

**A Resolution to Support the Withdrawal of OSU’s Investments in Corporations Complicit in Human Rights Violations**

Sami Mubarak (for himself) introduced the following resolution to the General Assembly

\* \* \*

**Whereas** the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University (OSU), and

**Whereas** the OSU Office of Investments manages \$3.6 billion in endowment funds and \$6.1 billion in revenue, 14.2% of which comes from student tuition and fees,<sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas** the OSU Office of Investments has repeatedly denied student requests for an updated list of entities in which the University is invested today, and

**Whereas** OSU invests in G4S, Caterpillar Inc., and Hewlett-Packard (HP),<sup>2</sup> and

**Whereas** G4S, Caterpillar, and HP profit from and enable violations of the universal rights to life, liberty, property, education, privacy and security of person,<sup>3</sup> and

**Whereas** Caterpillar has violated these rights by providing engineering tools and bulldozers used to expand settlements, construct the Separation Wall throughout the West Bank and routinely demolish Palestinian homes, refugee camps, water cisterns, and agricultural fields in the West Bank and Gaza Strip,<sup>4,5</sup> and

**Whereas** settlements<sup>6</sup> and the Separation Wall<sup>7</sup> have been ruled to be in violation of international law, and

**Whereas** HP has provided biometric identification systems used at Israeli military checkpoints,<sup>8</sup> which facilitate discrimination against Palestinians, restrict their freedom of movement and limit their access to education, employment, and medical care,<sup>9</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> [The Ohio State University - Statistical Summary](#)  
<sup>2</sup> The Ohio State University, 2009 Equities and Fixed Income.  
<sup>3</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights, G.A. Res. 217A (III), U.N. Doc. A/810 at 71 (1948), art. 3, 12, 17, 26.  
<sup>4</sup> [Human Rights Watch, Razing Rafah: Mass Home Demolitions in the Gaza Strip](#)  
<sup>5</sup> [Factsheet: Home Demolitions and Caterpillar](#)  
<sup>6</sup> [International Law and Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)  
<sup>7</sup> [Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)  
<sup>8</sup> [Technologies of Control: The Case of Hewlett Packard](#)

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**Whereas** G4S provides security systems for prisons holding Palestinian political prisoners without due process as well as security systems for interrogation and detentions centers, where Palestinians are regularly subjected to torture,<sup>10</sup> and

**Whereas** by holding the aforementioned companies responsible for their actions in various areas such as the Palestinian Occupied Territories, an important precedent is set which will allow for further scrutiny of similarly harmful activities perpetrated by these and other companies elsewhere, and

**Whereas** HP profits from global mass incarceration and provides prisoner data systems for the detainment of undocumented immigrants in the United States,<sup>11</sup> and

**Whereas** G4S profits from the growth of private prisons and mass incarceration all over the world,<sup>12</sup> as well as by facilitating the detention and deportation of undocumented immigrants,<sup>13</sup> and

**Whereas** by investing in the aforementioned companies, OSU implicitly condones and profits from the decisions and actions of these companies, as well as their consequences, which include the killing of innocent civilians, and

**Whereas** by doing so, OSU taints its reputation as a leading public university committed to integrity and accountability in all its work, and

**Whereas** investment in companies perpetuating violence is an affront to members of the OSU community, particularly to students whose families experience military occupation, systematic discrimination, death, injury, and other forms of human rights violations, and

**Whereas** the most effective way for OSU to achieve neutrality in these human rights abuses is to end the financial support of such companies by withdrawing its investments, and

**Whereas** this resolution is solely aimed at denouncing this university's support of companies that enable human rights violations and does not aim to condemn a country, a people, or a community, or to determine a political solution, and

**Whereas** undergraduate student governments of colleges and universities across the nation—including, but not limited to, University of California system schools,<sup>14</sup> Stanford University,<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> [American Friends Service Committee, Restricted Movement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Who Profits, GROUP4SECURICOR \(G4S\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Global Exchange, Why Hewlett Packard?](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Global Exchange, G4S Worldwide](#)

<sup>13</sup> [New York Times, Companies Use Immigration Crackdown to Turn a Profit](#)

<sup>14</sup> [ASUCD Divestment Bill Passes through Senate](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Senate Reverses Divestment Vote, Passes Resolution](#)

72 DePaul University,<sup>16</sup> Oberlin College,<sup>17</sup> the University of Toledo,<sup>18</sup> and Northwestern  
73 University,<sup>19</sup> —have passed resolutions calling for the withdrawal of investments from the  
74 aforementioned companies on the basis of the same arguments as those provided here, and  
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76 **Whereas** Hampshire College<sup>20</sup> and Columbia University<sup>21</sup> have withdrawn their investments  
77 from Caterpillar and G4S, respectively, due to their complicity in human rights violations, and  
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79 **Whereas** OSU students have previously sought to promote the withdrawal of University funds  
80 from corporations engaged in unethical business practices, most notably from companies doing  
81 business with Sudan<sup>22,23</sup> and apartheid South Africa,<sup>24</sup> and  
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83 **Whereas** an Ohio State University student-led campaign collected over 3,000 signatures to  
84 place an initiative on the Undergraduate Student Government 2015 ballot calling for the  
85 withdrawal of investments in the aforementioned companies,<sup>25</sup> and  
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87 **Whereas** over twenty OSU student organizations endorsed this resolution including African  
88 Youth League, Arab Student Union, Bangladesh Student Association, Buckeye Bhangra,  
89 Buckeye Fusion, Coalition for Black Lives, Committee for Justice in Palestine, FemUNITY,  
90 Indian American Association, International Socialist Organization, Iranian Cultural Association,  
91 Model African Union, Muslim Students' Association, Pakistani American Students' Association,  
92 Peace Corps Club, Project: Educate XX, Say Hi, SHADES, Somali Students' Association,  
93 Syrian Student Union, Still We Rise, United Students Against Sweatshops, and Urdu club, and  
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95 **Whereas** Ohio State's withdrawal of investments from corporations that are complicit in  
96 human rights violations would lead the way for other universities seeking to do the same;  
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98 **Therefore Let it Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government supports OSU's  
99 withdrawal of investments in securities, endowments, stocks, mutual funds, and other monetary  
100 instruments with holdings in the aforementioned companies until they are no longer engaged in  
101 the violation of human rights, and  
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103 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government encourages the  
104 establishment and implementation of greater transparency and ethicality of the investment of

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<sup>16</sup> [DePaul Students Vote for Divestment Despite Israeli Government Interference](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Oberlin College Divestment: College Students Vote Against Israeli Occupation Of Palestine](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Ohio Students Approve Israel Divestment Vote by Landslide](#)

<sup>19</sup> [After more than five hours of debate, ASG Senate narrowly passes NUDivest Resolution](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Hampshire College first in US to divest from Israel](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Columbia becomes first U.S. university to divest from prisons](#)

<sup>22</sup> [The Lantern: Cutting ties with Darfur](#)

<sup>23</sup> [The Ohio State University PA-14: Sustainable Investment](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Statesman V. 29](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Special Election Pending for Divestment Issue](#)

105 University funds in compliance with its self-proclaimed values of accountability, openness, and  
106 trust,<sup>26</sup> and  
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108 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government supports investment  
109 in ventures that promote human rights and justice and that do not contribute to systematic  
110 prejudiced oppression of any group of people on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability,  
111 gender identity or expression, genetic information, military status, national origin, race,  
112 religion, sex, sexual orientation, HIV status, or veteran status.  
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124 Floor Vote: Aye: \_\_\_\_\_ Nay: \_\_\_\_\_ Present: \_\_\_\_\_  
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136 Abby Grossman  
137 President

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136 Abby Waidelich  
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144 Date Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>26</sup> <https://oaa.osu.edu/vision-mission-values-goals.html>