porat**

- The History of Antisemitism: From Early Christianity to the Present
- Jewish Resistance to the Holocaust

### **Prof. Uriya Shavit**

- Educational and Cultural Challenges of Holocaust Education; The Poems of Dan Pagis

## ▶ Democracy and Democratization

### **Prof. Uriya Shavit**

- What is Democracy?
- Challenges to Democracy in the 21st Century
- Transnationalism, Democracy, and Electoral Participation

### **Dr. Carl Yonker**

- Radicalization and Extremism
- Populism and Democracy in the US
- The Rise of Conspiracy Theories

**Prof. Galia Sabar**

- Migration and Democracy in the 21st Century

**Dr. Evgeni Klauber**

- Authoritarianism and Democracy

▶ **Judaism, Zionism, and Israel**

**Former Deputy Prime Minister Dan Meridor**

- Reflections on October 7 and the Israel-Hamas War

**Dr. Sima Zalberg**

- New Beginnings in the Jewish Year Cycle
- Women In Ultra-Orthodox Society

**Mr. Gil Hovav**

- Eliezer Ben Yehuda and the Revival of the Hebrew Language



**Ms. Miri Guetta**

- Comparing Islamic and International Legal Approaches to Different Aspects of War



▶ **Training in Oratory and Advocacy**

**Prof. Uriya Shavit**

- Giving an in-person lecture
- How to Meet the Press

**Dr. Carl Yonker**

- Giving virtual presentations via Zoom and other platforms
- Creating effective audio-visual presentations

# FIELD TRIPS, CLASS OF 2024

- Babylonian Jewry Heritage Museum, Or Yehuda
- Guided tour of historical Tel Aviv
- The Stalactite Cave Nature Reserve, Beit Shemesh
- The Herzl Museum, Jerusalem
- Mea Shearim, Jerusalem
- Beit Shean National Park
- Yad Vashem
- Sea of Galilee, Mount of Beatitudes, the Church of Multiplication and Capernaum
- Gan HaShlosha National Park
- Kibbutz Maagan Michael
- Homes of Former Israeli Prime Ministers Tour
- Dor Beach
- Nili Museum, Zichron Yaacov



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Navigating the Past, Shaping the Future

On May 29, the Institute, together with the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, hosted a two-day conference on Middle Eastern discourses on Jews and Israel before and after October 7. Prof. Uriya Shavit provided welcoming remarks for the conference on behalf of the Institute, which was followed by the keynote address by the Hon. Irwin Cotler. Prof. Cotler spoke on antisemitism before and after October 7, emphasizing it is nothing less than an assault on human rights and a threat to humanity as a whole, not just Jewish communities. His address was moderated by former Ambassador of Israel to Canada, Dr. Ronen Hoffman.



### A Lecture by Michael Levitt



On Sunday, June 30, 2024, the Institute was honored to host Michael Levitt, the CEO and President of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies. Mr. Levitt, who served as a member of the Canadian parliament from 2015 to 2020 and was Chair of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee and Chair of the Canada-Israel Interparliamentary Group, delivered an engaging and inspiring presentation to the Fellows and other TAU International Students on antisemitism in Canada. His talk highlighted the main trends in

antisemitic incidents in Canada in recent years and discussed numerous examples of antisemitic incidents that have occurred since October 7. He also discussed the work of the Wiesenthal Center in advancing Holocaust education and combatting antisemitism. He also offered advice to young people on how to enter politics and be an effective public servant.

## Christian Theology and Antisemitism

In May 2024, PhD student Daniel Freitag from the University of Münster (Germany) visited the Cotler Institute. In addition to exploring the campus, libraries, and museums, Mr. Freitag gave a guest lecture on the current state of antisemitism in Germany, Christian-Jewish relations since the Holocaust, and the task of theological research on antisemitism.



# Making a Difference around the World

## ALUMNI IN ACTION

In May 2024, Nathaniel Myking Udjus (Fellow '22-'23) organized a support rally for Israel and against antisemitism in his hometown of Grimstad, Norway, together with several local political parties and political organizations. The rally drew over 500 participants from around Southern Norway, who expressed their support for Israel and disagreement with the Norwegian government's policies.



In the wake of the October 7 attack, Rafael Nabizade (Fellow '22-'23) moderated a webinar addressing how Israel and Azerbaijan are confronting Iranian-backed religious terrorism. An article on the webinar was published in Israel HaYom in English. He also laid flowers in front of the Israeli Embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan, as a gesture of solidarity, expressing his deepest condolences to the people of Israel and families of the victims, and wishing speedy recovery to those injured.



Maia Bornshtein (Fellow '22-'23) participated in numerous demonstrations that have been held in Argentina in support of Israel following the October 7 attack. Working with her colleagues, Maia has organized and participated in conferences on Israel and the war at local schools, universities and at more than twenty Jewish community institutions, as well as made online informative videos. As a member of the Latin American Jewish Congress, she has been very active in its social media campaigns, generating positive content about Jewish communities around the world and attending meetings with public officials to find common areas to build solidarity against antisemitism.



Following October 7, Aryo Brahmantyo (Fellow '22-'23) reached out to Indonesian media to provide coverage of the situation. He provided video footage and gave live interviews to various Indonesian media, notably *KompasTV*, *Kompas.com*, *VOA Indonesia*, *Beritasatu*, and *Radio Republik Indonesia*, raising awareness in Indonesia about the atrocities committed by Hamas.



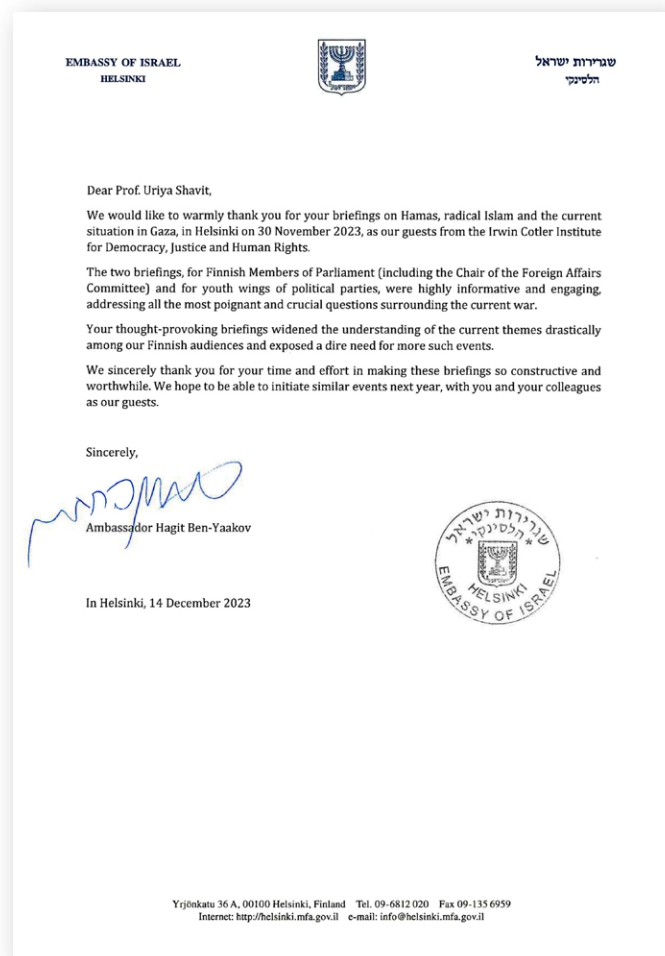
# WORKSHOPS AND BRIEFINGS

## Latvia

At the end of November 2023, Prof. Uriya Shavit, the Head of the Institute, traveled to Riga, Latvia. In his talks at the Latvian parliament and the Janis Lipke Museum, as well as with members of the local Jewish community and the University of Latvia, Prof. Shavit spoke about Hamas, its hateful ideology, and what Israel must do to defeat it, as well as addressed when criticism of Israel is antisemitic. He also gave several interviews with the local press. The visit was initiated by the Israel Foreign Ministry and the Embassy of Israel in Latvia.

## Finland

In November, Prof. Uriya Shavit traveled to Helsinki, Finland, where he spoke to and briefed senior government officials and parliamentarians - including the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen - and members of the local Jewish community on the Israel-Hamas war and the geopolitical situation in the Middle East. The visit was initiated by the Israel Foreign Ministry and the Embassy of Israel in Finland.





## New Zealand

In July 2024, The Irwin Cotler Institute led a ten-day series of seminars and public lectures with senior officials as well as with members of the Jewish communities in Wellington and Auckland, New Zealand. Since October 7, New Zealand has witnessed a strong public anti-Israel sentiment, and a rise in the number of antisemitic incidents.



Senior members of the Jewish communities hailed the lectures and seminars as exceptionally empowering and informative, and noted that the tour raised awareness among government agencies about the reality of antisemitism and helped establish new channels for communication and cooperation with the government.

The tour was initiated by Markus McCraith, Irwin Cotler fellow in the 2023-24 cohort.

The tour began on July 23, 2024. The Irwin Cotler Institute, in partnership with the New Zealand Ministry for Ethnic Communities, the Astor Foundation, the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand, and the New Zealand Jewish Council, delivered a seminar addressing the topic of ‘Confronting Contemporary Hate’. The event was held at the esteemed Public Trust Hall in Wellington, New Zealand, with over 70 people in attendance. Participants included officials from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the New Zealand Police, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Victoria University of Wellington, the Human Rights Commission, the New Zealand Law Commission, the Jewish community, the City Council, and more. Additionally, the US Ambassador to New Zealand, Tom Udall, and his wife, Jill Cooper, were in attendance.

The event began with remarks from event host Dr. Giacomo Lichtner, (Associate Professor of History at Victoria University of Wellington and Deputy Chair of the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand), who introduced the audience to the mission of the Irwin Cotler Institute in advancing human rights, justice, and democracy, and in combating racism and antisemitism. Dr. Lichtner hailed the contribution of Prof. Irwin Cotler to the causes of justice and equality and the fight against antisemitism and racism at large across the world.

His opening words were followed by remarks from Mervin Singham, the Chief Executive of the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, who spoke passionately about the positive contribution of Jews to New Zealand society but also the worrying trends of rising antisemitism, particularly after October 7, emphasizing the need to combat it through genuine human connection. He encouraged Jews in New Zealand to express their identity boldly.

Prof. Uriya Shavit, Head of the Institute, delivered the event’s first lecture, ‘Hate: Why is it Spreading in Our World?’, reflecting on the causes and manifestations of contemporary hate, and what can be done about it. This was followed by Dr. Carl Yonker’s lecture, ‘Online Hatred and the Means to Combat It’, where he delved into the factors contributing to the rise of online hate. Following a morning tea and mix and mingle, Dr. Yonker, the Academic Director of the Institute, delivered his second lecture, ‘Contemporary Antisemitism in Western Societies’, in which he explained what contemporary antisemitism looks like and where it is coming from, with an emphasis on the explosion of antisemitism around the world, including in New Zealand, after October 7. Practical



steps were given on how to combat it. The event ended with a Q&A session, in which much engaging discussion took place between the guests and Prof. Shavit and Dr. Yonker.

Other seminars and public lectures followed through the next eight days. The Holocaust Centre of New Zealand hosted the Institute for a seminar for 23 teachers and educators across the country on online hate and addressing antisemitism in schools. After speaking on these topics, Dr. Carl Yonker fielded questions from the participants and heard about their experiences and challenges as educators in New Zealand in addressing antisemitism in their classrooms and in their schools following October 7.

The Holocaust Centre of New Zealand in Wellington kindly provided their showroom for a public lecture by Prof. Uriya Shavit, organized in partnership with the New Zealand Jewish Council and the Astor Foundation. Attendees were largely from the Wellington Jewish community. Prof. Shavit spoke about the importance of reading the Hamas Charter to understand first-hand the nature of the war Israel is fighting, and explained why it is essential for the war to end with the total elimination of Hamas. He also spoke about the challenges of defining Jewish identity in the 21st century. The discussion and debates that followed demonstrated the diversity within the small Wellington community.

In Auckland, the Irwin Cotler Institute delivered a seminar and hosted a discussion on the topic of ‘Challenges of Jewish Identity in the 21st Century’ at the Beth Shalom Synagogue. Deborah Hart, chair of the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand, opened the event and moderated throughout. The New Zealand Jewish Council and the Astor Foundation took part in the organization of the event. Forty-five people from the Auckland Jewish community came in person, with several dozen attending online.

Prof. Shavit delivered the event’s first lecture, on ‘Israel, the Middle East, and Jewish Communities After October 7’, while Dr. Carl Yonker delivered the second lecture on ‘Online Hate: Trends and Counter-Measures’. This was followed by a very engaging Q&A and discussion, where some in the audience members had questions and comments related to Jewish identity, Israel, combating antisemitism, and more.

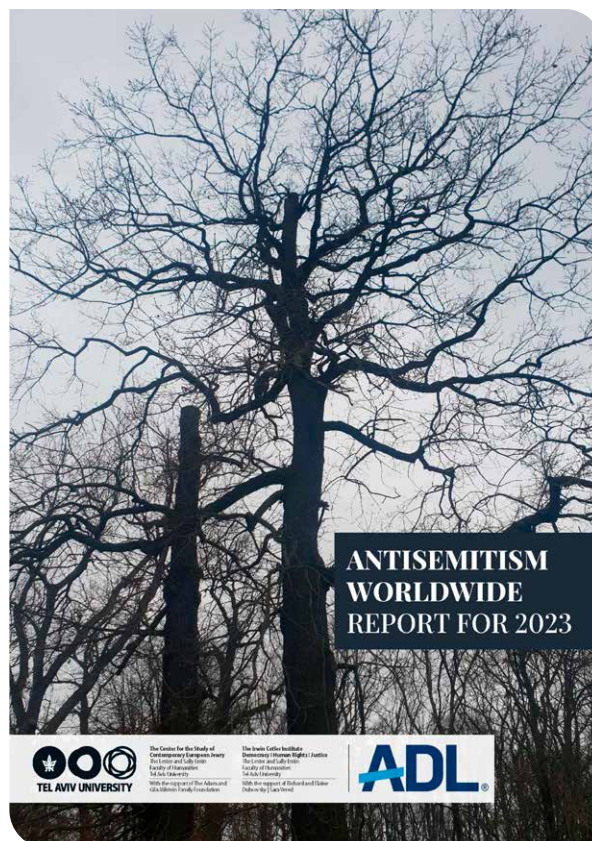
In the same venue, Prof. Shavit, Dr. Yonker, and New Zealand Fellow Markus McCraith held a roundtable discussion with members of the New Zealand branch of the Australasian Union for Jewish Students. Participants shared their experiences as New Zealand Jews generally, and on university campuses specifically, with a keen interest to hear from the Cotler Institute ways in which they can combat antisemitism they face and take part in refuting false accusations and distorted historical analogies made against Israel. The young students were very eager, and the conversation was engaging and fruitful.

The New Zealand tour also included a number of informal meetings with public officials, which, as is often the case, were as important as the formal ones.

# Annual Antisemitism Worldwide Report

The Antisemitism Worldwide Report for 2023, published in May 2024 on the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day by The Irwin Cotler Institute and the Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at TAU in collaboration with the ADL, shed light on the waves of antisemitism across the world in the aftermath of Hamas' October 7 attack. The report informed that also in the nine months that preceded the October 2023 attack, most countries with significant Jewish populations saw a rise in the number of antisemitic incidents compared to the same period in 2022. The war in Gaza only helped spread a fire that was already out of control. Special sections in the Report explored the origins and nature of online antisemitism and the implications of the rise of populist movements in Western democracies.

The Report included four essays by leaders in the global fight against antisemitism: Irwin Cotler, former Justice Minister of Canada, Katharina von Schnurbein, The European Commission Coordinator on Combatting Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life, Deborah Lyons, Canada's Special Envoy on Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, and Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the ADL.



Hundreds of media organizations in Israel and across the world reported in depth on their front pages, homepages, and editorials on the Antisemitism Worldwide Report for 2023, including, among others, Reuters, Le Figaro, The Times of London, Fox News, The Jerusalem Report, Haaretz, DW, the South China Morning Post, Times of Israel, Yediot Aharonot, Berliner Tageszeitung, and The Hill.

- Reuters – [Interview](#)
- The Jerusalem Report – [From the Editor: Antisemitism, Israel and TAU](#)
- Haaretz English (Print) – [Report: Antisemitic Incidents Spiked in the West in 2023](#)

- DW – [Antisemitism rising dramatically across the world – report](#)
- Indian Express – [Anti-semitism rising dramatically across the world, report finds](#)
- South China Morning Post – [‘It’s not 1938’: annual antisemitism report finds worst outbreak since World War II](#)
- Times of Israel – [Antisemitism surging, report finds, prompting fear for future of ‘Jewish life’ in West](#)
- JPost – [Tel Aviv University and Anti-Defamation League publish report on antisemitism worldwide for 2023](#)
- Jerusalem Post – [Worrying Trends for the Future of Jewish Life in the West](#)
- Fox News – [Antisemitism has proliferated worldwide, new report released on Holocaust Remembrance Day says](#)
- Haaretz – [Tel Aviv University Report](#)
- Haaretz – [Print](#)
- YNET – [The World Against Us](#)
- Yediot Aharonot – [Print](#)
- Hamevaser – [Print](#)
- Shacharit – [Print](#)
- Vesty (Russian) – [In Russia, Jews are being made scapegoats: a report on anti-Semitism in the world has been published](#)
- RTP (Portuguese) – [Incidentes antissemitas aumentaram em 2023 após ataque do Hamas](#)
- Berliner Tageszeitung (German) – [Bericht: Zahl Antisemitischer Vorfälle 2023 Weltweit Stark Angestiegen](#)
- Israel HaYom – [Even before October 7](#)
- Maariv – [Even before the war](#)
- Globes – [Print](#)
- Walla! – [From the Left and the Right, and not necessarily because of the war](#)
- Channel 12 (N12) – [A Tsunami of Hate](#)
- Le Figaro (French) – [Le nombre d’actes antisémites a atteint un «niveau sans précédent» en 2023, selon un rapport mondial](#)
- Channel 13 – [In the wake of the war, a rise in antisemitism in the West](#)
- Kan – [Skyhigh Antisemitism](#)
- Galatz – [Radio Program](#)
- Radio 103 – [Radio Program](#)
- Kan Bet – [Radio Program](#)
- i24News – [New survey finds startling increase in rates of antisemitic incidents around the world](#)
- Kan – [TV News Report](#)
- Channel 13 – [TV News Report](#)
- The Times – [Anti-Jewish incidents soared after October 7 attack, says study](#)
- The Hill – [Antisemitism surging worldwide since Oct. 7 attack: Report](#)
- JNS – [World antisemitism report: ‘Oct. 7 helped spread a fire’](#)
- Hamodia – [Report shows surge in global antisemitism in 2023](#)

# Seminars

Following the Hamas October 7 terrorist onslaught and the subsequent Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, the Institute, in partnership with the Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, held a four-part “Israel at War” series, focusing on various aspects of the war, with insightful talks providing strategic perspectives and practical tools in the fight for international public opinion from speakers including Gen. (Ret.) Danny Yatom, former Head of Mossad,

The seminars were attended by hundreds of participants from all across the world live, providing Jewish communities and friends of Israel with useful information and analyses and sending a clear message globally: you are not alone, we are not alone!

The flyer is a white rectangular card with a light gray background on the right side. It features logos for Tel Aviv University, the Irwin Cotler Institute for Democracy, Human Rights and Justice, and the Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry. The text is arranged in two columns. The left column is for 'Israel at War (2)' and the right column is for 'Fighting 21st Century Nazism'. Both sections list presenters and a Q & A session. A small disclaimer at the bottom provides information about recording availability and contact emails.

**TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY** The Irwin Cotler Institute for Democracy, Human Rights and Justice  
The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities

**The Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry**  
The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities  
Tel Aviv University

## Israel at War (2)

Sunday, October 15, 2023 | 19:30 TLV Time

Zoom: <https://tau-ac-il.zoom.us/j/89097430249?pwd=Q2h2djNvSEFtQ3ZLNmgxVVVIRkxnZz09>

## Fighting 21st Century Nazism

**Presenters**

Prof. Uriya Shavit, Tel Aviv University: *The War - Social and Political Implications*

Gen. (retired) Danny Yatom, Former Head of the Mossad: *The War So Far - A Strategic Perspective*

Dr. Carl Yonker, Tel Aviv University: *The Ideology and Strategic Ambitions of Hizballah*

Q & A

We apologize that the session has a limited capacity. A recording will be available on YouTube shortly after its conclusion: <https://www.youtube.com/@csttau> and <https://www.youtube.com/@cotlerinstitute>; a link to the recording will be also sent per requests made to these emails: [cst@taux.tau.ac.il](mailto:cst@taux.tau.ac.il) and [cotler@taux.tau.ac.il](mailto:cotler@taux.tau.ac.il)

[Israel at War \(1\)](#)

[Israel at War \(2\)](#)

[Israel at War \(3\)](#)

[Israel at War: The Challenges for Jewish Communities](#)

# Board of Governors Forum

On May 30, 2024, the Irwin Cotler Institute Forum was inaugurated at the 2024 Tel Aviv University Board of Governors. This year's forum focused on the subject of "Democracy, Antisemitism, and the Assault on Human Rights."

The Hon. Rosalie Silberman Abella (Samuel and Judith Pizar Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School; Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada) spoke passionately and urgently about the rise of international human rights law following the Holocaust, and the need, now more than ever, to return to the legal and moral principles that arose out of the horrors of the Second World War.

Afterward, a panel discussion ensued. The Hon. Irwin Cotler reflected on the rise of antisemitism, the abuse of human rights discourses and legal frameworks in the service of evil, and the growing tolerance for the intolerable across the world. Prof. Milete Shamir (Vice President International, TAU) expressed concerns regarding the future of Israeli academia amidst the increasing prevalence of antisemitism and academic boycotts targeting Israeli scholars.



# Plaque Unveiling Ceremony

On May 30, 2024, the Irwin Cotler Institute hosted a plaque ceremony honoring its key donors: Ariela and Irwin Cotler and Family; Dubrovsky Family – In Loving Memory of Harry Dubrovsky; Irwin Beutel Foundation – In Loving Memory of Irwin Beutel; Sara Vered Fund for Israel Studies, Protecting Democracy, and Combating Antisemitism; and Arnold and Sue Carol Isaacson Fund in Human Rights to Combat Antisemitism and Uphold Human Rights.

The ceremony was attended by donors and Friends of TAU from Canada, the Hon. Irwin Cotler and Ariela Cotler, National President of Friends of TAU, Canada, Ms. Dafna Meitar-Nechmad (Chairwoman of the TAU Board of Governors), and Prof. Rachel Cinamon Gali (Dean, Faculty of Humanities), as well as the 2023-2024 Fellows of the Institute's flagship fellowship program. Those in attendance heard from two current Fellows, Dacha Azelmad (Morocco) and Veronica Pana Igube (Nigeria), who shared their transformative and deeply insightful experiences through the fellowship program.





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**Democracy | Human Rights | Justice**  
Head, **Prof. Uriya Shavit**  
Academic Director, **Dr. Carl Yonker**