

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS**  
*University of California, Santa Barbara*  
*Senate Resolution*

**Subject:** Divest From Companies that Profit From Human Rights Violations in Palestine/Israel

**Author:** Unique Vance **Second:** Jonathan Lopez

**Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FPP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bill Type:** Directional **Vote Required for Passage:** 50%+1

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**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ recommends to the A.S. Senate that the following action be taken:

Pass As Written: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass With Amendments: \_\_\_\_\_ Do Not Pass: \_\_\_\_\_

Refer To Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by a Vote Of: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairperson's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

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**STUDENT -SPONSORED LEGISLATION**

Student Sponsor: Anumita Kaur Student Co-Sponsor: Edan Tessama

The Student-Sponsored Resolution Liaison \_\_\_\_\_ has insured that this Student-Sponsored Resolution is correct in its form and adherence to the *ASUCSB Legal Code*.

Pass As Written: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass With Amendments: \_\_\_\_\_ Do Not Pass: \_\_\_\_\_

Refer To Ad-Hoc Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

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**FISCAL IMPACT**

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Account: \_\_\_\_\_

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**A Resolution**

“Divest From Companies that Profit From Human Rights Violations in Palestine/Israel”

**WHEREAS:** the Mission Statement of the University of California, Santa Barbara states, “Our academic community of faculty, students and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society [i];” and,

**WHEREAS:** it is UCSB’s duty to maintain the values of intellectual curiosity, integrity, commitments, and empathy, which includes the promotion of human rights, equality, and dignity for all people; and,

**WHEREAS:** a top tier research institution should actively dismantle systems of racism, patriarchy, homophobia, transphobia, imperialism, colonization, and environmental degradation; rather than, contributing to any of the aforementioned; and, **WHEREAS:** University of California students have a legacy of standing against oppression and injustice both in the U.S. and internationally

**WHEREAS:** the role of UC student activists in standing against South Africa's apartheid system and supporting equality, freedom, and dignity sets an example for us to follow as students of global conscience; and,

**WHEREAS:** as the example of South Africa shows, it is imperative for students to stand unequivocally against all forms of racism and bigotry, including but not limited to Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, racism, and settler colonialism; and,

**WHEREAS:** as the example of UCSB's divestment from fossil fuels shows our commitment to socially responsible investment as well as the empowerment of students to make a difference that will positively affect future generations [ii]; and,

**WHEREAS:** the ongoing efforts of the UC system to divest from the Prison Industrial Complex as demonstrated through the success of the African Black Coalition's campaign to divest from Wells Fargo reflects a commitment to dismantling those structures of racism and inequity [iii]; and,

**WHEREAS:** that same commitment presents itself in the the case of occupied Palestinian Territory which is not only militarily, but also economically controlled by the Israeli government; and,

**WHEREAS:** certain United States companies have promoted and been complicit in human rights violations committed by the Israeli government, as detailed below and documented by human rights organizations including: Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, B'tselem, Al-Haq, Defense for Children International, Addameer, Adalah, Badil, and the Israeli Coalition Against House Demolitions; and,

**WHEREAS:** the failure of numerous diplomatic peace efforts over the past 70 years has exacerbated the suffering of the Palestinian people in terms of material resources, environmental degradation, displacement, and a loss of civilian lives; and,

**WHEREAS:** the African National Congress, the ruling party of South Africa and historic center of organizing against South African apartheid, has adopted Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions as an integral part of its official platform in condemnation of the apartheid policies currently taking place in Israel [iv]; and,

**WHEREAS:** universities have endorsed Boycotts and Divestments including, but not limited to: UC San Diego, UC Riverside, UC Irvine, UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, UC Los Angeles, UC Davis, UC Merced, The University of Johannesburg, Loyola University, Stanford University, Northeastern University, and Arizona State University; and,

**WHEREAS:** the University of California Student Association (UCSA), a body that strives to serve as a collective voice of all UC students through advocacy and direct action, passed a resolution calling for "the UC Regents to incorporate student demands in its investment decisions, including demands specifically related to issues of corporate

complicity in human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and elsewhere" [v]; and,

**WHEREAS:** divestment and the BDS movement have been supported by various Jewish and Israeli organizations worldwide, including Jewish Voice for Peace, Young Jewish and Proud, Divest from Within, Breaking the Silence, Rabbis for Human Rights, Black Laundry, Women in Black, Jews for the Palestinian Right of Return, International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, Jews Say No, Jews Against the Occupation, and Anarchists Against the Wall; and,

**WHEREAS:** the multitude of organizations above demonstrates that the Jewish people are not a monolithic group that unconditionally supports policies of the Israeli government, and that critiques of the nation-state and its policies are political criticism, not anti-Semitic or an attack on the Jewish people; and,

**WHEREAS:** UCSB Students for Justice in Palestine vehemently condemns and rejects the views of any and all individuals who express any form of hatred or discrimination against Jews, because such views do not have a place in our vision for justice and equality; and,

**WHEREAS:** human rights violations by the government of Israel have led to a growing endorsement of nationwide academic boycotts against Israeli institutions, Association for Asian American Studies, the National Women's Studies Association, The Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, the American Studies Association, the African Literature Association, the Association for Humanist Sociology, the Critical Ethnic Studies Association, the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies, and, the Peace and Justice Studies Association; and,

**WHEREAS:** human rights violations by the government of Israel have also led to a growing number of union endorsements of BDS, including The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, the United Auto Workers Local 2865, the University of California's Student Worker Union, the United Auto Workers Local 2110's Graduate Student Organizing Committee (GSOC) at New York University, the UMass Amherst Graduate Employee Union (UAW), and the University of Wisconsin at Madison Graduate Student Union Endorses BDS; and,

**WHEREAS:** the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), states, "The construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated régime, are contrary to international law" [vi]; and,

**WHEREAS:** according to the same ICJ decision, the establishment and expansion of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are also illegal under international law; and,

**WHEREAS:** the recent passing of UN Resolution 2334 reaffirms that settlements are illegal and must stop [vii]; and,

**WHEREAS:** the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 13 states, “everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State [and] everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country [viii]”; and,

**WHEREAS:** Palestinian movement has been restricted through checkpoints, roadblocks and the illegal apartheid wall [ix]; and,

**WHEREAS:** according to the UN General Assembly’s application of the Fourth Geneva Convention in regards to occupied Palestinian territory, the establishment and expansion of settlements remain contrary to international law and cannot be recognized, irrespective of the passage of time [x]; and,

**WHEREAS:** such violations of both human rights and international law have been recognized and in turn resulted in the condemnation of Israeli governmental policies by the international community as seen through the efforts of the UN Security Council and Human Rights Council’s Fact-Finding mission in Gaza [xi]; and,

**WHEREAS:** the position of these aforementioned governmental bodies and organizations resulted in a multitude of resolutions including but not limited to UN Resolution 242, 446, 465, 484, 605, 672, 673, and finally UN Resolution 2334, condemning the Israeli government’s treatment of Palestinians [xii]; and,

**WHEREAS:** our university invests in companies which have an active role in the human rights abuses against the Palestinian people; thereby making it a complicit third-party; and,

**WHEREAS:** these companies are large-scale corporations that exist, including, but not limited to: Motorola, Caterpillar, Boeing, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard, Northrop Grumman, and Raytheon [xiii]; and,

**WHEREAS:** Motorola has manufactured and provided Moto Eagle Surveillance, a system installed in numerous Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, that includes radars and cameras to detect human movement outside the settlements and is used on the Separation Wall complex; and,

**WHEREAS:** the MotoEagle Surveillance system has been used to restrict the movement of Palestinians and used in the illegal occupation of Palestinian Territories [xiv]; and,

**WHEREAS:** Caterpillar has manufactured and sold bulldozers that have been used to destroy homes and other property belonging to the Palestinians [xv]; and,

**WHEREAS:** Boeing has provided Israel with fighter jets and helicopters that have been used in the attacks on Gaza [xvi]; and, \_\_

**WHEREAS:** General Electric has supplied weapons that have been used in the military attacks on civilians in Gaza [xvii]; and,

**WHEREAS:** Hewlett-Packard provides devices that have been used at checkpoints to ID residents in occupied East Jerusalem [xviii]; and,

**WHEREAS:** Northrop Grumman provided different missile systems, drones, and gunships that have been used in the attacks in Gaza [xix]; and,

**WHEREAS:** Raytheon provided military weaponry that has been used in the civilian attacks on Gaza; and

**WHEREAS:** Raytheon is the largest producer of missile weapons in the world, and sells small and large guided missiles to Israel, including: AGM 65 Maverick, AIM 7 Sparrow, AIM 9 Sidewinder, and AIM 120B ARAAM; and,

**WHEREAS:** these missiles have been used in the attacks on Lebanon (2006), Gaza (December 2008-2009) and Operation Protective Edge (2014) [xx]; and,

**WHEREAS:** during Israel's attack on Gaza from December 2008 to January 2009, approximately 1,400 Palestinians were killed, the majority civilians; 308 of those killed were minors; more than 5,000 were wounded; 3,540 housing units were destroyed and more than 20,000 were left homeless, and damage to infrastructure amounted to an estimated \$10 million [xxi]; and, \_\_

**WHEREAS:** during Israel's attack on Gaza from July 2014 to August 2014, 2,251 Palestinians, including 1,462 civilians; 551 of those were minors; more than 11,000 were wounded; 18,000 housing units were destroyed [xxii]; and,

**WHEREAS:** in June 2005 the Advisory Council on Ethics for the Norwegian Government Petroleum Fund recommended "to exclude Raytheon from investment because of Raytheon's involvement in the production of cluster bomb munitions and missiles"[xxiii] and,

**WHEREAS:** the current investments demonstrate complicity in the occupation and human rights violations of Palestinian Territories without consent of the student body; and,

**WHEREAS:** the twenty five UCSB student organizations (A.S. Student Commission on



Racial Equality (SCORE), El Congreso, Student Activist Network (SAN), Improving Dreams Equality Access & Success (IDEAS), Black Student Union (BSU), Mujeres, Unidas, por Justicia, Educacion, y Revolucion (MUJER), Arab Student Group, Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance, International Student Association, Chicanx/Latinx Graduation, Raices de mi Tierra, Pan-African Student Union, A.S. Womxn's Commission, Voceros, Campus Marxist Humanists, Mesa Directiva, Radio Xicana, Student Worker Coalition, La Escuelita, Queers Against Fascism, A.S. Student Initiated Retention and Recruitment Committee, Society for Accessible and Safe Spaces, Transgender Social Group, Transfer Student Alliance, Cultura Arts de El Congreso, El Centro Committee, A.S. Queer Commission) that have endorsed this resolution illustrates the overwhelming call by students across this campus to divest from these holdings; therefore,

**LET IT BE RESOLVED** that ASUCSB will examine its assets and UC assets for investments in companies that a) provide military support for, or weaponry to support, the occupation of the Palestinian Territories, or b) facilitate the building or maintenance of the Apartheid Wall or the demolition of Palestinian homes, or c) facilitate in the building, maintenance, or economic development of Israeli settlements on annexed Palestinian territories; and,

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that we direct the UCSB Associated Students Investment Advisory Committee, our university, the University of California Treasury, the UC Regents, and the UCSB Foundation to divest their holdings from each of these aforementioned companies, as determined by fund fiduciaries, within their discretion; and,

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that we, the students, direct the UCSB Foundation to explore its investments and to invest in socially responsible corporations, with the goal of restricting the use of companies that profit from human rights violations; and,

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that we demand more transparency in UC investments and accountability in investment practices, through the involvement of students in the UCSB Foundation; and,

**LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that we, the students, call upon our university to dissociate itself from companies that promote systemic discrimination, inequity, and human rights violations, by divesting from companies that participate in or profit from human rights violations.

- [i] <http://www.ucsb.edu/campus/mission.shtml>
- [ii] <https://eab.as.ucsb.edu/2013/06/03/ucsb-associated-student-senate-passes-resolution-to-divest-from-fossil-fuels/>
- [iii] <http://afrikanblackcoalition.org/2017/01/29/afrikan-black-coalition-pushes-university-of-california-to-terminate-475-million-worth-of-contracts-from-wells-fargo/>
- [iv] <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/south-africa-s-ruling-party-endorses-bds-campaign-against-israel.premium-1.486195>
- [v] <https://ucsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/ResolutionCallingfortheUCRegentstoDivestfromCorporationsViolatingPalestinianHumanRights.-01.2015.pdf>
- [vi] <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/index.php?pr=71&code=mwp&p1=3&p2=4&p3=6>
- [vii] <https://www.un.org/webcast/pdfs/SRES2334-2016.pdf>
- [viii] <http://www.humanrights.com/what-are-human-rights/universal-declaration-of-human-rights/articles-11-20.html>
- [ix] <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30935#.WPgpbDLyu01>
- [x] [http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.33\\_GC-IV-EN.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.33_GC-IV-EN.pdf)
- [xi] <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/IP%20SRES%20484.pdf>
- [xii] [http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/search.php?ctype=Israel/Palestine&rtype=Security%20Council%20Resolutions&cbtype=israelpalestine&search=%22Security%20Council%20Resolutions%22%20AND%20%22Israel%20Palestine%22&\\_\\_mode=tag&IncludeBlogs=10&limit=15&page=1](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/search.php?ctype=Israel/Palestine&rtype=Security%20Council%20Resolutions&cbtype=israelpalestine&search=%22Security%20Council%20Resolutions%22%20AND%20%22Israel%20Palestine%22&__mode=tag&IncludeBlogs=10&limit=15&page=1)
- [xiii] [http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/\\_files/invpol/GEP\\_Holdings\\_2016.pdf](http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invpol/GEP_Holdings_2016.pdf)
- [xiv] <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/motorola-solutions>
- [xv] <https://www.hrw.org/news/2004/11/21/israel-caterpillar-should-suspend-bulldozer-sales>
- [xvi] <http://chicagomonitor.com/2016/05/boeing-faces-increased-opposition-on-weaponssales-to-israel/>
- [xvii] <http://investigate.afsc.org/company/general-electric>
- [xviii] <http://investigate.afsc.org/company/hp-inc>
- [xix] <http://investigate.afsc.org/company/northrop-grumman>

[xx] <http://investigate.afsc.org/company/raytheon-company>

[xxi] <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/how-many-civilians-have-been-killed-in-gaza>

[xxii] <http://gaza.ochaopt.org/2015/06/key-figures-on-the-2014-hostilities/>

[xxiii] <https://www.nbim.no/en/transparency/news-list/2017/decision-to-revoke-exclusionof-company-from-the-government-pension-fund-global/>