Resolution in Support of Corporate Accountability by the University of California, San Diego through Divestment from Corporations Profiting from Violent Conflict in Israel and Palestine

WHEREAS, the Principles of Community of the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) state that UCSD "is dedicated to learning, teaching, and serving society through education, research, and public service"(1); and,

WHEREAS, the University of California, San Diego, is an institution established to "advance the health and well-being of our region, state, nation and the world" (2); and,

WHEREAS, the University of California San Diego promotes and encourages engagement on global issues, as exemplified by Eleanor Roosevelt College’s mission statement that seeks to “feature dimensions of international understanding and cultural diversity” (3); and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Office of the Treasurer of the UC Regents reaffirms the importance of "adher[ing] to high ethical as well as professional standards in serving the investment management needs of its constituency”(4); and,

WHEREAS, students at the University of California San Diego have a long history of activism, including the Lumumba-Zapata Movement to establish Thurgood Marshall College, the anti-militarism movements of the 1960s, and the student response to the 2010 Compton Cookout (5); and,

WHEREAS, the most recent UC Annual Endowment Report shows University of California San Diego holdings in the Russell 3000 Index, although it includes investments in United States companies General Electric, Northrop Grumman, and Caterpillar Inc., whose military technology is used to perpetuate violence within Israel and Palestine(6); and,

WHEREAS, General Electric holds engineering support and testing service contracts with the Israeli Defense Forces and supplies the T700/CT7 engine propulsion system for the Apache AH-64 Helicopter Fleets which, as documented by Amnesty International and the World Policy Institute, have been used in violent attacks on people living in Israel and Palestine (7); and,

WHEREAS, Northrop Grumman produces the Longbow mast-mounted 360° radar for the Apache AH-64 attack helicopter, which as documented by Amnesty International has also been used in violent attacks on people living in Israel and Palestine (8); and,
WHEREAS, Caterpillar-provided D9 bulldozers are used in “demolishing homes, basic infrastructure and sources of livelihood [and] continue to devastate Palestinian families and communities” (9) as documented by the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (9); and,

WHEREAS, Caterpillar also sells tractors to Palestinians in the West Bank which improves the living conditions for the Palestinian people; nonetheless, divesting from Caterpillar will provide more social benefits to everyone involved in the conflict in Israel and Palestine regardless of the economic consequences; and,

WHEREAS, the following companies are also listed in the Russell 3000 Index: Alliant Techsystems, Boeing, General Dynamics Corporation, Globecomm Systems, Hewlett Packard, Ingersoll-Rand, ITT Corporation, Lockheed Martin, Motorola Solutions, Raytheon, Silicon Graphics, Terex, United Technologies, and Valero Energy Corporation, although they also all profit from the production of machinery and technology used in violent conflicts between Israel and Palestine (10); and

WHEREAS, The following individuals and groups endorse divestment as a tactic for Corporate Responsibility: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South Asian writer and intellectual Arundhati Roy, the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, American Jews for a Just Peace, Code Pink, and the Green Party of the United States, among numerous others (11); and,

WHEREAS, on 30 November 2011 the ASUCSD passed the “Resolution in Support of Reclaim UCSD” that stated that ASUCSD can make decisions regarding “world events and political issues that deeply impact UCSD students and are significant to their student lives”; and,

WHEREAS, the ASUCSD has already set the ethical precedent of advocating for peaceful investments; notably, on 11 May 1985 the ASUCSD passed the “South African Divestment Resolution” to withdraw investments from companies contributing to the apartheid system in South Africa; and,

WHEREAS, on 20 January 2006 the ASUCSD passed the “Resolution Supporting University of California Divestment from Sudan”; and,

WHEREAS, on 20 February 2013 the ASUCSD passed “Resolution in Support of Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies”; and,

WHEREAS, the UC has divested from tobacco companies (12); and,
WHEREAS, the University of California Student Association (UCSA), a body that represents all UC student governments passed a resolution “recognizing the legitimacy of boycotts and divestment as important social movement tools, and encouraged all institutions of higher learning to cleanse their investment portfolios of unethical investments in companies implicated in or profiting from violations of international human rights law, without making special exemptions for any one country” (13); and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the ASUCSD urges the UC asset managers to review UC holdings in General Electric, Northrop Grumman, Caterpillar Inc., Alliant Techsystems, Boeing, General Dynamics Corporation, Globecomm Systems, Hewlett Packard, Ingersoll-Rand, ITT Corporation, Lockheed Martin, Motorola Solutions, Raytheon, Silicon Graphics, Terex, United Technologies, and Valero Energy Corporation and all other companies that profit from the violation of human rights through violence in Israel and Palestine; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUCSD urges the UC asset managers to divest, as soon as such divestment may be accomplished without injury to the UC’s assets and investment strategies, from all such companies that, within one year from the date of engagement remain uncommitted to a diligent and good faith plan for terminating all such business activities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ASUCSD urges UC to divest from companies that continue to profit from the violation of human rights with the goal of maintaining this divestment until they cease such practices; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUCSD hereby stands in support of UC San Diego corporate accountability through divestment from all corporations profiting from all violent conflict; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUCSD supports human rights and a non-violent solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUCSD seeks financial neutrality in the Israeli Palestinian conflict

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conjunction with the AS Human Rights Board, Student Affirmative Action Committee Representative to ASUCSD, the Student
Sustainability Collective Director of Corporate Accountability, the AS Office of External Affairs, Office of Diversity Affairs, and any other interested members of the ASUCSD, shall establish campus climate programming regarding corporate responsibility, violent conflict, and international affairs affecting UCSD students for the purpose of fostering productive and constant dialogue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ASUCSD calls upon the Student Regent and the University of California Student Association to pressure the UC Board of Regents to create a Subcommittee on Socially Responsible Investments as a subcommittee to the Committee on Investments that will review UC investments on the basis of socially responsible practices as determined by the UC Regents in conjunction with equal representation of undergraduate, graduate, professional students, staff, and faculty within a one year timeline; within three years the committee shall have created a viable solution and shall report their findings to the UC Regents, UCSA, and the ASUCSD; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution also stands as an expression of ethical and peaceful investment practices supporting universal human rights, in the proud tradition of this campus, which has long stood in solidarity with these core values.

1 Principles of Community
2 UC San Diego Mission Statement
3 Eleanor Roosevelt College Mission Statement
4 Mission Statement of the Office of the Treasurer of the Regents of the University of California
5.1 Lumumba-Zapata Movement
5.2 Anti-Militarist Movement of the 1960s
5.3 Black Winter Post-Compton Cookout Activism
6.1 UC Annual Endowments Report
6.2 UCRP Holdings as of December 2011
6.3 UC GEP Holdings as of December 2011
6.4 Russell 3000 Member Companies
7.1 General Electric - T700/CT7 engine
7.2 U.S. Military Assistance and Arms Transfers to Israel: U.S. Aid, Companies Fuel Israeli Military. World Policy Institute
7.4 Amnesty International: Suffocating Gaza- the Israeli Blockade’s Effect on Palestinians
7.5 Company Summaries Recommended for Divestment
7.6 Amnesty International Report: Israel/OPT: Fueling Conflict: Foreign Arms Supplies to Israel/Gaza
8.1 Northrop-Grumman & the AH-64 Apache
8.2 Northrop-Grumman Documentation by the New England Conference
9.1 Death of Rachel Corrie
9.2 Corrie et al. v. Caterpillar
9.3 Caterpillar Fact Sheet
10.1 Documentation for Companies Recommended for Divestment
10.2 Company Summaries Recommended for Divestment
10.3 Motorola Fact Sheet
11.1 Arundhati Roy Supports BDS
11.2 Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions Supports BDS
11.3 Additional list of BDS endorsers
12 UC Investments to Remain Tobacco-Free
13 UCSA Resolution Condemning HR-35