

## **Episode 28: Benjamin Fischer**

**Guest:** Benjamin Fischer – Founding President of the German Jewish Student Union, Former President of the European Union of Jewish Students, European Consultant for Digital and Minority Rights

**Hosts:** Efe & Philip

**Bio:** Benjamin Fischer is a European advisor on digital and minority rights, focusing on combating online hate and strengthening civil society organizations through data- and innovation-driven activism. As Program Director of the Alfred Landecker Foundation, he has led initiatives supporting these goals. Fischer serves as Chairman of the Advisory Board at CeMAS (Center for Monitoring, Analysis, and Strategy) and sits on several other curatorial boards. He was the founding president of the Jewish Student Union Germany, president of the European Union of Jewish Students, and a member of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress, representing over 160,000 Jewish students from more than 35 countries before bodies including the United Nations, the European Parliament, and the Knesset. His work has focused on coalition-building with other minority communities, including Romnja, Armenian, and Jewish-Muslim dialogue initiatives.

**In this episode:** Efe and Philip speak with Benjamin Fischer about the personal and communal impact of the October 7 attacks. The discussion explores how these events affected Jewish communities in Israel and Germany, the rise in antisemitism, and the challenges faced by students and civil society in politically polarized contexts. In conversation, Fischer shares about his family's North African roots and the history of Jewish expulsions from the region - an too often overlooked story that resonates with the broader experience of Mizrahi Jews, who today make up roughly half of Israel's Jewish population. He reflects on his experience leading Jewish student organizations and his work in minority alliances, that are unfortunately eroding since October 7. He is emphasizing the importance of digital activism against hate speech on platforms like TikTok and discusses strategies for combating online antisemitism, the broader implications of extremist content, and the need for education that frames Jewish identity beyond the Holocaust or Israel. The conversation concludes with Fischer's reflections on hope and shares three political wishes for a path forward in a fraught global landscape.

**Links:**

**CeMAS**

<https://cemas.io/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

**Annual Antisemitism Report for 2024 by RIAS:**

<https://report-antisemitism.de/press/#:~:text=Berlin%2C%2004.,Oktober%202023>. (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

### **RIAS Analysis of the Rise of Antisemitism since October 7:**

[https://report-antisemitism.de/documents/25-10-06\\_BVRIAS\\_Politischer-Antisemitismus-7-Oktober.pdf](https://report-antisemitism.de/documents/25-10-06_BVRIAS_Politischer-Antisemitismus-7-Oktober.pdf) (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Kompetenzzentrum für Antisemitismusforschung und -strategien (KOAS). *Zwischenbericht: Studie zu den Auswirkungen des 7. Oktober 2023 auf jüdische und israelische Communities in Deutschland*. KOAS – Bildung und Forschung, Sept. 2025.

<https://koas-bildungundforschung.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/ZwischenberichtStudieAuswirkungen7Oktober.pdf> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

**German Jewish Student Union (Jüdische Studierenden Union Deutschland):** <https://www.jsud.de/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

**European Union of Jewish Students:** <https://www.eujs.org/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

**Alfred Landecker Foundation:** <https://www.alfredlandecker.org/de> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

**Anitsematism on Tik Tok:** <https://www.bpb.de/lernen/bewegt-bild-und-politische-bildung/themen-und-hintergruende/lernen-mit-und-ueber-tiktok/552644/hass-for-you/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

**Comparison of the three major definitions of Antisemitism (IHRA, JDA, Nexus):** <https://thirdnarrative.org/three-definitions-of-antisemitism-a-comparison/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

On the Farhud and the Flight and Expulsion of Jews from the Middle East and North Africa listen to our Episode with Norman Stillman.

***Please also check out our other episodes in the political debate chapter to explore multiple perspectives.***

### ***Dedication:***

*We dedicate this Podcast to all victims and survivors of October 7, the hostages and their families, to all innocent civilians killed and injured in Gaza and their grieving families and friends. To our dear guests Udi Goren, Khalil Sayegh, Sima*

*and Mai who shared their losses so powerfully with us. To their families: Tal's wife Ella Haimi, their children Nir, Einav, Udi and Lotan, who never got the chance to meet his father. To Khalil Sayegh's mother and siblings, to Mai's and Sima's family, to her mother Bushra.*

*To the blessed memory of: Tal Haimi, Lara Sayegh, Jeris Sayegh, Mahmoud, Danny Darlington and Haim Perry.*

**Disclaimer:**

In each episode of this podcast, the invited guests speak on their own behalf. They share their experiences, assessments, and expert perspectives. These contributions are central to the multiperspectivity of the project but do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or producers.

**Legal & Historical Anchor Episodes:**

This podcast may include controversial legal terms of specific technical significance. Their legal applicability requires a thorough expert contextualization; for this, we refer to our legal chapter. All relevant terms of international law, its institutions, current controversies, and the state of jurisprudence are explained in the anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Claus Kreß LL.M. (Cambridge) (Episode 36). He is co-author of the Rome Statute, Special Advisor to the International Criminal Court, and Judge at the International Court of Justice in the parallel Gambia vs. Myanmar genocide case.

Historical matters are discussed from multiple perspectives in this podcast. Please check the cross-references in the shownotes of the respective episodes for details. All historically contested issues are addressed in the history anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gudrun Krämer (Episode 21), author of the comprehensive work *A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* (Princeton 2008), a standard reference in the field. For her scholarly achievements as a historian, she was awarded the *Preis des Historischen Kollegs* in 2025, the highest distinction in her discipline in Germany.