

Google fires more workers who protested its deal with Israel

April 23 2024, by KELVIN CHAN and WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS



A person rides past the Google sign outside the Google offices in Sunnyvale, Calif., on Thursday, April 18, 2024. Google has fired 28 employees who were involved in protests over the tech company's cloud computing contract with the Israeli government. The workers held sit-ins at the company's offices in California and New York over Google's \$1.2 billion contract to provide custom tools for Israeli's military. Credit: AP Photo/Terry Chea

Google fired at least 20 more workers in the aftermath of protests over technology the company is supplying the Israeli government amid the Gaza war, bringing the total number of terminated staff to more than 50, a group representing the workers said.

It's the latest sign of internal turmoil at the tech giant centered on "Project Nimbus," a \$1.2 billion contract signed in 2021 for Google and Amazon to provide the Israeli government with [cloud computing](#) and artificial intelligence services.

Workers held sit-in protests last week at Google offices in New York and Sunnyvale, California. The company responded by calling the police, who made arrests.

The group organizing the protests, No Tech For Apartheid, said the company fired 30 workers last week—higher than the [initial 28](#) they had announced.

Then, on Tuesday night, Google fired "over 20" more staffers, "including non-participating bystanders during last week's protests," said Jane Chung, a spokeswoman for No Tech For Apartheid, without providing a more specific number.

"Google's aims are clear: the corporation is attempting to quash dissent, silence its workers, and reassert its power over them," Chung said in a press release. "In its attempts to do so, Google has decided to unceremoniously, and without due process, upend the livelihoods of over 50 of its own workers."

Google said it fired the additional workers after its investigation gathered details from coworkers who were "physically disrupted" and it identified employees who used masks and didn't carry their staff badges to hide their identities. It didn't specify how many were fired.

The company disputed the group's claims, saying that it carefully confirmed that "every single one of those whose employment was terminated was personally and definitively involved in disruptive activity inside our buildings."

The Mountain View, California, company had previously signaled that more people could be fired, with CEO Sundar Pichai indicating [in a blog post](#) that employees would be on a short leash as the company intensifies its efforts to improve its AI technology.

© 2024 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: Google fires more workers who protested its deal with Israel (2024, April 23) retrieved 4 May 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2024-04-google-workers-protested-israel.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.