

Resolution for the University of Michigan to Divest from Socially Irresponsible Companies that Violate Palestinian Human Rights

2 WHEREAS, As members of the University of Michigan, we have the responsibility to critically
examine the ethics of the University’s investments; and,

4 WHEREAS, the role of the President’s Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human
Rights is to “Monitor code enforcement and promote University leadership in corporate
6 citizenship with respect to fair labor practices, human rights, and sustainability in its licensing
operations”¹; and,

8
10 WHEREAS, the Procurement Services of the Business and Finance Office at The University of
Michigan are committed to “socially responsible procurement [which] is defined as conducting
the University of Michigan’s business in a manner that meets or exceeds the ethical, legal,
12 commercial and public expectations that society has of business operation”²; and,

14 WHEREAS, The University of Michigan continues to be hub for student activism surrounding
social justice, including issues of militarism, women’s rights, environmental justice, and
16 underrepresented minorities; and,

18 WHEREAS, the University of Michigan’s Board of Regents’ divestment from South African
Apartheid in 1978 and from tobacco-related companies in 2000 set a precedent for ethical
20 divestment from socially irresponsible companies³; and,

22 WHEREAS, Central Student Government’s approval of a resolution in 2015 to create an ad hoc
committee to investigate endowment fund investments in the fossil fuel industry reaffirms
24 students’ right to examine the social and moral implications of our investments⁴; and,

26 WHEREAS, there has been a consistently held position that expresses Israel’s human rights
abuses of Palestinians are of grave concern to the university community, which is demonstrated
28 by calls for divestment in 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2015⁵;
and,

30
32 WHEREAS, more than thirty universities across the US such as Stanford University, University
of California at Berkeley, Northwestern University, and University of Chicago have passed
resolutions to divest from companies operating in Israel and its illegal settlements and that help

¹ [Charge to the Standing Committee](#)

² [Procurement Services](#)

³ [South Africa and Tobacco Divestments](#)

⁴ [CSG Approves Fossil Fuel Divest](#)

⁵ See Appendix 1 Prong 1

34 to facilitate the illegal Israeli occupation⁶; and,

36 WHEREAS, human rights are universal and apply to all people regardless of race, nationality,
38 religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or other status⁷; and,

40 WHEREAS, United Nations Resolution 242 recognizes Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands,
specifically the territories of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem⁸; and,

42 WHEREAS, United Nations Resolutions 446, 452, 465, 471 and 476 recognize the expansion of
44 Israeli settlements – which serve as locations for companies that the University of Michigan
invests in – are illegal under international law as described in the provisions of the Fourth
Geneva Convention; and,

46 WHEREAS, Israeli state policies and systematic discrimination violating the human rights of
48 Palestinians are well documented by academics, activists, and human rights groups⁹; and,

50 WHEREAS, Israeli state policy infringes upon Palestinian human rights in such ways as the
building of settlements on occupied Palestinian land¹⁰, the uneven distribution of land and water
52 resources¹¹, the unlawful demolition of Palestinian homes¹², the administrative detention of
Palestinians without charge¹³, the system of checkpoints preventing Palestinians' right to
54 freedom of movement¹⁴, the siege and blockade of Gaza¹⁵, the unlawful execution of

⁶ Appendix 2 “Universities Passing Divestment”

⁷ [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

⁸ Includes Areas A, B, and C in the West Bank. The UN simply says, all the territory occupied in 1967 under resolution 242 which predates Oslo. Also, Oslo talks about political control, not military control. It is all still occupied underneath 242 and all of the other resolutions that affirm 242.

⁹ Rashid Khalidi *The Iron Cage*

Joseph Massad *The Persistence of the Palestinian Question*

Ali Abunimah *The Battle for Justice in Palestine*

Ilan Pappé *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*

Avi Shlaim *The Iron Wall*

[Human Rights Watch Report "Separate and Unequal"](#)

[Human Rights Watch Report "I Lost Everything"](#)

¹⁰ [Israeli Settlement Policy](#)

¹¹ [World Bank Report of Water Restrictions](#)

[Palestinians Denied Fair Access to Water](#)

[Water and Sanitation in Palestine](#)

¹² [Unlawful West Bank Home Demolitions](#)

[Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions](#)

¹³ [Administrative Detention of Palestinians](#)

¹⁴ [Palestinians' Freedom of Movement](#)

[Checkpoint Statistics](#)

56 Palestinians¹⁶, and the killing of Palestinians in Gaza through all-out war¹⁷; and,
58 WHEREAS, Israel's violations of Palestinian human rights constitute "an institutionalized
60 regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group
62 or groups and [are] committed with the intention of maintaining that regime," meeting the
64 definition of the crime of apartheid as stated by the 2002 Rome Statute of the International
66 Criminal Court¹⁸; and,
68 WHEREAS, the June 30, 2015 University of Michigan Directly Held Public Equities report lists
70 investments in Boeing, Group4Securicor (G4S), Hewlett-Packard (HP), and United
72 Technologies, which supply weapons and equipment used in Israel's illegal occupation of
74 Palestinian territories and in violation of international human rights law¹⁹; and,
76 WHEREAS, Boeing "has been a major supplier of the F-15 Eagle and the AH-64 Apache attack
78 helicopters to Israel. These aircrafts have been used to attack Palestinians in the Occupied
Territories, resulting in many civilian casualties. Boeing makes missile systems, F-15 software,
Apache Helicopters, and Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM), a guided air-to-surface
weapon"²⁰; and,
80 WHEREAS, G4S "provides security equipment for Israeli prisons that hold Palestinian political
prisoners and for Israeli military checkpoints, as well as security services to businesses in the
illegal settlements;"²¹ in which Palestinian prisoners are regularly tortured²², including hundreds
of Palestinian children²³, and in which Palestinians are held in administrative detention without
charge or trial for indefinite periods of time²⁴; and,
WHEREAS, Hewlett-Packard "has provided biometric identification systems used at Israeli
military checkpoints, which restrict the freedom of movement of Palestinians, facilitate

¹⁵ [Siege and Blockade of Gaza](#)
[Ten Years of Israeli Siege of Gaza](#)
[Gaza Becoming Uninhabitable](#)
[UNOCHA Blockade of Gaza](#)

¹⁶ [Unlawful Killings of Palestinians](#)

¹⁷ [UN Report on 2008-2009 Israeli War on Gaza](#)
[UN Report on 2014 Israeli War on Gaza](#)

¹⁸ [2002 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court](#)

¹⁹ [University of Michigan Directly Held Public Equities](#)

²⁰ [Companies Supporting Israeli Occupation; Boeing](#)
[Boeing Products Provided to Israel](#)

²¹ [Oberlin College Divestment Resolution](#)

²² [PCATI "Torture in Israel"](#)

[PCATI Rejecting Investigations of Torture](#)

²³ [Illegal Detention of Palestinian Children](#)

²⁴ [Administrative Detention](#)

82 discrimination against Palestinians, and reinforce a stratification of citizenship,”²⁵ and provides
technological services to the Israeli Prison Authority, and provides services and technologies to
84 the Israeli army, among which is the administration of the Israeli navy's IT infrastructure, and the
Israeli navy has enforced the naval blockade on the Gaza Strip since 2007²⁶; and,

86 WHEREAS, United Technologies “produces Blackhawk helicopters which are used by the
88 Israeli military to attack Palestinian cities, refugee camps and villages. Many civilians have been
killed in these attacks[. . .] [the] Pratt and Whitney Division produces engines for Israel’s F-15
90 and F-16 aircraft, which have been used against Palestinian civilians”²⁷; and,

92 WHEREAS, Boeing, G4S, Hewlett-Packard, and United Technologies have violated the
universal right “to life, liberty, and security of person;” “to education;” to “privacy, family [and]
94 home;” “to own property, and ...[not to] be arbitrarily deprived of property”²⁸; and,

96 WHEREAS, Palestinian civil society has called on people of conscience around the world to
pressure Israel to comply with international law²⁹; and,

98 WHEREAS, the aforementioned companies profit off the killing, imprisonment, torture,
100 restriction of movement, and theft of land and resources from Palestinian civilians, all of which
are illegal under international law³⁰; and

102 WHEREAS, the University of Michigan’s investments in the aforementioned companies, which
104 are involved in socially irresponsible and unethical activities in Palestine, not only personally
impact Palestinian students at the University of Michigan, but also calls into question the
106 University’s commitment to invest in socially responsible companies; and,

108 WHEREAS, the concern to be explored is expressed broadly and consistently by the campus
community over time, and the action in question is antithetical to the values of the University³¹;
110 and,

112 WHEREAS, following divestment from Apartheid South Africa, it was proclaimed: “If the
Regents shall determine that a particular issue involves extremely serious moral or ethical
114 questions which are of considerable concern to many members of the University community, an
advisory committee consisting of members of the University Senate, students, administration and

²⁵ [Northwestern University Divestment Resolution](#)

²⁶ [Who Profits; HP](#)

²⁷ [Companies Supporting Israeli Occupation; United Technologies](#)

²⁸ [UCLA Divestment Resolution](#)

²⁹ [Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS](#)

³⁰ [Israeli Violations of International Law](#)

³¹ Appendix 1 “The Three Prongs”

116 alumni will be appointed to gather information and formulate recommendations for the Regents’
consideration”³²; and,

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120 WHEREAS, the Central Student Government approved a resolution for the Board of Regents to
reinstated bylaw 7.01 that states “Student participation in University decision-making is important
122 to the quality of the institution and will be sought and encouraged. The Vice President for
Student Life will assist students in promoting the establishment of effective mechanisms for such
124 student participation. The University is best served when it considers the impacts of decisions on
the student body,”³³ demonstrating their desire for student participation in university decision
making; and,

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128 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Student Government calls upon the University of Michigan
Regents to appoint a committee, as stipulated above, to investigate the ethical and moral
implications of our investments in the corporations Boeing, G4S, Hewlett-Packard, and United
130 Technologies, and all other companies that directly profit from Israel’s humans rights violations
against the Palestinian people according to international law³⁴; THEREFORE BE IT

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134 RESOLVED, that the Central Student Government requests the University of Michigan asset
managers to divest, as deemed appropriate by the ad hoc committee, as soon as such divestment
may be accomplished without injury to the University of Michigan’s assets and investment
136 strategies, from all such companies that within one year from the date of engagement remain
uncommitted to a diligent plan for terminating all such unethical business activities; AND BE IT
138 FURTHER

140 RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the University of Michigan Board of
Regents, in addition to the President’s Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human
142 Rights, for their consideration and approval; AND BE IT FINALLY

144 RESOLVED, that this resolution is in line with University of Michigan’s deeply held principles
of justice and equality for all people, and affirms that the Palestinian people are not exempt.

³² [University of Michigan Regents Proclamation](#);

*This would form a 6 member committee: 2 University Senate appointed by Senate Advisory Committee
University Affairs, 2 students from student government, 2 administrators appointed by the President.

³³ [CSG Vote for Bylaw 7.01 Reinstatement](#)

³⁴ See Appendix 3

