

## **A Resolution to Divest from Companies Engaged in Violence Against Palestinians**

**Sponsored by:** Negeen Sadeghi-Movahed, Conrad Contreras, Manjot Singh

**Student group co-sponsors:** Students for Justice in Palestine, American Indian Students Association, Bengali Students Association, Bruin Feminists for Equality, IDEAS (Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success), Incarcerated Youth Tutorial Project, Jewish Voice for Peace, Muslim Students Association, Queer Alliance, Samahang Pilipino, Student Coalition Against Labor Exploitation, UMMA Volunteer Project, United Arab Society

WHEREAS, in September 2014, the University of California signed onto the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment<sup>1</sup>, 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”<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, the University of California remains invested in companies that do not meet the standards endorsed by the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment;

WHEREAS, investment in companies engaged in violence against others is harmful to students at UCLA who are affected by such violence;

WHEREAS, UC students did not give consent to invest in companies engaged in violence against others;

WHEREAS, UC students have used and continue to use divestment<sup>3</sup> campaigns 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<sup>4</sup> and most recently in the context of fossil fuels<sup>5</sup> and the Prison Industrial Complex<sup>6</sup>;

WHEREAS, the following illustrative and non-exhaustive list of companies in which the University of California invests<sup>7</sup> profit from and enable human rights abuses and violence;

WHEREAS, Boeing, Caterpillar, Cement Roadstone Holdings, Cemex, General Dynamics, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, and United Technologies 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”<sup>8</sup>;

WHEREAS, Caterpillar has violated these rights by continually providing engineering tools and bulldozers routinely used in the demolition of Palestinian homes, refugee camps, water cisterns, and agricultural fields in the West Bank and Gaza<sup>9-10</sup>, and by providing bulldozers used to expand illegal settlements and to construct the Separation Wall and checkpoints throughout the West Bank<sup>10</sup>, which have been ruled to be in violation of international law in the International Court of Justice’s 2004 Advisory Opinion<sup>11</sup>;

WHEREAS, by providing cement and other building materials, Cement Roadstone Holdings (CRH) has contributed to the construction of military checkpoints, the Separation Wall, and illegal settlements within the occupied Palestinian territory<sup>12</sup>;

WHEREAS, Cemex also owns and operates manufacturing plants in illegal West Bank settlements, exploiting Palestinian natural resources in violation of international law<sup>13</sup>;

WHEREAS, CRH and Cemex have supplied building materials used to build illegal settlements, the Separation Wall, and checkpoints within the occupied Palestinian territory<sup>14</sup>;

WHEREAS, Hewlett-Packard Company (HP) has provided 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>15</sup>;

WHEREAS, HP profits from global mass incarceration and provides prisoner data systems for the United States Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs (ICE) Law Enforcement Support Center<sup>16</sup>;

WHEREAS, corporations that the University of California invests in, including Boeing<sup>17</sup>, General Dynamics<sup>18</sup>, General Electric<sup>19</sup>, Lockheed Martin<sup>20</sup>, Northrop Grumman<sup>21</sup>, Raytheon<sup>22</sup>, and United Technologies<sup>23</sup>, have provided weapons used in attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip<sup>24</sup>;

WHEREAS, having documented serious violations of human rights and possible war crimes<sup>25</sup>, both Amnesty International<sup>26</sup> and Human Rights Watch<sup>27</sup> called upon the United States government and other parties to cease the transfer or sale of arms that would likely be used in the further commission of human rights violations, specifically referencing corporations in which the University of California currently invests<sup>24</sup>;

WHEREAS, investment in these companies shows implicit support for the decisions and actions of these companies, as well as their consequences, which include the killings of civilians;

WHEREAS, the consequences of these companies' actions also affect the UCLA community directly, including students whose families experience occupation, systematic discrimination, death, injury, and other forms of human rights violations;

WHEREAS, the only way to achieve financial neutrality in such situations is to end our investment in and implicit support for such companies through divestment;

WHEREAS, this resolution aims neither to condemn a country, a people, or a community nor to determine a political solution, but is solely aimed at ending our University's support of companies that enable human rights violations;

WHEREAS, support for human rights and opposition to investments in companies engaged in violence are principles that have the power to unite members of the UCLA community;

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles 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;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that if it is found that UCLA funds are being invested in any of the above mentioned companies, the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon UCLA to divest all stocks and securities of such companies, at such time and in such manner as fund trustees may determine, and maintain divestment from said companies, in accordance with the fund trustees' fiduciary duty, until they meet the University of California-endorsed Principles of Responsible Investment;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon UCLA and the UCLA Foundation, in accordance with fund trustees' fiduciary duties, to refrain from making further investments, and to advocate that the University of California not make 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;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon the University of California to establish a means of implementing greater student oversight of the University's investments;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that in addition to divestment, the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon the University of California to invest in and support ventures in Israel and Palestine that promote human rights and justice, and that do not contribute to the oppression of any group;

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that we, the students, call upon our university to dissociate itself from companies that engage or aid in systematic prejudiced oppression, whether this system targets people based on their religion, nationality, gender, race or orientation, by divesting from companies that participate in or profit from human rights violations.

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<sup>[1]</sup> [UC joins UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment](#)

<sup>[2]</sup> [Principles for Responsible Investment Annual Report 2014](#) [Principles for Responsible Investment: What is Responsible Investment?](#), and [The UN Global Compact's Ten Principles](#)

<sup>[3]</sup> Divesting is the process of selling an asset, done for either financial or social goals.

<sup>[4]</sup> [UCLA African Studies Center "Remembering Nelson Mandela," a reflection on divestment](#) and [The Student Anti-Apartheid Newsletter: Special Report on University of California Divestment Action](#)

<sup>[5]</sup> [A Resolution In Support of Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies](#)

<sup>[6]</sup> [A Resolution to Divest Undergraduate Students Association Council and UC Los Angeles Finances from Corporations Profiting from the Prison Industrial Complex](#)

<sup>[7]</sup> [UC Retirement Portfolio holdings](#) include investments in Caterpillar, Cement Roadstone Holdings, Cemex, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard, and Lockheed Martin. [UC General Endowment Portfolio holdings](#) include investments in Cement Roadstone Holdings, Cemex, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard, and Lockheed Martin. Both portfolios include investments in the [Russell 3000 Index](#), which includes Boeing, Caterpillar, General Dynamics, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, and United Technologies.

<sup>[8]</sup> [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

<sup>[9]</sup> Human Rights Watch's "[Razing Rafah: Mass Home Demolitions in the Gaza Strip](#)," cites Caterpillar's violations

<sup>[10]</sup> 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.

<sup>[11]</sup> [International Court of Justice: Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#) (9 July 2004)

<sup>[12]</sup> See [Project Clean Hands' report on Cement Roadstone Holdings](#), [Who Profits report on Cement Roadstone Holdings](#)

<sup>[13]</sup> [Who Profits report on Cemex](#)

<sup>[14]</sup> See 13, and [New England United Methodist Church reports on said companies](#) and [documentation on said companies](#)

<sup>[15]</sup> [Who Profits' report on HP's involvement in settlements and occupation infrastructure](#)

<sup>[16]</sup> [Global Exchange's report on HP](#) includes information on services to domestic prison and immigration systems

<sup>[17]</sup> 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](#).

<sup>[18]</sup> See the [AFSC's report on arms sales to Israel](#), citing General Dynamics sale of weapons used in attacks on civilians.

<sup>[19]</sup> General Electric's sale of [engines for Boeing's AH-64 Apache helicopters](#), and [engines for Blackhawk helicopters](#).

<sup>[20]</sup> Lockheed Martin supplies Israel with [F-16 fighter jets](#) and [missiles](#), [Longbow Hellfire missiles](#) (with Northrop Grumman) and [AH-64 Apache Longbow](#) helicopter parts.

<sup>[21]</sup> See Northrop Grumman's sales of [missile systems](#), [gunships](#), and services for [F-16](#) fighter jets.

<sup>[22]</sup> See documentation of Raytheon's [arms transfers](#), including missiles and bombs used in human rights violations.

<sup>[23]</sup> 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.

<sup>[24]</sup> Amnesty International's report "[Fuelling Conflict: Foreign Arms Supplies to Israel/Gaza](#)", details arms sales made by Boeing, General Electric, Lockheed Martin, and Raytheon.

<sup>[25]</sup> See: Amnesty International's "[Operation 'Cast Lead': 22 Days of Death and Destruction](#)", and Human Rights Watch's "[Israel: In-Depth Look at Gaza School Attacks](#)", and "[Gaza: Airstrikes Violated Laws of War](#)"

<sup>[26]</sup> Amnesty International [letter to Congress](#) calling for arms embargo; Amnesty International: [UN must impose arms embargo and mandate an international investigation as civilian death toll rises](#); Amnesty International: "[The United States is Not Just a Bystander in Israel-Gaza Violence](#)"; Amnesty International: "[Stop US shipment of fuel to Israel's armed forces as evidence of Gaza war crimes mounts](#)"

<sup>[27]</sup> Human Rights Watch: [Unlawful Israeli Airstrikes Kill Civilians](#), and [Israeli Soldiers Shoot and Kill Fleeing Civilians](#)