



**Cornell University**  
**Student Assembly**

109 Day Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
p. 607.255.3175  
f. 607.255.2182  
e. assembly@cornell.edu  
w. <http://assembly.cornell.edu>

## Student Assembly R. 72: Resolution Urging Cornell University to Divest from Companies Profiting from Israeli Occupation and Human Rights Violations

*Sponsor: Nicholas Vasko on behalf of Lubabah Chowdhury (lrc57), Abu Yusif Daniel (chd46), Keanu Stryker (kms422)  
Propose on April 8th, 2014*

- 1 Whereas, Cornell University strives as part of its mission to "enhance the lives of its students,  
2 the people of New York, and others around the world;  
3  
4 Whereas, Cornell's Standards of Ethical Conduct call for the university to "conduct, process,  
5 and report all financial transactions with integrity;  
6  
7 Whereas, Cornell students have a legacy of advocating for justice, including in campaigns for  
8 divestment from apartheid South Africa and unsustainable fossil fuels;  
9  
10 Whereas, we affirm the crucial role of students and scholars in finding and advocating for  
11 solutions to humanity's various crises, and all manifestations of oppression and racism,  
12 including anti--Semitism, as well as to state actions like occupation;  
13  
14 Whereas, the occupied Palestinian territories are controlled militarily by the Israeli government;  
15  
16 Whereas, the occupation entails violations of the fundamental human rights of the Palestinian  
17 people, including but not limited to rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human  
18 Rights,  
19  
20 Whereas, the Israeli government is engaged in the ongoing building of settlements in the  
21 occupied Palestinian territories, which violates the clause of the Fourth Geneva Convention  
22 stipulating that the Occupying Power shall not "transfer parts of its own civilian population into  
23 the territory it occupies," upheld by the UN Security Council in Resolutions 237, 252, 298, and  
24 446,  
25  
26 Whereas, the separation wall which the Israeli government is building in the West Bank has  
27 been declared "contrary to international law" by the International Court of Justice,  
28  
29 Whereas, United Nations General Assembly affirmed in Resolution 3175 that "all measures  
30 undertaken by Israel to exploit the human and natural resources of the occupied Arab  
31 territories are illegal;  
32  
33 Whereas, the United Nations General Assembly further affirmed in Resolution 3005 "the  
34 Principle of the sovereignty of the population of the occupied territories over their national  
35 wealth and resources," and furthermore called "upon all States, international organizations and

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1 specialized agencies not to recognize or cooperate with, or assist in any manner in, any  
2 measures undertaken by the occupying Power to exploit the resources of the occupied  
3 territories or to effect any changes in the demographic composition or geographic character or  
4 institutional structure of those territories;

5  
6 Whereas, Cornell University holds portfolio and direct investments in corporations that profit  
7 from Israel's military occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, thereby making Cornell  
8 a complicit third party in human rights abuses and violations of international law;

9  
10 Whereas, the following illustrative and nonexhaustive list of corporations, in which Cornell  
11 invests, profits from Israel's military occupation and participates actively in these abuses and  
12 violations;

13  
14 Whereas, Tata Motors produces specialized armored vehicles for the Israeli army, designed for  
15 urban combat, which Israel uses to defend its illegal settlements, to prevent Palestinian  
16 shepherds from herding their land, and to suppress Palestinian demonstrations;

17  
18 Whereas, SodaStream maintains its central production plant in Ma'ale Adumim, an illegal  
19 Israeli settlement located in the West Bank;

20  
21 Whereas, IngersollRand creates and produces the technology used at Israeli checkpoints  
22 across the occupied Palestinian territories;

23  
24 Whereas, Raytheon supplies Israel with missiles that are used against crowded residential  
25 areas such as refugee camps, and for targeted assassinations;

26  
27 Whereas, Cornell University contracts with corporations that profit from Israel's military  
28 occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, thereby making Cornell a complicit third party  
29 in human rights abuses and violations of international law;

30  
31 Whereas, the following illustrative and nonexhaustive list of corporations, with which Cornell  
32 contracts, profits from Israel's military occupation and participates actively in these abuses and  
33 violations;

34  
35 Whereas, G4S provides security systems for Israeli prisons, detention centers, and  
36 interrogation facilities that specialize in holding Palestinian political prisoners, security services  
37 for various businesses in illegal Israeli settlements, and technology for Israeli checkpoints in  
38 the occupied Palestinian Territories, and provides deportation services to a range of  
39 governments, using techniques that fail to meet minimal standards of human rights;

40  
41 Whereas, Hewlett Packard maintains a development center in Beitar Illit, an illegal Israeli  
42 settlement, provides services and technologies for two of the largest illegal Israeli settlements  
43 in the West Bank, Modi'in Illit and Ariel, and supplies computer technology for Israeli ministry of  
44 defense;

45  
46 Whereas, Cornell University upholds the principle of "freedom with responsibility," which entails  
47 educating ourselves as members of the Cornell community about the location of university  
48 investments and the ethical implications of those investments;

49

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1 Be it resolved, that Cornell University will further examine its assets for investments in  
2 companies that a) provide military support for, or weaponry to, the occupation of Palestinian  
3 territory or b) facilitate the building or maintenance of the illegal separation wall or the  
4 demolition of Palestinian homes, or c) facilitate the building, maintenance or economic  
5 development of illegal Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian territory;  
6

7 Be it further resolved, that Cornell University will make information about all of its assets public,  
8 pertaining especially to its investments;  
9

10 And be it finally resolved, that Cornell University will end its complicity with the Israeli  
11 occupation of the Palestinian territories and divest its holdings from the aforementioned  
12 companies and any other companies that profit directly from Israeli military occupation in the  
13 West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Moreover, Cornell University will not make further investments  
14 in companies that materially support or profit from Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory.