
Resolution Toward Socially Responsible Investment at the University of California

Sponsor(s):

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WHEREAS, The student body of the University of California has a long and proud history of activism for social justice;

WHEREAS, More than half of the cost of a UC education is currently financed by student tuition contributions¹;

WHEREAS, The student body of the University of California has used divestment to promote equality and human rights in a variety of contexts throughout its history, most notably in the case of South Africa²;

WHEREAS, The student body of the University of California is currently engaged in activism aimed at divesting from the private prison and fossil fuel industries;

WHEREAS, The UC Regents have not implemented socially responsible investment practices that eschew involvement in systems of mass incarceration, global climate change, or systematic human rights violations;

WHEREAS, The actions of the corporations in which the UC Regents invest are actions that the University implicitly condones;

WHEREAS, The University of California remains invested in governments that do not meet the standards endorsed by the United Nations supported Principles for Responsible Investment;

WHEREAS, Investment in governments engaged in violence against others is harmful to students at the University of California who are affected by such violence;

WHEREAS, UC students did not give consent to invest in governments engaged in violence against others;

WHEREAS, UC students have used and continue to use divestment campaigns to reclaim political agency and to change UC policies that maintain investments in companies and governments that demonstrate a lack of accountability, ethicality, and respect for the rights and dignity of others, most notably in the context of South Africa² and most recently in the context of fossil fuels³ and the Prison Industrial Complex;

WHEREAS, The following illustrative and non-exhaustive list of governments in which the University of California directly invests⁴ are engaged in human rights abuses and violence;

WHEREAS, The governments of Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, Russia, Turkey, Sri Lanka and the United States have violated the universal right “to life, liberty, and security of person;” “to education;” to “privacy, family [and] home;” “to own property, and ... [not to] be arbitrarily deprived of property”;⁵

WHEREAS, The government of Brazil is engaged in systematic torture, police killings, holding prisoners under inhumane conditions, and repression of peaceful protests.⁶ Thousands of Brazilian laborers work under conditions similar to slavery and over four million Brazilian children were engaged in child labor as of 2011.⁷ Women, Brazilians of African descent, and

¹ <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov12/f1attach3.pdf>

² <http://www.international.ucla.edu/africa/mandela/>

http://kora.matrix.msu.edu/files/50/304/32130E6784AL_SFF_DOCUMENT.acoa000126.pdf

³ <http://www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/UCLAResolutiontoUSACfortheDivestmentofFossilFuels.pdf>

⁴ http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/files/invpol/UCRP_Holdings.pdf

http://ucop.edu/investment-office/files/invpol/GEP_Holdings.pdf

⁵ <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

⁶ <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/brazil>

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/brazil-0#.VD2XxPldWSo>

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR19/005/2014/en/6c122853-d94b-40a4-9d44-6d8194fc93df/amr190052014en.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/brazil-0#.VD2XxPldWSo>

indigenous populations face institutionalized oppression, including lack of protection from sexual assault, severe socioeconomic inequalities, and land occupation and forced evictions;⁸

WHEREAS, The government of Egypt is engaged in widespread killings and violence against protesters, arbitrary arrests, torture, trying civilians in military courts, religious discrimination, suppression of the press and NGOs, demolitions of civilian homes, lack of protection from sexual and domestic assault, and criminalization of LGBT people.⁹ It is also systematically discriminating against and violating the rights of Palestinian refugees, and has sealed off its border with Gaza, preventing Palestinians from leaving the territory;¹⁰

WHEREAS, The government of Russia is engaged in a military occupation of the Ukrainian territory of Crimea, and has been accused of fueling the conflict and numerous human rights violations by Amnesty International.¹¹ The Russian government also supports Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, undermining efforts to hold him accountable for war crimes.¹² Domestically the Russian government suppresses free speech in the media, civil society, and political arenas, and discriminates against immigrants, workers, and LGBT individuals;¹³

WHEREAS, The government of Indonesia is engaged in violent repression in the provinces of Papua and West Papua, torture, inhumane prison conditions, and detention of political prisoners. The government also mistreats asylum seekers, violates the rights of workers, systematically discriminates against minorities (particularly based on religion and sexual orientation), restricts press freedom and freedom of expression, and has evicted hundreds of thousands of families from their homes without due process;¹⁴

WHEREAS, Boeing, Caterpillar, Cement Roadstone Holdings, Cemex, General Dynamics, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, and United Technologies have violated the universal right “to life, liberty, and security of person;” “to education;” to “privacy, family [and] home;” “to own property, and ...[not to] be arbitrarily deprived of property” by engaging in the Occupation of Palestinian Territories;

WHEREAS, The government of Turkey is engaged in occupation and settler-colonialism in Northern Cyprus in contravention of UN Security Council Resolution 353; denial of Kurdish self-determination including through attacks on civilians; large scale repression, intimidation, and imprisonment of journalists and dissenters, police brutality against peaceful protesters; suppression of academic freedom and internet freedom; and ongoing denial and refusal to atone for the Armenian Genocide;¹⁵

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2013&dliid=220424#wrapper>

⁸ <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/brazil>

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/brazil-0#.VD2XxPldWSQ>

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2013&dliid=220424#wrapper>

⁹ <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/egypt>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/egypt-0#.VGR7CPnF-So>

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/30/world/middleeast/egypt-sinai-peninsula-gaza-buffer-zone.html?_r=0

¹⁰ <http://electronicintifada.net/content/palestinian-refugees-egypt-face-discrimination-say-experts/2433>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/18/palestinian-refugees-in-e_n_3299755.htm

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/04/palestinian-refugees-egypt-challenges.html>

<http://prn.mcgill.ca/research/papers/el-abed.htm>

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE12/056/2014/en/69e662ed-ba34-49ce-a241-9f722ab37f84/mde120562014en.pdf>

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE12/043/2014/en/1592e1c6-0183-4187-b7f4-390d4f56a74d/mde120432014en.pdf>

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/30/world/middleeast/egypt-sinai-peninsula-gaza-buffer-zone.html?_r=0

¹¹ <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/russia>

¹² <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/flowers-anna-russia-s-offensive-media-and-truth-2014-10-07>

¹³ <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/russia>

http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/russia-0#.VD8Cr_lDWSQ

¹⁴ <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/indonesia-0#.VD2XzvlDWSQ>

<http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2013/country-chapters/indonesia>

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2013&dliid=220196#wrapper>

¹⁵ <http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/pio/pio.nsf/All/6F5DD418DD053ED1C2256D6D001E7571?OpenDocument>

<http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/eng/pages/search.aspx?i=001-144151>

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WHEREAS, The government of Sri Lanka is engaged in violence, torture, rape, and arbitrary detention by security forces, particularly targeting the indigenous Tamil minority. There are also ongoing seizures of land, restrictions on freedom of movement, military rule in parts of the country, and restrictions on freedom of speech, freedom of the press, civil society, academic freedom, access to education, and worker's rights;¹⁶

WHEREAS, The government of Mexico is engaged in killings, thousands of "disappearances", torture, and other forms of violence related to its "war on drugs". The justice system fails to protect victims of violence and human rights violations; prison conditions are inhumane; free speech, worker's rights, and human rights activism are suppressed; and the legal system fails to protect women and girls from domestic violence and sexual assault. Indigenous peoples suffer from high levels of exclusion and discrimination;¹⁷

WHEREAS, The government of the United States of America is engaged in drone strikes that have killed over 2,400 people in Pakistan and Yemen, many of them civilians.¹⁸ The government oversees, by far, the highest rate of imprisonment in the world, and racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately targeted by law enforcement agencies, particularly for drug-related offences. 400,000 undocumented immigrants are held in detention centers every year, and millions have been deported since the current Administration took office, and the government is directly supporting and propping up numerous dictatorships around the world with weapons sales and foreign aid.¹⁹

WHEREAS, The University of California conducts research and accepts funding from the United States Department of Defense and the United States Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)²⁰, institutions actively involved in the United States' military actions worldwide, on its Los Angeles, Berkeley, Irvine, Davis, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, San Diego, San Francisco, and Merced²¹ campuses, thereby furthering and enabling military agendas;

WHEREAS, Through its investments, the University of California is complicit in the human rights violations committed by the governments of Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Israel, Russia, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Mexico, and the United States, among others;

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/jun/15/time-for-turkey-to-leave-cyprus-in-peace/>

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2014/turkey#.VD2nV9TF> Vs; <http://www.hrw.org/node/129354/section/7>

<http://www.hrw.org/node/129354/section/7>

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/06/01/turkey-end-police-violence-protests>; <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR44/022/2013/en>

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/204558.pdf>

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/12/20/iranturkey-recent-attacks-civilians-iraqi-kurdistan>

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/02/turkey-erdogan-government-academic-freedom.htm>

<http://www.mesa.arizona.edu/committees/academic-freedom/intervention/letters-turkey.htm>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-shank/academic-freedom-in-turke_b_4419392.html

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/09/15/turkey-strike-down-abusive-internet-measures>

¹⁶ <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/sri-lanka-0#.VD4bfvldWSo>

¹⁷ <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/mexico>

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/mexico/report-2013#section-95-9>

¹⁸ <http://www.newsweek.com/only-12-pakistani-drone-strike-victims-identified-militants-278080>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/drone-strikes-killing-more-civilians-than-us-admits-human-rights-groups-say/2013/10/21/a99cbe78-3a81-11e3-b7ba-503fb5822c3e_story.html

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/23/obama-drone-program-anniversary_n_4654825.html

¹⁹ <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/united-states>

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2014/04/obama-administration-record-deportations>

<http://andrewgavinmarshall.com/2013/03/26/in-the-arms-of-dictators-america-the-great-global-arms-dealer/>

<http://www.foreignassistance.gov/web/Default.aspx>

²⁰ http://www.dod.mil/pubs/foi/Science_and_Technology/DARPA/12-F-0381-2011-DARPA-University-Funding-List.pdf

<https://www.src.org/newsroom/2013/press-release/starnet-launch/>

<http://defensetech.org/2014/05/21/darpa-unveils-hack-proof-drone/>

²¹ <http://www.ucmerced.edu/news/2010/professors-work-could-allow-small-devices-power-themselves>

Resolution Toward Socially Responsible Investment at the University of California

WHEREAS, All of the above mentioned governments except for the United States are ranked low in terms of freedom, human rights, and democracy according to independent monitoring organizations including Freedom House and The Economist²²;

WHEREAS, Investment in these governments shows implicit support for the decisions and actions of these governments, as well as their consequences, which include the killings of civilians;

WHEREAS, The only way to achieve financial neutrality in such situations is to end our investment in and implicit support for such governments through divestment;

WHEREAS, This resolution aims neither to condemn entire countries, peoples, or communities nor to determine political solutions, but is solely aimed at ending our University's support of governments that directly engage in and enable human rights violations; and

WHEREAS, Support for human rights and opposition to investments in governments engaged in violence are principles that have the power to unite members of the UC community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls upon the University of California to withdraw investments in securities, endowments, mutual funds, and other monetary instruments with holdings in the aforementioned governments, at such time and in such manner as fund trustees may determine; and that the University of California maintain the withdrawal of investments, in accordance with trustees' fiduciary duty, until these governments are no longer engaged in the violation of human rights and other behavior that fail to adhere to the University of California endorsed Principles of Responsible Investment;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association determines if it is found that UC funds are being invested in any of the abovementioned governments, the University of California Student Association calls upon the University of California to divest all stocks and securities of such governments, at such time and in such manner as fund trustee may determine, and maintain divestment from said governments, in accordance with the fund trustees' fiduciary duty, until they meet the University of California endorsed Principles of Responsible Investment;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls upon the University of California, in accordance with fund trustees' fiduciary duties, to refrain from making further investments, and to advocate that the University of California not make further investments, in any governments engaged in the violation of human rights or other behavior that fails to adhere to the University of California endorsed Principles of Responsible Investment;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls upon the University of California to establish a means of implementing greater student oversight of the University's investments; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls upon our university to dissociate itself from governments and companies that engage or aid in systematic prejudiced oppression, whether this system targets people based on their religion, nationality, gender, race, or orientation, by divesting from governments and companies that participate in or profit from human rights violations.

²² <http://pages.eiu.com/rs/eiu2/images/Democracy-Index-2012.pdf>
<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/freedom-world-2014#.VG0XOvnF-Sp>