

 **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
**CENTRAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 7-019

**RESOLUTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TO INVESTIGATE  
DIVESTMENT FROM COMPANIES THAT VIOLATE PALESTINIAN HUMAN  
RIGHTS**

- WHEREAS,** all students have the responsibility, as tuition-paying members of the University of Michigan community, to critically review and examine the ethics of the University’s financial investments; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the President’s Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights serves to “promote University leadership in corporate citizenship with respect to fair labor practices, human rights, and sustainability in its licensing operations”<sup>1</sup>; **AND**
- 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, commercial and public expectations that society has of business operation”<sup>2</sup>; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** in 2016 the Board of Regents, with the support of Central Student Government (CSG), voted to reinstate bylaw 7.01 that expresses the importance of student participation in University decision making, and that, “The Vice President for Student Life will assist students in promoting the establishment of effective mechanisms for such student participation. The University is best served when it considers the impacts of decisions on the student body”<sup>3</sup>; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** students’ right to examine the social and moral implications of our investments was further reaffirmed by CSG in 2015 when it approved a

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<sup>1</sup> University of Michigan President’s Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights: [Charge to the Standing Committee](#)

<sup>2</sup> University of Michigan Finance: [Socially Responsible Procurement](#)

<sup>3</sup> [CSG resolution to reinstate bylaw 7.01](#); The Michigan Daily: “[Board of Regents votes to reinstate student input into their bylaws](#)”

resolution to investigate investments in the fossil fuel industry<sup>4</sup>; **AND**

**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 divestment from socially irresponsible companies<sup>5</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Students Allied for Freedom and Equality (SAFE) is a student organization dedicated to advancing the causes of freedom, justice, human rights and equality for all peoples, including Palestinians; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** SAFE represents the view of Palestinian students and their allies on campus that Palestinian human rights are violated by the Israeli military’s use of weapons and equipment from several companies in which the University invests; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** in its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) plan, the University continually expresses its commitment to efforts of equity and inclusion that provide underrepresented students the “support and opportunities necessary for their success;”<sup>6</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Palestinian students, as a minority group on campus, receive not the University’s full support, nor the benefits of its plan to foster a more inclusive climate, so long as a proportion of their tuition dollars is invested by the University in companies that violate Palestinian human rights in Israel; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** United Nations Resolution 242 recognizes Israel’s occupation of Palestinian lands, specifically the territories of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem<sup>7</sup>; **AND**

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

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<sup>4</sup> The Michigan Daily: “[CSG Proposes Committee for Fossil Fuel Divestment](#)”

<sup>5</sup> University of Michigan Investment Policy [South Africa and Tobacco Divestment](#)

<sup>6</sup> “Executive Summary” in *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan*.

<sup>7</sup> Includes Areas A, B, and C in the West Bank. The UN cites all the territory occupied in 1967 under resolution 242 which predates the Oslo Accords.

**WHEREAS,** Israeli state policy infringes upon Palestinian human rights in such ways as the building of settlements on occupied Palestinian land<sup>8</sup>, the uneven distribution of land and water resources<sup>9</sup>, the unlawful demolition of Palestinian homes<sup>10</sup>, the administrative detention of Palestinians without charge<sup>11</sup>, the system of checkpoints preventing Palestinians’ right to freedom of movement<sup>12</sup>, the siege and blockade of the occupied Gaza Strip<sup>13</sup>, the unlawful execution of Palestinians<sup>14</sup>, and the killing of Palestinians in military assaults on the occupied Gaza Strip through all-out war<sup>15</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** the June 30, 2016 University of Michigan Directly Held Public Equities report lists investments in Boeing, Group4Securicor (G4S), Hewlett-Packard (HP), and United Technologies, four companies that supply weapons and equipment to Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestinian territories in violation of international human rights law<sup>16</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** in 2016 the University of Michigan’s investments were valued at approximately \$16.9 million for the four companies in total; in Boeing at approximately \$7.7 million, in Group4Securicor (G4S) at approximately \$1.6 million, in Hewlett-Packard (HP) at approximately \$4.4 million, and in United Technologies at approximately \$3.2 million; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Boeing “has been a major supplier of the F-15 Eagle and the AH-64 Apache attack 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”<sup>17</sup>; **AND**

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<sup>8</sup> [Israeli Settlement Policy](#)

<sup>9</sup> [World Bank Report of Water Restrictions Palestinians Denied Fair Access to Water](#); [Water and Sanitation in Palestine](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Unlawful West Bank Home Demolitions](#); [Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Administrative Detention of Palestinians](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Palestinians' Freedom of Movement](#); [Checkpoint Statistics](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Siege and Blockade of Gaza](#); [Ten Years of Israeli Siege of Gaza](#); [Gaza Becoming Uninhabitable](#); [UNOCHA Blockade of Gaza](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Unlawful Killings of Palestinians](#)

<sup>15</sup> [UN Report on 2008-2009 Israeli War on Gaza](#); [UN Report on 2014 Israeli War on Gaza](#)

<sup>16</sup> [University of Michigan Directly Held Public Equities](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Companies Supporting Israeli Occupation](#); [Boeing](#); [Boeing Products Provided to Israel](#)

**WHEREAS,** G4S is a private security firm that "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"<sup>18</sup> in which Palestinian prisoners are regularly tortured,<sup>19</sup> including hundreds of Palestinian children<sup>20</sup>, and in which Palestinians are held in administrative detention without charge or trial for indefinite periods of time<sup>21</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Hewlett-Packard provides "biometric identification systems used at Israeli military checkpoints, which restrict the freedom of movement of Palestinians, facilitate discrimination against Palestinians, and reinforce a stratification of citizenship,"<sup>22</sup> and provides technological services to the Israeli Prison Authority, and provides services and technologies to 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 2007<sup>23</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** United Technologies provides "Blackhawk helicopters which are used by the 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 and F-16 aircraft, which have been used against Palestinian civilians"<sup>24</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** the Israeli military's use of weapons and equipment from Boeing, G4S, Hewlett-Packard, and United Technologies in the occupied Palestinian territories has 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"<sup>25</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Palestinian civil society has called on people of conscience around the world to financially pressure companies that contract with the Israeli military until such time it complies with international law<sup>26</sup>; **AND**

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<sup>18</sup> [Oberlin College Divestment Resolution](#)

<sup>19</sup> [PCATI "Torture in Israel"; PCATI Rejecting Investigations of Torture](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Illegal Detention of Palestinian Children](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Administrative Detention](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Northwestern University Divestment Resolution](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Who Profits; HP](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Companies Supporting Israeli Occupation; United Technologies](#)

<sup>25</sup> [UCLA Divestment Resolution](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS](#)

**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 that profit from the abuse of Palestinian human rights in Israel and its illegal settlements and that help to facilitate the illegal Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories<sup>27</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** the University of Michigan’s investments in the aforementioned companies -- whose operations in occupied Palestinian territories are socially and ethically irresponsible -- not only personally impact Palestinian students at the University of Michigan, but also call into question the University’s commitment to invest in socially responsible companies; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** the concern presented here is expressed broadly and consistently by the campus community over time, as evidenced by the accompanying statement of support, signed by student organizations that represent thousands of students on campus, as well as faculty and other campus community members, and the action in question is antithetical to the values of the University<sup>28</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** following divestment from Apartheid South Africa, it was decided that, “If the Regents shall determine that a particular issue involves extremely serious moral or ethical 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 alumni will be appointed to gather information and formulate recommendations for the Regents’ consideration”<sup>29</sup>; **THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** that CSG 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 Technologies, which show evidence of involvement in humans rights violations against the Palestinian people

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<sup>27</sup> Appendix 2 “Universities Passing Divestment”

<sup>28</sup> Appendix 1 “The Three Prongs”

<sup>29</sup> [University of Michigan Regents Proclamation](#) that outlines the process of forming a 6-member committee: 2 University Senate appointed by Senate Advisory Committee University Affairs, 2 student representatives from student government, and 2 administrators appointed by the President.

according to international law<sup>30</sup>; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED,** that CSG requests the University of Michigan asset managers to divest, if deemed appropriate by the ad hoc committee’s recommendations following an investigation by that committee, as soon as such divestment may be accomplished from all such companies that, within one year from the date of engagement, remain uncommitted to a diligent plan to terminate all such unethical business activities; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED,** that CSG requests the University of Michigan asset managers investigate possible alternatives for investment such that the University’s assets and investment strategies are not harmed; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

**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 Rights, for their consideration and approval; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED,** that the request presented by this resolution embodies the University of Michigan’s deeply held principles of justice and equality for all people, and affirms that the Palestinian people are not exempt from these principles.

### Authors

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Students Allied for Freedom and Equality (SAFE)

### Sponsors

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Yara Gayar, LSA

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Hafsa Tout, LSA

### Attest

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Alex Contis, LSA  
Speaker of the Assembly

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Ali Rosenblatt, Engineering  
Vice Speaker of the Assembly

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<sup>30</sup> See Appendix 3

President's Approval

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Anushka Sarkar

Presented to the Assembly for *First Reads* on \_\_\_\_\_

Presented to the Assembly for *Second Reads* on \_\_\_\_\_

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ Abs: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Necessary: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature Received By \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_