



S. 17-5 A Resolution Calling for Tufts University to End Investments in The Israeli Occupation

WHEREAS Israel has forcibly removed and continues to remove Palestinians from their homes and land, continues to build illegal settlements on occupied Palestinian territory, and has been condemned by the International Court of Justice, the UN General Assembly, and the UN Security Council;^{1 2 3}

WHEREAS a recent United Nations report states that Israel has established “an apartheid regime that oppresses and dominates the Palestinian people as a whole”;⁴

WHEREAS in 2005, 170 Palestinian unions, political parties, refugee networks, women’s organizations, professional associations, popular resistance committees and other Palestinian civil society bodies called for “international civil society organizations and people of conscience all over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era”;⁵

WHEREAS the goals of these boycotts and divestment campaigns are three-fold: ending Israel’s occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Israeli-West Bank separation wall, known as the Apartheid Wall by many Palestinians; recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and respecting, protecting and promoting the inalienable rights of Palestinian refugees to return to the homes and properties from which they were expelled in 1948 as stipulated in UN resolution 194;

WHEREAS as stated in its mission statement, Tufts University has a responsibility to prioritize civic engagement and to be a place where students “distinguish themselves as active citizens of the world”;⁶

WHEREAS historically, divestment from apartheid South Africa proved to be a key step in non-violent resistance towards ending legal apartheid in South Africa;

¹ <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/index.php?pr=71&code=mwp&p1=3&p2=4&p3=6&ca>

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<https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/UNISPAL.NSF/47D4E277B48D9D3685256DDC00612265/C2A00B6E6E1C02CF8525798E00578F75>

³ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12657.doc.htm>

⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/03/report-israel-established-apartheid-regime-170315054053798.html>

⁵ <https://bdsmovement.net/call>

⁶ <https://www.tufts.edu/about/mission-vision>

WHEREAS Tufts University divested from South Africa in 1989;⁷

WHEREAS in 2013 the Tufts University student body overwhelmingly passed a referendum in support of divesting the university's endowment from fossil fuels;⁸

WHEREAS Stanford University, University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Oberlin College, Vassar College, Wesleyan University, University of California (UC) at Los Angeles, Berkeley, Irvine, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Cruz, and Davis and other universities have passed student government resolutions supporting divestment from companies profiting off of the occupation;^{9 10 11 12 13 14 15}

WHEREAS Elbit Systems Ltd is an Israeli weapons manufacturer that supplies to the Israeli Defense Forces, whose unmanned drones were used in the 2014 Israeli Assault on Gaza, and who is also a main provider of surveillance systems for the Apartheid Wall and the U.S-Mexico border;¹⁶

WHEREAS G4S is a British-Danish security company that operates worldwide, providing security services to Jewish-only settlements and operating Israeli prisons where Palestinians are held as political prisoners in violation of international law; in addition, G4S owns the second largest private prison in the world and provides transportation for the detention and deportation of undocumented immigrants in the United States;¹⁷

WHEREAS Northrop Grumman is a defense technology company that supplies weapons to the Israeli military and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that Israel uses against civilians and drones that the DHS uses to patrol the Arizona border, contributing to inhumane border control practices including the denial of entry to asylum seekers;¹⁸

WHEREAS Hewlett Packard Enterprise is an information technology company that provides technology for brutal and discriminatory border control and prison systems in the United States and operates Israel's Aviv ID system, which categorizes citizens by ethnicity and religion, enabling systematic discrimination;¹⁹

WHEREAS the United States has provided Israel \$124 billion in bilateral assistance to date, and will give Israel \$38 billion in military assistance over the next decade which includes \$5 billion for missile

⁷ <http://www.nytimes.com/1989/02/26/us/tufts-to-divest-all-its-south-africa-holdings.html>

⁸ <http://president.tufts.edu/blog/2014/02/12/statement-on-divestment-from-fossil-fuel-companies/>

⁹ <http://www.timesofisrael.com/stanford-senate-passes-israel-divestment-measure/>

¹⁰ <https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/univ-chicago-students-celebrate-divestment-win>

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<https://dailynorthwestern.com/2015/02/19/campus/after-debate-associated-student-government-senate-narrowly-passes-nudivest-resolution-bds-divestment-northwestern/>

¹² <http://www.oberlin.edu/stuorg/sfp/2013/pages/divest.html>

¹³ <http://vsa.vassar.edu/orgs/vassarsjp/2016/02/01/vassar-boycott-divestment-sanctions-bds-resolution/>

¹⁴ <https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/wesleyan-student-fund-bars-investment-israeli-occupation-profiteers>

¹⁵ <http://www.dailycal.org/2015/03/06/statement-uc-faculty-divestment-israel/>

¹⁶ <http://investigate.afsc.org/company/elbit-systems-ltd>

¹⁷ <http://investigate.afsc.org/company/g4s-plc>

¹⁸ <http://investigate.afsc.org/company/northrop-grumman>

¹⁹ <http://investigate.afsc.org/company/hewlett-packard-enterprise>

defense;²⁰

WHEREAS Students for Justice in Palestine's specific request to the Board of Trustees for more information about specific investments was not granted;

WHEREAS Tufts' specific investments are not public knowledge; however, it is known that Tufts has investments in mutual funds,²¹ and that the university's investment policies do not include any consideration for the investments' social impact;²²

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate urges Tufts University to divest from and not invest in Elbit Systems, G4S, Northrop Grumman, and Hewlett Packard Enterprises;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCU Senate urges Tufts University to enact a socially responsible investment policy for the university endowment that follows guidelines on ethical investments that uphold human rights for all;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCU Senate urges Tufts University to implement a human rights screen on our endowment investments that would identify companies involved in human rights violations, which must include the human rights violations against Palestinians, non-US-citizens in detainment and deportation proceedings, and incarcerated individuals, and which will lead to Tufts ending investment in Elbit Systems, G4S, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Northrop Grumman;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCU Senate urges Tufts University to acknowledge its responsibility as an educational institution which places great importance on civic engagement to promote the understanding of present day human rights abuses, occupations, and the institution's role in upholding them;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tufts should not financially support corporations that profit off the occupation of Palestine and the continued spread of settlements declared illegal under international law.

Respectfully submitted by Amira Al Subaey A19, Parker Breza A19, Hannah Freedman A17, Noah Habeeb A17, Nicole Joseph A18, Sam Slate A18, Mary Therese Snyder A17, Elise Sommers A19, Molly Tunis A20, Mile Krstev E19, and Kate Hirsch A17 on April 9, 2017.

²⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-israel-statement-idUSKCN11K2CI>

²¹ <http://hr.tufts.edu/benefits/retirement-savings-plans/retirement-plans-new-investment-fund-options/>

²² http://giving.tufts.edu/pdf/Endowment_Policies_2015.pdf