

Presented to the Senate floor on May 28, 2015.



ASUCD SENATE RESOLUTION #17

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****REPELLED****

An ASUCD Senate resolution urging the Board of Regents of the University of California (UC Regents) to undertake practices of corporate social responsibility through divesting from corporations that aid in the Israeli occupation of Palestine and illegal settlements in Palestinian territories, violating both international humanitarian law and international human rights:

WHEREAS, the University of California enabling Israel's occupation of Palestine compromises the integrity of students' education; and,

WHEREAS, these investments harm Palestinian students, many of whom are living heirs to confiscated properties in Palestine and descendants of the people who have been murdered or forcibly relocated as a result Israel's occupation of Palestine; and,

WHEREAS, divesting these funds provides justice for the students of the University of California whose family's capital and property was seized by the State of Israel; and,

WHEREAS, divesting these funds will create a climate of tolerance and open channels of dialogue between different campus communities; and,

WHEREAS, the state of Israel's prolonged subjection of the occupied Palestinian population to military rule while settlers in the same territory enjoy full political and civil rights violates customary international law and treaty law including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, these ongoing violations include:

(A) the annexation and separation wall that divides Palestinian land, deemed illegal in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice in 2004, violating the Palestinian people's right to self-determination;

(B) the establishment and expansion of illegal settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem;

(C) restricting Palestinians' freedom of movement;
(D) forms of ill-treatment employed against Palestinian prisoners in violation of the United Nations Convention Against Torture; and,
(E) illegal exploitation and pillage of natural resources in the occupied Palestinian territories that among other things, cut off access to primary water resources; and,

WHEREAS, several corporations, including Caterpillar Inc., G4S PLC, Veolia Environment and Raytheon play an active role in committing the aforementioned human rights violations in the manners described below; and,

WHEREAS, Caterpillar inc. provides the Israeli military with bulldozers used to demolish Palestinian property, including houses, refugee camps, basic infrastructure and agriculture through the uprooting of olive trees within the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as expanding illegal settlements and the illegal wall in violation of the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act; and,

WHEREAS, G4S PLC 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; and,

WHEREAS, Veolia Environnement 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 light 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 settlement; and,

WHEREAS, 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. Furthermore, Raytheon 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 Edge; and,

WHEREAS, these corporations have dismissed previous petitions to end the sale of their services and goods that facilitate these human rights violations; and,

WHEREAS, the investment portfolio of the University of California's endowment and pension funds includes holdings in these corporations, making the University of California a complicit third party in the aforementioned human rights violations against the Palestinian people; and,

WHEREAS, the UC Regents have adopted a Policy Statement of Ethical Values and Standards of Ethical Conduct that sets forth the expectation that members of the university community "exercise responsibility appropriate to their position and delegated authorities. They are responsible to each other, the University and the University's stakeholders both for their actions and their decisions not to act;" and,

WHEREAS, through a demand of corporate responsibility and in affirming the inherent dignity of all, we believe that divestment is a nonviolent means of advocating for social justice, international law and peace, and is a time-honored tactic that contributed significantly to ending apartheid in South Africa, among other global and domestic injustices; and,

WHEREAS, Israel receives nearly \$3.1 billion dollars of aid from the United States of America for sustaining and building its military; and,

WHEREAS, this makes the United States taxpayers complicit in the illegal Israeli occupation and international human rights violations; and,

WHEREAS, UC Davis students have historically fought against investments in companies that demonstrate a lack of respect for ethics, human rights, dignity and social responsibility; and,

"THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Associated Students, University of California, Davis (ASUCD) calls upon the UC Regents to implement its Policy Statement of Ethical Values and Standards of Ethical Conduct and end its complicity in the violations of the rights of the Palestinian people by divesting from companies held within separately managed equity portfolios of the University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) and the General Endowment Pool (GEP). The proposed policy would apply to both indexed and actively managed, publicly-traded equity portfolios; and,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, we urge the UC Regents to begin halting any future purchases of investments in the aforementioned companies and any other companies deemed to be:

(A) facilitating the building and maintenance of the illegal separation wall and settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories,

(B) profiting from the exploitation of natural resources in the occupied Palestinian territories, and

(C) engaging in practices that institutionally discriminate against individuals or groups based on ethnicity or religion.

(D) providing the armaments and/or technological means that enable Israel to commit violent attacks against Palestinian civilians, home demolitions, intrusive surveillance, unreasonable restrictions on movement and arrest and imprisonment for nonviolent acts—often without any charges or evidence at all; and,

THEREFORE LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, copies of this resolution shall be sent to: the Office of Campus Community Relations, Associate Executive Vice Chancellor Rahim Reed; Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Adela de la Torre, Division of Student Affairs, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Milton Lang; Provost Ralph J. Hexter, UC Davis Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi, University of California Office of the President (UCOP); UC President Janet Napolitano; the Regents of the University of California, *The Sacramento Bee*, *Davis Enterprise* and *The California Aggie*.

Finance: No

Appropriation: None

Vote: Majority

DO PASS AS AMENDED, 10-0-2, BY A ROLL CALL OF THE SENATE ON May 28, 2015. YES: FATAYERJI, GUERRERO, JOHNSON, NAHABEDIAN, NGUYEN, PRIANO, RIVILIS, SYED, TRESH, VELAZQUEZ. ABSTAIN: LEE, SANTIAGO.

Mariah K. Watson
ASUCD President

Date