
Resolution Calling for the UC Regents to Divest from Corporations Violating Palestinian Human Rights

**Sponsor(s):
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WHEREAS, The University of California Student Association (UCSA) is the “official representation of the student body of the University of California and the various campus student governments to the University of California Office of the President, the University of California Board of Regents, and other University related entities”¹;

WHEREAS, The UCSA “seeks to advance higher education by empowering current and future students to advocate on their own behalf for the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the University of California system” and has a history of advocating for issues critical to students to influence University of California administrators, Regents, and elected officials²;

WHEREAS, The student body of the University of California has a long and proud history of activism for social justice in which divestment campaigns have been and continue to be used to reclaim political agency and to change UC policies that maintain investments in companies that demonstrate a lack of accountability, ethicality, and respect for the rights and dignity of others, most notably in the context of South Africa and most recently in the context of fossil fuels³ and the Prison Industrial Complex⁴;

WHEREAS, In a 2012 resolution, the UCSA recognized “the legitimacy of boycotts and divestment as important social movement tools, and encourages all institutions of higher learning to cleanse their investment portfolios of unethical investments in companies implicated in or profiting from violations of international human rights law, without making special exemptions for any country”;⁵

WHEREAS, Despite adopting the United Nations’ Principles for Responsible Investment in September 2014⁶, which include guidelines stating that “businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses,”⁷ the University of California remains invested in companies that do not meet these standards;

WHEREAS, Six of nine undergraduate student associations of the University of California have passed resolutions calling for divestment from corporations that enable and profit from violations of Palestinian human rights⁸;

WHEREAS, The UC Graduate Student Worker Union, UAW 2865, representing over 13,000 teaching assistants, tutors, and other student workers at the University of California, voted by a 65% margin to support the call for the UC Regents to divest from corporations implicated in the violation of Palestinian human rights;

¹ [UCSA Charter](#)

² [UCSA Mission and History](#)

³ <http://www.fossilfreeuc.org/>

⁴ <https://www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/USACPrivatePrisonDivestmentResolution.pdf>

⁵ [Resolution: UC Student Association opposes all racism, whether anti-Semitism on campus or racism of Israeli human rights violations](#)

⁶ [UC joins UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment](#)

⁷ [Principles for Responsible Investment Annual Report 2014](#) [Principles for Responsible Investment: What is Responsible Investment?](#), and [The UN Global Compact’s Ten Principles](#)

⁸ UC Irvine: http://www.asuci.uci.edu/legislative/legislations/print.php?cnum=r48-15&gov_branch=asuci

UC San Diego: http://as.ucsd.edu/governing_documents/acts.php?show_id=464&session=2012-13

UC Berkeley: <http://senator.kleinlieu.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/SB160FinalDraft.pdf>

UC Riverside: <http://electronicitifada.net/blogs/nora-barrows-friedman/divestment-passes-university-california-riverside>

UC Los Angeles: [https://www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/USAC%20Divestment%20Resolution%20\(11-13-2014\)_no%20sponsors.pdf](https://www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/USAC%20Divestment%20Resolution%20(11-13-2014)_no%20sponsors.pdf)

UC Davis: http://asucd.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/SR.9.Fall_14.doc

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WHEREAS, The following illustrative and non-exhaustive list of the corporations in which the UC Regents, through endowment and retirement holdings, invest, profit from and enable human rights abuses and violence, which the University implicitly condones through its investments; and

WHEREAS, Boeing⁹, Caterpillar¹⁰, Cement Roadstone Holdings¹¹, CEMEX¹², General Dynamics¹³, General Electric¹⁴, Hewlett-Packard¹⁵, Lockheed Martin¹⁶, Northrop Grumman¹⁷, Raytheon¹⁸, and United Technologies¹⁹ have violated the universal right “to life, liberty, and security of person;” “to education;” to “privacy, family [and] home;” “to own property, and ...[not to] be arbitrarily deprived of property”²⁰.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association, as the representative body of UC students, recognizes and respects the votes of the six undergraduate campuses and the UC Graduate Student Worker Union, which have called for divestment from corporations that violate Palestinian human rights, including but not limited to the aforementioned companies;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls upon the UC Regents to respect and act upon the call of University of California students to divest from corporations that violate Palestinian human rights, including but not limited to the aforementioned companies;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls upon the University of California to withdraw investments in securities, endowments, mutual funds, and other monetary instruments with holdings in the aforementioned companies, at such time and in such manner as fund trustees may determine; and that the University of California maintain the withdrawal of investments, in accordance with trustees’ fiduciary duty, until these companies are no longer engaged in the violation of human rights and other behavior that fail to adhere to the University of California-endorsed Principles of Responsible Investment;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls upon the University of California, in accordance with fund trustees’ fiduciary duties, to refrain from making further investments in any companies engaged in the violation of human rights or other behavior that fails to adhere to the University of California--endorsed Principles of Responsible Investment, whether those violations occur in the United States or in any other country around the world;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls upon the UC Regents to implement socially responsible investment guidelines that uphold rather than

⁹ See [Boeing’s report on its weapons sales](#) and specifically, its sales of [AH-64 Apache helicopters](#), [F-15E Strike Eagle fighter jets](#), [F-16 missiles](#), and [AGM-114 Hellfire missiles](#).

¹⁰ Human Rights Watch’s [“Razing Rafah: Mass Home Demolitions in the Gaza Strip.”](#) cites Caterpillar’s violations; Amnesty International report [“Israel and the Occupied Territories: Under the Rubble: House Demolition and Destruction of Land and Property.”](#) citing how Caterpillar bulldozers are used to violate human rights.

¹¹ See [Project Clean Hands’ report on Cement Roadstone Holdings](#), [Who Profits report on Cement Roadstone Holdings](#)

¹² [Who Profits report on Cemex](#)

¹³ See [the AFSC’s report on arms sales to Israel](#), citing General Dynamics sale of weapons used in attacks on civilians.

¹⁴ See General Electric’s sale of [engines for Boeing’s AH-64 Apache helicopters](#), and [engines for Blackhawk helicopters](#).

¹⁵ [Who Profits’ report on HP’s involvement in settlements and occupation infrastructure](#) and [Global Exchange’s report on HP](#), which includes information on services to domestic prison and immigration systems

¹⁶ Lockheed Martin supplies Israel with [F-16 fighter jets](#) and [missiles](#), [Longbow Hellfire missiles](#) (with Northrop Grumman) and [AH-64 Apache Longbow helicopter parts](#).

¹⁷ See Northrop Grumman’s sales of [missile systems](#), [gunships](#), and services for [F-16 fighter jets](#).

¹⁸ See documentation of Raytheon’s [arms transfers](#), including missiles and bombs used in human rights violations

¹⁹ United Technologies renders [services to the Israeli military](#) through its aviation subsidiaries, Pratt and Whitney and Sikorsky, which manufacture engines used in F-15s and F-16s, and Blackhawk helicopters, respectively.

²⁰ [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

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denigrate the principles of accountability, ethicality, equality and respect for human rights, widely embraced by the students of the University of California;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls upon 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; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls upon the University of California to dissociate itself from companies that engage or aid in systematic prejudiced oppression, whether this system targets people based on their religion, nationality, gender identity, race or orientation, by divesting from companies that participate in or profit from human rights violations.