

## **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”<sup>1</sup>; 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”<sup>2</sup>; 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 companies<sup>3</sup>; 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 investments<sup>4</sup>; 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 2015<sup>5</sup>;  
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

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<sup>1</sup> [Charge to the Standing Committee](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Procurement Services](#)

<sup>3</sup> [South Africa and Tobacco Divestments](#)

<sup>4</sup> [CSG Approves Fossil Fuel Divest](#)

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix 1 Prong 1

34 to facilitate the illegal Israeli occupation<sup>6</sup>; and,

36 WHEREAS, human rights are universal and apply to all people regardless of race, nationality,  
38 religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or other status<sup>7</sup>; 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 Jerusalem<sup>8</sup>; 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 groups<sup>9</sup>; and,

50 WHEREAS, Israeli state policy infringes upon Palestinian human rights in such ways as the  
building of settlements on occupied Palestinian land<sup>10</sup>, the uneven distribution of land and water  
52 resources<sup>11</sup>, the unlawful demolition of Palestinian homes<sup>12</sup>, the administrative detention of  
Palestinians without charge<sup>13</sup>, the system of checkpoints preventing Palestinians' right to  
54 freedom of movement<sup>14</sup>, the siege and blockade of Gaza<sup>15</sup>, the unlawful execution of

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<sup>6</sup> Appendix 2 “Universities Passing Divestment”

<sup>7</sup> [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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"](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Israeli Settlement Policy](#)

<sup>11</sup> [World Bank Report of Water Restrictions](#)

[Palestinians Denied Fair Access to Water](#)

[Water and Sanitation in Palestine](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Unlawful West Bank Home Demolitions](#)

[Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Administrative Detention of Palestinians](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Palestinians' Freedom of Movement](#)

[Checkpoint Statistics](#)

56 Palestinians<sup>16</sup>, and the killing of Palestinians in Gaza through all-out war<sup>17</sup>; 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 Court<sup>18</sup>; 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 law<sup>19</sup>; 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"<sup>20</sup>; 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;"<sup>21</sup> in which Palestinian prisoners are regularly tortured<sup>22</sup>, including hundreds  
of Palestinian children<sup>23</sup>, and in which Palestinians are held in administrative detention without  
charge or trial for indefinite periods of time<sup>24</sup>; and,  
WHEREAS, Hewlett-Packard "has provided biometric identification systems used at Israeli  
military checkpoints, which restrict the freedom of movement of Palestinians, facilitate

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

<sup>16</sup> [Unlawful Killings of Palestinians](#)

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

<sup>18</sup> [2002 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court](#)

<sup>19</sup> [University of Michigan Directly Held Public Equities](#)

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

<sup>21</sup> [Oberlin College Divestment Resolution](#)

<sup>22</sup> [PCATI "Torture in Israel"](#)

[PCATI Rejecting Investigations of Torture](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Illegal Detention of Palestinian Children](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Administrative Detention](#)

82 discrimination against Palestinians, and reinforce a stratification of citizenship,”<sup>25</sup> 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 2007<sup>26</sup>; 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”<sup>27</sup>; 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”<sup>28</sup>; and,

96 WHEREAS, Palestinian civil society has called on people of conscience around the world to  
pressure Israel to comply with international law<sup>29</sup>; 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 law<sup>30</sup>; 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 University<sup>31</sup>;  
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

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

<sup>26</sup> [Who Profits; HP](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Companies Supporting Israeli Occupation; United Technologies](#)

<sup>28</sup> [UCLA Divestment Resolution](#)

<sup>29</sup> [Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS](#)

<sup>30</sup> [Israeli Violations of International Law](#)

<sup>31</sup> Appendix 1 “The Three Prongs”

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

118  
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,”<sup>33</sup> 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 law<sup>34</sup>; 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.

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<sup>32</sup> [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.

<sup>33</sup> [CSG Vote for Bylaw 7.01 Reinstatement](#)

<sup>34</sup> See Appendix 3

