

Opinion Palestinian territories

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## We are Google and Amazon workers. We condemn Project Nimbus

### *Anonymous Google and Amazon workers*

We cannot support our employer's decision to supply the Israeli military and government technology that is used to harm Palestinians

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📷 Israeli army soldiers prepare to fire tear gas at Palestinian demonstrators during an anti-Israel protest over tension in Jerusalem, at the Qalandiya checkpoint between Ramallah and Jerusalem. Photograph: Abbas Momani/AFP/Getty Images

**W**e are writing as Google and Amazon employees of conscience from diverse backgrounds. We believe that the technology we build should work to serve and uplift people everywhere, including all of our users. As workers who keep these companies running, we are morally obligated to speak out against violations of these core values. For this reason, we are compelled to call on the leaders of Amazon and Google to pull out of Project Nimbus and cut all ties with the Israeli military. So far, more than 90 workers at Google and more than 300 at Amazon have signed this letter internally. We are anonymous because we fear retaliation.

We have watched Google and Amazon aggressively pursue contracts with institutions like the US Department of Defense, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ice), and state and local police departments. These contracts are part of a disturbing pattern of militarization, lack of transparency and avoidance of oversight.

Continuing this pattern, our employers signed a contract called [Project Nimbus](#) to sell dangerous technology to the Israeli military and government. This contract was signed the same week that the Israeli military attacked Palestinians in the Gaza Strip - killing nearly [250 people, including more than 60 children](#). The technology our companies have contracted to build will make the systematic discrimination and displacement carried out by the [Israeli military and government](#) even crueler and deadlier for Palestinians.

Project Nimbus is a \$1.2bn contract to provide cloud services for the Israeli military and government. This technology allows for further surveillance of and unlawful data collection on Palestinians, and facilitates expansion of Israel's illegal settlements on Palestinian land.

We cannot look the other way, as the products we build are used to deny Palestinians their basic rights, force Palestinians out of their homes and attack Palestinians in the Gaza Strip - actions that have prompted war crime investigations by the [international criminal court](#).

We envision a future where technology brings people together and makes life better for everyone. To build that brighter future, the companies we work for need to stop contracting with any and all militarized organizations in the US and beyond. These contracts harm the communities of technology workers and users alike. While we publicly promise to uplift and assist our users, contracts such as these secretly facilitate the surveillance and targeting of those same users.

We condemn Amazon and Google's decision to sign the Project Nimbus contract with the Israeli military and government, and ask them to reject this contract and future contracts that will harm our users. We call on global technology workers and the international community to join with us in building a world where technology promotes safety and dignity for all.

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### **How the Guardian will stand up to four more years of Donald Trump**

We've just witnessed an extraordinary moment in the history of the United States. Throughout the tumultuous years of the first Trump presidency we never minimised or normalised the threat of his authoritarianism, and we treated his lies as a genuine danger to democracy, a threat that found its expression on 6 January 2021.

With Trump months away from taking office again - with dramatic implications for Ukraine and the Middle East, US democracy, reproductive rights, inequality and our collective environmental future - it's time for us to redouble our efforts to hold the president-elect and those who surround him to account.

It's going to be an enormous challenge. And we need your help.

Trump is a direct threat to the freedom of the press. He has, for years, stirred up hatred against reporters, calling them an "enemy of the people". He has referred to legitimate journalism as "fake news" and joked about members of the media being shot. Project 2025, the blueprint for a second Trump presidency, includes plans to make it easier to seize journalists' emails and phone records.

We will stand up to these threats, but it will take brave, well-funded independent journalism. It will take reporting that can't be leaned upon by a billionaire owner terrified of retribution from the White House.

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**Katharine Viner**