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Macalester College Student Government
Spring 2025

Resolution Calling for Institutional Divestment Related to the Genocide of Palestinians by Israel

WHEREAS the Macalester College Student Government (hereafter “MCSG”) acknowledges the ongoing genocide, which has been only temporarily paused, and other human rights violations inflicted against Palestinians with particular note of increased Israeli abuses in the West Bank, reaffirming R0013 - *A Resolution to Discontinue Study Away Programs in Israel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Haifa*¹;

WHEREAS the Social Responsibility Committee (hereafter “SRC”) has found that grave social injury to Palestinians has occurred in Gaza, the West Bank, and elsewhere for decades, especially since October 2023;

WHEREAS the SRC has found that Elbit Systems, Volvo, CAT, JCB, HD Hyundai, Barclays, CAF, Chevron, HikVision, TKH Security, and Intel (hereafter “divestment targets”), as named in the Mac for Palestine divestment proposal, are partly responsible for the grave social injury faced by Palestinians;

WHEREAS the SRC has stated the purpose of divestment is to separate the college from investments that contradict with the Board of Trustees’ Guidelines for Investor Responsibility;²

WHEREAS the Endowment has approximately \$1.5 million (or 0.17%) collective exposure to Chevron, Caterpillar (CAT), and Intel as of March 31, 2024;

¹ “A Resolution to Discontinue Study Away Programs in Israel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Haifa” Macalester College Student Government. November, 2023.

<https://www.macalester.edu/student-government/wp-content/uploads/sites/609/R0013-1.pdf>

² “Macalester College Board of Trustees Guidelines for Investor Responsibility.” Macalester College. December, 2018.

<https://www.macalester.edu/160-investment-office/wp-content/uploads/sites/231/2020/12/Guidelines-for-Investor-Responsibility-Board-Approved-December-2018.pdf>

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WHEREAS Elbit Systems is the second-largest arms company in Israel and the largest private arms company that supplies the Israeli military with weapons.³ Elbit is the primary provider of electronic detection systems and surveillance technologies for Israel's smart border- which perpetuates a system of segregation and legalized structural inequality in Palestine- and is also the main supplier of ground equipment and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).⁴ Elbit markets its technology as field-proven and battle-tested on Palestinians.⁵ Elbit tank shells and cannons, attack and surveillance UAVs, laser-guided mortars, mortar munitions, artillery rockets, and armored vehicle systems have been used extensively in Israeli military attacks on Gaza;

WHEREAS Volvo sells demolition and construction equipment to Israel which is used to; demolish Palestinian homes and land, develop internationally recognized illegal Israeli settlements, and construct the West Bank barrier—crucial infrastructure in the continuation of apartheid. The destruction of Palestinian homes has additionally led to the forced displacement of Palestinian families throughout the occupied West Bank. Volvo's subsidiary, Volvo Buses, partially owns the Israeli company Merkavim Transportation Technologies which developed armored buses for bus routes to illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank;⁶

WHEREAS J.C. Bamford Excavators Limited (JCB) sells construction equipment used in the demolition of Palestinian neighborhoods, failing to mitigate or prevent the adverse human rights impacts as a result of their relationship with the Israeli authority and their contractors;⁷

³ "Elbit Systems Ltd." AFSC Investigate, October 3, 2024.

<https://investigate.afsc.org/company/elbit-systems>

⁴ "Wall and Checkpoints in Palestine." AFSC Investigate.

<https://investigate.info/tags/wall-and-checkpoints-palestine>

⁵ "Elbit Systems Ltd | AFSC Investigate." <https://investigate.afsc.org/company/elbit-systems>

⁶ "Volvo Group (AB Volvo)." Who Profits Research Center, January 7, 2023.

<https://www.whoprofits.org/companies/company/3644>

⁷ "Complaint Regarding the Involvement of JCB in Human Rights Breaches in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Raised by Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights." Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights, December 10, 2019. <https://lphr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Complaint-regarding-the-involvement-of-JCB-in-human-rights-breaches-in-the-occupied-Palestinian-territory-raised-by-LPHR-FINAL.pdf>

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WHEREAS HD Hyundai is one of the biggest suppliers of bulldozers to the Israeli government, utilized to demolish Palestinian homes and communities, further committing multiple human rights violations;⁸

WHEREAS Barclays Bank⁹ has supported over \$2.8 billion in funding to firms such as Lockheed Martin and Boeing who supply arms to Israel, contributing to the ongoing violence and human rights abuses against Palestinians;¹⁰

WHEREAS Construcciones y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles (CAF) is actively violating the Fourth Geneva Convention by supplying and operating railway equipment¹¹ between Jerusalem and illegal settlements in the West Bank;¹²

WHEREAS Chevron owns the largest Israeli natural gas fields: Tamar and Leviathan, partially owns and operates the East Mediterranean Gas (EMG) Pipeline, and is an operator and partial owner of the Dalit gas field and the Mari B gas field; thus generating billions of dollars in revenue to fund Israeli apartheid and occupation. In 2023, Israel collected over \$820 million from royalties and fees on Chevron-operated gas fields.¹³ Moreover, the Israeli Electric Company (IEC) relies on Chevron-produced electricity and supplies the vast majority of Israeli households, including hundreds of illegal Israeli settlements and outposts in the occupied West Bank, military bases, prisons, and police stations. IEC controls the Palestinian power grid (since

⁸“Israel/Opt: Hyundai CE Must End Link with War Crimes in Masafer Yatta.” Amnesty International, March 16, 2023.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/03/israel-opt-hyundai-ce-must-end-link-with-war-crimes-in-masafer-yatta/>

⁹“European Financial Institutions Invest Billions in Arms Companies That Sell Weapons to Israel.” International Federation for Human Rights, June 20, 2024.

<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/business-human-rights-environment/business-and-human-rights/european-financial-institutions-companies-weapons-israel>

¹⁰Deas, Michael. “Deadly Investments.” War on Want, July

2017. <https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Final%20Web%20version%20Deadly%20Investments.pdf>

¹¹ “The Consortium Made Up of the CAF Group and the Construction Firm Saphir Awarded the Jerusalem Tram Project.” CAF in the World, August 8, 2019.

<http://web.archive.org/web/20200218120846/https://www.caf.net/en/sala-prensa/nota-prensa-detalle.php?e=286>

¹²“Jerusalem Light Rail.” Shapir, February 1, 2024.

<https://www.shapir.co.il/en/projects/assets-en/jerusalem-light-rail/>

¹³ Action Center for Corporate Accountability. n.d. “Fact Sheet: Chevron Fuels Israeli Apartheid and War Crimes.” American Friends Service Committee. Accessed November 18, 2024.

<https://afsc.org/chevron-fuels-israeli-apartheid-and-war-crimes>.

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the 1967 occupation), and colludes with the Israeli government to use it as a tool of subjugation, collective punishment, dispossession, and annexation in the occupied Palestinian territories creating an energy apartheid.

WHEREAS Caterpillar (CAT) supplies the Israeli military with heavy engineering machinery including: wheel loaders, armored excavators, mini loaders, as well as the D9 armored bulldozer series. CAT machinery is used for the demolition of Palestinian houses, and the construction of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, as well as for the construction of the Separation Wall in the occupied West Bank and the barrier besieged Gaza, helping in the continuity of the apartheid system. CAT machinery is also extensively used by the Israeli military during invasions, arrests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, and the dispersion of demonstrations.¹⁴ Additionally, personnel of Zoko Enterprises (CAT's distributor in Israel) were recruited for bulldozer maintenance by the Israeli military in December 2023, and were deployed in the battlefield to maintain bulldozers in the 2014 Israeli attacks against Gaza;

WHEREAS HikVision sells surveillance equipment that can be connected to facial recognition software which is used to perform mass surveillance of Palestinians and enforce restrictions of movement as part of the Israeli apartheid system;¹⁵

WHEREAS TKH Security sells surveillance cameras that are used to further entrench apartheid systems in occupied areas of East Jerusalem and to maintain large-scale, indiscriminate surveillance of Palestinians;¹⁶

WHEREAS Intel constitutes Israel's largest private employer, with approximately 53,000 workers (in 2020), creating record exports of \$8.7 billion in 2022, comprising

¹⁴ Who Profits Research Center. 2024. "The Israeli Occupation Industry - Caterpillar." Who Profits. <https://www.whoprofits.org/companies/company/3772>.

¹⁵"Israel/OPT: Israeli Authorities Are Using Facial Recognition Technology to Entrench Apartheid." Amnesty International, May 2, 2023. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/05/israel-opt-israeli-authorities-are-using-facial-recognition-technology-to-entrench-apartheid/>

¹⁶"Israel/OPT: Israeli Authorities Are Using Facial Recognition Technology to Entrench Apartheid."

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1.75% of Israel's entire GDP, and 5.5% of all Israeli tech exports.¹⁷ Furthermore, Intel's main facility in Israel is located in Kiryat Gat, an Israeli settlement built on the ruins of the ethnically cleansed Palestinian village of Iraq al-Manshiyya. In the last 50 years, Intel employed around 12,800 people and invested more than \$50 billion in the country, generating important revenue for Israel to continue its apartheid on occupied Palestinian territories;

WHEREAS the actions of the divestment targets are in violation of the United Nations' Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights that demands businesses to respect human rights wherever they operate and ensure that their goods and services are not used to conduct harm to human rights;¹⁸

WHEREAS Macalester College Board of Trustees, even within the context of an ongoing genocide, cowardly failed to support Palestinian-led calls for divesting from businesses that materially support Israeli occupation and their apartheid regime,

THEREFORE be it resolved that MCSG, in alignment with the view of the SRC and Mac for Palestine, believes that the College should not be associated with the conduct of the Israeli government and its private partners and funders who are complicit in military operations throughout the West Bank and genocide in Gaza;

THEREFORE be it resolved that MCSG demands the Macalester College Board of Trustees reconsider divestment from complicit businesses listed in the Mac for Palestine proposal and the SRC's review and publicly commit to not making any future investments in the listed businesses;

¹⁷ Palestinian BDS National Committee. 2024. "Apartheid Chips - #BoycottIntel | BDS Movement." BDS Movement | <https://bdsmovement.net/Apartheid-Chips-BoycottIntel>.

¹⁸ "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework." United Nations Human Rights, 2011. https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf

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THEREFORE be it resolved that MCSG implores Macalester College not to engage in any purchasing agreements with the companies listed or those found on the BDS Movement divestments list;¹⁹

IN ADDITION,

WHEREAS Macalester College relies on endowment revenue funds to support 1/3 of the institution's operating budget, totaling \$877 million as of March 31st, 2024;²⁰

WHEREAS Macalester College's endowments consist of 680 individual funds²¹ with details constantly changing, resulting in a lack of updated, accurate information available to the student body. Further, the SRC noted that Macalester College's financial statements lack transparency regarding investment funds;²²

WHEREAS the current lack of transparency allows the institution to dodge accountability concerning endowment investment funds that are complicit in grave social injury as outlined by the SRC;

WHEREAS an ongoing lack of transparency is antithetical to the college's commitment to shared governance and building trust and accountability between the student body, faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees;

WHEREAS the SRC encouraged the Board of Trustees to "work closely with the Chief Investment Officer to regularly update the Macalester community on investment holdings or exposures to the named companies [divestment targets].";

¹⁹"Act Now Against These Companies Profiting from the Genocide of the Palestinian People." BDS Movement, January 5, 2024. <https://bdsmovement.net/Act-Now-Against-These-Companies-Profiting-From-Genocide>

²⁰"Our Endowment." Macalester. Accessed November 4, 2024. <https://www.macalester.edu/support-mac/endowment/>

²¹Board of Trustees. *Annual Financial Statements with Auditors' Opinion*. St. Paul, Minnesota: Macalester College, May 31, 2023. https://www.macalester.edu/cfo/wp-content/uploads/sites/320/Macalester_FinStmts_2023.pdf

²²The Social Responsibility Committee. Letter to President Rivera. "SRC Letter to President Rivera." St. Paul, Minnesota: Macalester College, June 5, 2024. <https://www.macalester.edu/trustees/wp-content/uploads/sites/240/June-5-2024-SRC-Letter-to-President-River-a-1.pdf>

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THEREFORE be it resolved that MCSG endorses the SRC's recommendations to increase financial transparency and take strides to educate and inform the student body on the college's financial assets and affairs, including through permanently available, written resources;

THEREFORE be it resolved that MCSG urges Macalester College to promptly release information on all investments from the divestment targets, committing to full financial transparency. This includes publicizing all 680 of Macalester's investment funds in an easily accessible and comprehensible way that is regularly updated.