

# **As staff and students at TUM, we demand transparency, and an end to military research & collaboration**

In the past weeks, Bavaria's state government has quietly drafted a law to **prevent universities and colleges from prohibiting the military use of their research by law**. The cabinet has approved a draft for a "law for the promotion of the military in Bavaria" with a "clear ban on a so-called civil clause," according to the state chancellery chief Florian Herrmann (CSU). In essence, the planned law would include a "cooperation requirement" between universities and the military; these areas of 'intensified cooperation' would include research in AI, robotics, drones and cyber weapons.

At the same time we are encouraged to reflect the ethical dimensions of our work. In October 2022, Holocaust survivor Elly Gotz spoke to students and staff at TUM. He concluded his presentation with the key reflection: all engineers and scientists in every discipline should vow to protect human life, in the same way that medical doctors pledge to protect human life.

## **How can we the students and researchers at TUM reflect and evaluate the ethics of our work if we are forced to work on weapons of mass destruction?**

The national and international context in which this law is to be embedded could not be more dangerous. Federal elections are coming up and the possibility of a far-right government participation has never been more realistic in recent years. We cannot provide a government with the policy tools to dictate the research focus at universities - especially now.

## **Do we really want to contribute to research for the military under a far-right, fascist government?**

In light of the ICJ citing a potential genocide in the Gaza strip and ruling that actions must be taken to prevent acts of genocide that 15 out of 17 judges supported, the German arms industry's financial entanglement and an international community demanding a ceasefire in Gaza with an overwhelming majority (147 out of 175 countries at the UN General Assembly), we have to ask ourselves: **Can we, the researchers and students at TUM be held accountable by international law for failing to prevent a genocide due to our direct contribution to the arms industry?**

**It is unacceptable that students and researchers should be forced to face these possible legal consequences without any critical and public debate.**

We, the students and staff at TUM, do not want to be part of this! We demand that:

- TUM makes their current military funding and research transparent

- TUM makes research agreements from collaborations with universities engaging in military research transparent
- TUM abstains from further military involvement and passes a civil-clause
- The Bavarian government puts a stop to this law from being passed!

Sources:

["Defending the country": Bavaria wants to promote Bundeswehr by law | BR24](#)

[ICJ ruling: Key takeaways from the court decision in Israel genocide case | Reuters](#)

[U.N. resolution on Gaza cease-fire: Which countries voted for and against it | The Washington Post](#)