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,¹ 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),² 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,³ 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,⁴,⁵ and

Whereas settlements⁶ and the Separation Wall⁷ have been ruled to be in violation of international law, and

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

¹ The Ohio State University - Statistical Summary
² The Ohio State University, 2009 Equities and Fixed Income.
⁴ Human Rights Watch, Razing Rafah: Mass Home Demolitions in the Gaza Strip
⁵ Factsheet: Home Demolitions and Caterpillar
⁶ International Law and Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
⁷ Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
⁸ Technologies of Control: The Case of Hewlett Packard
Whereas G4S provides security systems for prisons holding Palestinian political prisoners without due process as well as security systems for interrogation and detention centers, where Palestinians are regularly subjected to torture, 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, and

Whereas G4S profits from the growth of private prisons and mass incarceration all over the world, as well as by facilitating the detention and deportation of undocumented immigrants, 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, Stanford University,

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9 American Friends Service Committee, Restricted Movement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
10 Who Profits, GROUP4SECURICOR (G4S)
11 Global Exchange, Why Hewlett Packard?
12 Global Exchange, G4S Worldwide
13 New York Times, Companies Use Immigration Crackdown to Turn a Profit
14 ASUCD Divestment Bill Passes through Senate
15 Senate Reverses Divestment Vote, Passes Resolution
DePaul University, Oberlin College, the University of Toledo, and Northwestern University—have passed resolutions calling for the withdrawal of investments from the aforementioned companies on the basis of the same arguments as those provided here, and

Whereas Hampshire College and Columbia University have withdrawn their investments from Caterpillar and G4S, respectively, due to their complicity in human rights violations, and

Whereas OSU students have previously sought to promote the withdrawal of University funds from corporations engaged in unethical business practices, most notably from companies doing business with Sudan and apartheid South Africa, and

Whereas an Ohio State University student-led campaign collected over 3,000 signatures to place an initiative on the Undergraduate Student Government 2015 ballot calling for the withdrawal of investments in the aforementioned companies, and

Whereas over twenty OSU student organizations endorsed this resolution including African Youth League, Arab Student Union, Bangladesh Student Association, Buckeye Bhangra, Buckeye Fusion, Coalition for Black Lives, Committee for Justice in Palestine, FemUNITY, Indian American Association, International Socialist Organization, Iranian Cultural Association, Model African Union, Muslim Students' Association, Pakistani American Students’ Association, Peace Corps Club, Project: Educate XX, Say Hi, SHADES, Somali Students’ Association, Syrian Student Union, Still We Rise, United Students Against Sweatshops, and Urdu club, and

Whereas Ohio State’s withdrawal of investments from corporations that are complicit in human rights violations would lead the way for other universities seeking to do the same;

Therefore Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government supports OSU’s withdrawal of investments in securities, endowments, stocks, mutual funds, and other monetary instruments with holdings in the aforementioned companies until they are no longer engaged in the violation of human rights, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government encourages the establishment and implementation of greater transparency and ethicality of the investment of...
University funds in compliance with its self-proclaimed values of accountability, openness, and trust, and

**Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government supports investment in ventures that promote human rights and justice and that do not contribute to systematic prejudiced oppression of any group of people on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, HIV status, or veteran status.

Floor Vote: Aye: ____  Nay: ____  Present: ____

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Abby Grossman  Abby Waidelich
President  Vice President

Date Adopted: _______________  Date Terminated: _______________

[^26]: [https://oaa.osu.edu/vision-mission-values-goals.html](https://oaa.osu.edu/vision-mission-values-goals.html)