

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

**Resolution #08**

**Resolution in Support of Divestment from Companies in Violation of Human Rights**

*This resolution calls upon the University of California Board of Regents to divest from all companies/ corporations violating international humanitarian rights in Palestine to uphold their commitment to the standards of the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment and the values set forth by the University of California System as a whole.*

Introduced By:

Salma Memon, ASUCM Senator

Authored By:

Homza Al-Ariemy, President of Muslim Student Association  
Hashmat Khorsand, Member of Muslim Student Association  
Salma Memon, ASUCM Senator

Sponsored By:

Ajay Bainiwal, Sikh Student Association  
Isa Bey, African Student Union  
Sonya Lal, Commissioner of Diversity ASUCM  
Carl Posadas, Pilipino American Alliance  
Selasie de-Souza, Black Student Union

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**Background:**

The University of California currently holds over a billion dollars worth of shares in companies that have been found to violate international human rights in Palestine. On September 22, 2014, the University of California Board of Regents signed the United Nations' Principles of Responsible Investment supporting fiscal awareness and responsibility of investments in accordance with humanitarian protection through environmental, social, and governance affairs<sup>1</sup>. The University of California Board of Regents has yet to uphold the standards presented by the Principles of Responsible Investment by continuing to invest in a number of companies that have profited from the manufacture and sale of weaponry and supplies that contribute to the overwhelming list of human right violations continuing to take place in the territory today. This movement was brought up in 2005 by the Palestinian Civil society that called for BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) of all companies in violation of protecting human rights in Palestine to gain international support<sup>2</sup>. These companies benefit through the oppression of the Palestinian people and continue to aid in the promotion of violence in the region. Since then a number of student associations including six of the nine UC Undergraduate Student Associations, along with the University of California Student Association have passed resolutions urging the University of California Board of Regents to divest from companies profiting at the expense of war crimes being committed in the territory affecting civilians in both Israel and Palestine<sup>3</sup>. With continued investments by the Office of the Treasurer of the Board of Regents for the purpose of enhancing the investment portfolio of the University of California's endowment and pension funds into companies that perpetuate violence and degrade human life for the sake of fiscal gain, the University of California is a third party offender of the war crimes being committed in the region<sup>4</sup>.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this resolution is to demand the University of California Board of Regents to divest from all companies in violation of protecting international human rights to comply with the values and mission statements set forth by the University of California, Merced and the University of California system as a whole.

1. **Whereas:** The University of California, Merced's Principles of Community state "We take pride in building, sustaining and sharing a culture that is founded on the principles of unity and respect<sup>5</sup>;" and,
2. **Whereas:** The University of California Board of Regents signed the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment in 2014 with the intent to be more fiscally responsible to invest in companies in compliance with environmental, social, and governance affairs<sup>2</sup>; and,

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://bdsmovement.net/>

<sup>3</sup> [UCSA Resolution](#)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ucmerced.edu/principles-of-community>

3. **Whereas:** The University of California has yet to follow through to uphold the tenets outlined by the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment by continuing to invest in companies aiding in violating basic human rights<sup>2</sup>; and,
4. **Whereas:** The University of California currently has invested over a billion dollars worth of shares into companies that perpetrate and promote violence in Palestinian territory<sup>6</sup>; and,
5. **Whereas:** These companies are large- scale corporations that exist, including, but not limited to: Boeing, Caterpillar, CEMEX, Cement Roadstone Holdings, General Dynamics, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, and United technologies; and,
6. **Whereas:** Boeing has provided Israel with fighter jets and helicopters that have used in the attacks on Gaza<sup>7</sup>; and,
7. **Whereas:** Caterpillar has manufactured and sold bulldozers that have been used to destroy homes and other property belonging to the Palestinians<sup>7</sup>; and,
8. **Whereas:** CEMEX has illegally mined natural resources that belong to the West Bank region and provided materials to construct the separation wall between Palestinian land and Israeli Land<sup>7</sup>; and,
9. **Whereas:** Cement Roadstone Holdings has supplied materials to be used in the creation of the separation wall<sup>7</sup>; and,
10. **Whereas:** General Dynamics provided military ammunition and bombs that have been used in the attacks on Gaza<sup>7</sup>; and,
11. **Whereas:** General Electric has supplied weapons that have been used in the military attacks on civilians in Gaza<sup>7</sup>; and,
12. **Whereas:** Hewlett-Packard provides devices that have been used at checkpoints to ID residents in occupied East Jerusalem<sup>7</sup>; and,
13. **Whereas:** Lockheed Martin supplied fighter jets and missiles used in attacks on Gaza<sup>7</sup>; and,
14. **Whereas:** Northrop Grumman provided different missile systems, drones, and gunships that have been used in the attacks in Gaza<sup>7</sup>; and,

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.prisoncensorship.info/archive/etext/cal/uestake.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.sjbruins.com/divest.html>

15. **Whereas:** Raytheon provided military weaponry that has been used in the civilian attacks on Gaza<sup>7</sup>; and,
16. **Whereas:** United Technologies has aided in the aviation subsidiaries used in the attacks on Gaza<sup>7</sup>; and,
17. **Whereas:** The United Nations Internal Justice System ruled that the creation of a separation wall violates international human right laws<sup>8</sup>; and,
18. **Whereas:** 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...[and] are responsible to each other, the University and the University’s stakeholders for their actions and... decisions<sup>9</sup>,” and,
19. **Whereas:** Through financial support of such companies aiding in their overall growth and success, the University of California is a third party offender of the violent war crimes taking place in the region against civilians and guilty of the physical destruction of the land; and,
20. **Whereas:** Six of the nine UC Undergraduate Student Associations, along with the University of California Student Association have passed resolutions in favor of divestment<sup>3</sup>; and,
21. **Whereas:** The students of UC Merced also will not tolerate such injustices done to these communities which may infringe upon the safety of those within the campus that identify with these communities and,
22. **Whereas:** This resolution is not written with the intent to place blame on any groups of people or as a proposed solution to the conflicts within the region; and,

**Be it Resolved:** That the Associated Students of the University of California, Merced call upon the University and the University of California Board of Regents to divest all shares in companies in violation of human rights in Palestine; and,

**Be it Further Resolved:** That the University of California Board of Regents uphold the standards laid out in the United Nations’ Principles of Responsible Investment; and,

**Be it Further Resolved:** That the University of California Merced and the University of California Board of Regents take into account all factors and aspects besides fiscal gain when investing in new companies to ensure they align with system-wide missions and values.

<sup>8</sup><http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/index.php?pr=71&code=mwp&p1=3&p2=4&p3=6&ca>

<sup>9</sup><http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/#policy-series-6000>

**Be it Finally Resolved:** That the ASUCM President, or their designee, will present this resolution showing student support to the University of California, Merced Academic Senate.

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

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Date Introduced: 3/30/16

Submitted Senate Committee(s):

Date Settled: 4/20/16

- Budget and Finance
- Student Advocacy
- Student Activities
- Academic Affairs
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Veto Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Recommendations:

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Senate Action: **Approved** Not Approved

Senate Chair Authorization: Huber Muñoz Date: 4/22/16  
Huber Munoz, Internal Vice President

President Action: **Approved** Not Approved

President's Signature: Domonique Jones Date: 4/26/2016  
Domonique Jones, President