

THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

Bill Number: Senate Resolution #2017-37
Title: Suggestions for Socially Responsible Investing: Companies Complicit in and Profiting from Palestinian Oppression
Sponsored by: Senators-at-Large Yasmeen Azam and Yasmin Elasmr, Senator for the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Hajer Rawag, and Vice President Logan Vournas
Date Submitted: April 14, 2017
Date Approved: May 10, 2017

- WHEREAS** the California State University (CSU) understands that campuses do not exist in isolation from the world and should "provide public services that enrich the university and its communities;"¹ and
- WHEREAS** the Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) Board of Directors at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the recognized voice for over 37,000 students; and
- WHEREAS** the CSULB ASI mission states, "the Associated Students of CSULB seeks to facilitate the achievement of students' educational objectives and life goals through programs, services, and facilities that advocate student needs and interests, compel student representation in campus decision making and provide students with resources that they identify as necessary for their intellectual, social and physical development;"² and
- WHEREAS** in the spring 2016 semester, the ASI Board of Directors overwhelmingly passed SR #2016-11, which supported the adoption of a Socially Responsible Investing policy for the 49er Foundation; and
- WHEREAS** as a result of this resolution, the University has decided to begin implementing socially responsible investing across the campus, as well as its auxiliary organizations; and
- WHEREAS** in a description of the Commission on Inclusive Excellence, President Conoley stated that, "Inclusive excellence requires a paradigm shift in thinking about equity, diversity, student learning and community success... this paradigm shift requires the identification, examination, and dismantling of existing mindsets/norms/regulations in higher education that serve as catalysts for marginalization, inequity, and intolerance;"³ and
- WHEREAS** ASI recognizes the importance of students of all identities standing undivided against all forms of oppression, marginalization, and bigotry both on campus and globally; and
- WHEREAS** the role of student activists specifically invested in addressing South Africa's apartheid system and fight for freedom, dignity, and justice sets a precedent for us to emulate as striving students of global consciousness; and
- WHEREAS** the ASI Board of Directors seeks to provide starting points for students of global consciousness by focusing on a Socially Responsible Investment initiative, intending to use the strategy of

¹ <https://www.calstate.edu/PA/info/mission.shtml>

² <http://www.asicsulb.org/pages/asi-mission-statement>

³ <http://web.csulb.edu/sites/president/2016/06/presidents-commission-for-inclusive-excellence/>

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divestment to call upon the university not to remain complicit in the systematic oppression of disempowered communities; and

- WHEREAS** the Palestinian people have been historically disempowered by the state of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories through violence and emotional trauma of civilians;⁴ and
- WHEREAS** fiscal support of transnational corporations that are directly involved in the occupation further reifies the various forms of oppression that Palestinian people face;⁵ and
- WHEREAS** according to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), "the construction by Israel of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and its associated regime are contrary to international law;"⁶ and
- WHEREAS** according to the UN General Assembly's application of the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding Palestinian territory, the expansion of settlements in "Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially settlement activities...remain contrary to international law and cannot be recognized, irrespective of the passage of time;"⁷ and
- WHEREAS** the Palestinian people have been occupied by the state of Israel's forces since 1948, and the colonization has only increased since then in the form of illegal settlements;⁸ and
- WHEREAS** a total of 5 million Palestinians are currently in refugee camps or have moved to surrounding areas as a result of their displacement due to the Israeli State's occupation;⁹ and
- WHEREAS** the Palestinian people have suffered from various violations of human rights including the destruction of housing with untimely notice, the use of children as human shields, and imprisonment of Palestinian people, including minors, in overcrowded cells with poor ventilation and inadequate amounts of food;¹⁰ and
- WHEREAS** the displacement of people and destruction of infrastructure in Gaza, as well as the withholding of trade, medical supplies and services, and food imports by Israeli blockades has led the United Nations to predict that the Gaza Strip will be uninhabitable by 2020;¹¹ and
- WHEREAS** the continued investment in companies such as Raytheon, G4s, Veolia, Caterpillar, General Electric, Northrop Grumman, and Hewlett-Packard Company validates and perpetuates the aforementioned human rights violations to the Palestinian people;¹² and
- WHEREAS** the following illustrative but non-exhaustive list of companies elaborates on how they play a role in these human rights violations:

⁴ Freedom is a Constant Struggle by Angela Davis

⁵ <http://afsc.org/investigate>

⁶ <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/index.php?pr=71&code=mwp&p1=3&p2=4&p3=6&ca>

⁷ <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/E29F7195C53CDDA905256729005035E4>

⁸ <https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/israeli-palestinian-conflict-101/>

⁹ <https://www.unrwa.org/palestine-refugees>

¹⁰ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/co/CRC-C-ISR-CO-2-4.pdf>

¹¹ http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51770#.WCIEV_orLIU

¹² <http://www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/profitng.pdf>

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- Raytheon supplies the Israeli Air Force with guided air-to-surface missiles for its F-16 fleet; Raytheon's radar systems are also used on Israel's fighter jets and missiles, and the company sells missiles, cluster bombs, bunker busters and other types of ammunition used in attacks on civilian populations in Palestine, including in the 2008-2009 Operation Cast Lead and the 2014 Operation Protective Edge¹³
- G4s provides resources furthering human rights violations and systematic discrimination: the technology and equipment for Israeli checkpoints that impede Palestinians' freedom of movement and transportation within the occupied Palestinian territory; security equipment, personnel, surveillance and maintenance services to Israeli prisons and juvenile detention facilities where violations of the rights of prisoners are committed, including medical negligence, torture, ill- treatment and solitary confinement of children and administrative detainees^{14 15}
- Veolia Environment subsidiaries hold permits to transfer waste from Israel and its illegal settlements into the Tovlan landfill in the occupied Palestinian territories, in violation of UN General Assembly resolutions; Veolia helped construct, owns shares in, and operates: (A) a rail line linking illegal settlements in East Jerusalem with Israel, in violation of the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 13/7 declaring its operation to be illegal; and, (B) Ayalon wastewater treatment plant in Modi'in Ilit, an illegal Israeli settlement¹⁶
- Caterpillar provided D9 bulldozers are used in "demolishing homes, basic infrastructure and sources of livelihood [and] continue to devastate Palestinian families and communities" (9) as documented by the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (9)
- Caterpillar also sells tractors to Palestinians in the West Bank which improves the living conditions for the Palestinian people; nonetheless, divesting from Caterpillar will provide more social benefits to everyone involved in the conflict in Israel and Palestine regardless of the economic consequences^{17 18}
- General Electric holds engineering support and testing service contracts with the Israeli Defense Forces and supplies the T700/CT7 engine propulsion system for the Apache AH-64 Helicopter Fleets which, as documented by Amnesty International and the World Policy Institute, have been used in violent attacks on people living in Israel and Palestine^{19 20}

¹³ <http://www.mediamonitors.net/joshmuebner3.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.waronwant.org/g4s>

¹⁵ <http://www.facing-finance.org/en/database/cases/g4s-private-security-company-fosters-human-rights-violations-in-israelg4s-private-sicherheitsfirma-nimmt-in-israel-menschenrechtsverletzungen-in-kauf/>

¹⁶ <http://www.globalexchange.org/economicactivism/veolia/why>

¹⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2004/11/21/israel-caterpillar-should-suspend-bulldozer-sales>

¹⁸ http://www.military-today.com/engineering/caterpillar_d9.htm

¹⁹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE15/002/2014/en/>

²⁰ <http://investigate.afsc.org/company/general-electric>

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- Northrop Grumman produces the Longbow mast-mounted 360° radar for the Apache AH-64 attack helicopter, which as documented by Amnesty International has also been used in violent attacks on people living in Israel and Palestine²¹
- Hewlett-Packard Company (HP) has supported restricting the freedom of movement of Palestinians within the West Bank by providing biometric identification systems used in the Israeli military checkpoint;²² and

- WHEREAS** there has been a national movement across universities to divest, and campuses that have divested include UCLA, UC Berkeley, University of Chicago, San Jose State University, and Stanford;^{23 24 25 26 27} and
- WHEREAS** it is our academic and human duty to hold our university accountable and call for divestment from any and all corporations that promote systematic oppression and participate in or profit from human rights violations; and
- WHEREAS** continuing to invest and thereby profit in companies complicit in human rights violations may become a financially unsound practice because they are increasingly vulnerable to international criticism, boycott and divestment campaigns;²⁸ and
- WHEREAS** that investing in these companies that invest in, benefit from, or support in any way also makes CSULB appear complicit in the perpetuation of the aforementioned form of modern day slavery, violence, and oppression; and
- WHEREAS** the investments harm CSU Long Beach Palestinian students, many of which have families currently under occupation in Palestine, or are descendants of Palestinians that have been forcibly relocated or killed as a result of the Israeli State's occupation; and
- WHEREAS** CSULB students have historically fought against investments and support in companies that demonstrate a lack of respect for ethnicities, human rights, dignity and social responsibility;²⁹ now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the protection of people who are discriminated against based on, but not limited to: race, ethnicity, nationality, citizen status, political affiliation, religion, sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity, class, social status, age, and ability, are considered in the drafting of any socially responsible investing policy; and be it further

²¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2000/05/22/no-additional-us-air-ground-missiles-israel>

²² <http://investigate.afsc.org/company/hewlett-packard-enterprise>

²³ <http://www.dailycal.org/2015/03/06/statement-uc-faculty-divestment-israel/>

²⁴ <http://www.sjbruins.com/divest.html>

²⁵ <http://mondoweiss.net/2015/12/university-government-resolution/>

²⁶ <https://uofcdinvest.com/vote-press-release/>

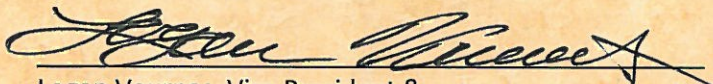
²⁷ <http://www.stanforddaily.com/2015/02/17/senate-reverses-divestment-vote-passes-resolution/>

²⁸ <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/the-logic-of-divestment-why-we-have-to-kiss-off-big-carbon-20150114>

²⁹ ASI SR 2016-11, ASI SR 2015-14, ASI SR 2014-24

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- RESOLVED** that CSULB ASI stands against the violations of Palestinian human rights and encourages CSULB and CSULB auxiliaries to divest from Raytheon, G4s, Veola, Caterpillar, General Electric, Northrop Grumman, and Hewlett-Packard Company, so long as they take part in the oppression of Palestinians, as a form of resistance against human rights violations; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that CSULB ASI also discourages any future investment in any company that violates human rights through:
1. Facilitating and profiting from the continued construction and maintenances of the illegal separation wall in Palestine, as well as settlements in occupied Palestine
 2. Providing the technological, financial, or defensive means to the state of Israel that enable them to commit the aforementioned human rights violations against Palestinian and Palestinian supporting citizens
 3. Profiting from the exploitation of Palestinian culture and natural resources in occupied Palestinian territories; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the CSULB ASI Board of Directors calls upon CSULB, and all auxiliaries part of CSULB to divest, and not make further investments in any entities knowingly and consistently complicit in the oppression and marginalization of the LGBTQ+ community, the support of private prisons, and aforementioned violations of international law and human rights by Israel; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that CSULB ASI encourages these actions to be taken by the University and all auxiliary organizations within a year of the approval of this resolution; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that CSULB ASI urges the University and all of its auxiliaries to divest from companies that are complicit in the violation of human rights anywhere around the world, and seeks to have this resolution act as the initial step to discontinuing the perpetuation of any systems of oppression; and be it finally
- RESOLVED** that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon its approval by the ASI President be distributed to CSULB President Jane Conoley, Vice President for Student Affairs Carmen Taylor, Dean of Students Jeff Klaus, Vice President for Administration and Finance Mary Stephens, Vice President for University Relations and Development Andrea Taylor, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, the California State Student Association, all current ASI Officers, the Daily 49er, and the Union Weekly.



Logan Vournas, Vice President &
Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:



Marvin Flores, Associated Students President

5/10/17
Date
5/10/17
Date