SR 84.03

“Call for OSU to Divest from the ongoing illegal occupation of Palestine and genocide of Palestinians.”

(Resolution to Boycott and Divest from Apartheid, Ethnic Cleansing, and Genocide.)

SUMMARY

This resolution calls upon the administration of Oregon State University (OSU) to take a stand for human rights by divesting from companies that are complicit in the genocide of the Palestinian people. This includes but is not exclusive to corporations such as PepsiCo/Sabra Hummus and Hewlett-Packard (HP), which have been identified as contributors to this ongoing genocide. By continuing financial involvement with these companies, OSU indirectly supports these atrocities. We believe that educational institutions should uphold values of justice and equality, not contribute towards human suffering.

Therefore, we urge the OSU administration to review its investment portfolio and divest from any company involved in violations of Palestinian rights.

WHEREAS Since 1948, Palestinians have faced dispossession and ethnic cleansing\(^1\), most recently exhibited through Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza which has killed more than 30,000 Palestinians, a death toll that largely undercounts Palestinians killed by the lack of adequate medical treatment, disease, famine conditions brought on by Israel's bombardment\(^2\). 1.7 million of the 2.3 million Palestinians living in Gaza are now displaced due to Israeli military operations and are denied the right to return to their homes at bomb and gun point. Approximately 1 million people are taking shelter at UN facilities\(^3\);

WHEREAS According to a report by Human Rights Watch, these corporations have business ties with Israeli settlements, which are considered illegal under international law and contribute significantly to human rights abuses against Palestinians\(^4\);

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WHEREAS As of April 2024, Israel has completely or partially destroyed every university in Gaza, killing 5,479 students, 261 teachers and 95 university professors.⁵;

WHEREAS Oregon State University States that they will not take sides in political matters investing in these companies inherently sides OSU with the aggressor;

WHEREAS Oregon State University holds core values in Accountability and Social Responsibility⁶;

WHEREAS OSU has investments with HP⁷ which provide computers, servers and surveillance equipment to the Israeli Military⁸, which have been used by Israel to maintain its system of apartheid, occupation and settler colonialism over the Palestinian people;

WHEREAS OSU has pouring rights⁹ with PepsiCo⁹ which is identified to be a partner company of SabraCo which has factories on occupied Palestinian land as well as provides financial aid to the Israeli Military¹⁰;

WHEREAS Oregon State University and its investments and institutional relationships harm Palestinian students, many of whom are living heirs to confiscated properties in Palestine and descendants of people who have been murdered or forcibly relocated as a result of Israel’s ongoing occupation of Palestine;

WHEREAS Student governments at universities across the country, including Brown University, Columbia University, Harvard University, Northwestern University, Pomona College;

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Stanford University, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of California, Davis, the University of California, Los Angeles, the University of Michigan, and the University of Virginia, have passed resolutions calling for divestment from institutions aiding the ongoing illegal occupation of Palestine and the genocide of Palestinians;

WHEREAS A petition in support of calling for OSU Administration to Divest from Companies Involved in Palestinian Genocide has gathered over 1,500 signatures in support;

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY ASOSU THAT:

ASOSU supports and calls upon OSU and university leadership to divest from companies, of those OSU is engaged in business with, that are complicit in aiding in the genocide of the Palestinian people. ASOSU further requests that OSU leadership actively involve advocates for the Palestinian cause in decision-making processes related to divestments. This is to ensure that our university’s actions align with our commitment to accountability and social responsibility. ASOSU supports the call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and calls on the administration to release a statement calling for a permanent ceasefire.

BE IT HEREBY ORDERED THE ASOSU THAT UPON PASSAGE

This bill be sent to:
Audrey Schlotter, ASOSU President
Jayathi Y. Murthy, President, Oregon State University
Members of the Oregon State University Board of Trustees
Mike Green, Vice President for Finance and Administration & Chief Financial Officer
Brent Gustafson, Associate Vice President for Budget and Resource Planning
Edward Feser, Provost & Executive Vice President, Oregon State University
Dan Larson, Vice Provost of Student Affairs
Kevin Dougherty, Associate Vice Provost & Dean of Students
Members of the University Budget Committee (UBC) Heidi Sann, AVP Finance & Controller
Authored by:
OSU Students for a Free Palestine

Sponsored By:
Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights OSU
OSU Young Democratic Socialists of America
OSU Muslim Student Association
Mid Valley Jews for Peace
Grads for Palestine
WGSS Graduate Student Alliance
Coalition of Graduate Employees Executive Council
OSU Pre-Law Society
MEChA
OSU People of Color in Law and Politics OSU Student Workers Organizing Committee
Donovan Morales-Coonrad, ASOSU Senator
Alexa Gomez Silva, ASOSU Senator
Adison Rowe, ASOSU Senate President pro tempore
Emerson Pearson, ASOSU Senator

Approved by:

Zach Kowash, ASOSU Vice-President

Signature: ___________________________ Date: 7/8/2024

Audrey Schlotter, ASOSU President

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________

Approved [ ] Vetoed [ ]