Resolution 9.35: Wesleyan Divestment From Companies Profiting from or Contributing to Illegal Occupation of Palestine

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Recognizing the history of Wesleyan's student body in committing itself to stand against any and all injustices, and to consistently call upon the university administration to recognize the influence they may have in global conflict,[1]

Recognizing the historical precedent of student initiatives in successfully pressuring Wesleyan to become a more socially conscious university, including a campaign that spanned numerous years before Wesleyan divested its direct holdings in South Africa during a time of apartheid in the country,[2]

Further recognizing the precedent of student initiatives in pressuring Wesleyan to divest from weapons contractors profiting from the War on Iraq,[3]

Asserting the role of the Wesleyan Student Assembly as representative voices of the Wesleyan student body,

Acknowledging the ongoing conflict of occupied Palestinian territory[4] remaining under the military control of the Israeli government,[5]

Ascertaining that the military occupation is economically, environmentally and politically unsustainable for all parties involved. Ending the occupation will ensure the security of all people's in the region.

Citing the International Court of Justice (ICJ), that recognizes the construction by Israel of a wall in the occupied Palestinian territory and its associated régime in violation of international law,[6]

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[1] http://wesscholar.wesleyan.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1049&context=middletownpapers
Who Profits
Resolution 5.35 Fossil Fuel Divestment
[2] Middletown Day, 1978
[3] http://www.wesleyan.edu/wsa/sewi/divestment/main.htm
[4] For the purposes of this resolution, the phrases "occupied Palestinian territory," "occupied Palestine," and others refer to the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and annexed East Jerusalem, as recognized by such international bodies as the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly, the European Union, the International Court of Justice, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.
[5] Resolutions Passed By UN Security Council
[6] ICJ 1

Further citing the ICJ recognition of the establishment and expansion of settlements in the West Bank and Eastern Jerusalem as additionally illegal by international law,[7]

Acknowledging numerous U.N. resolutions recognizing the mistreatment of Palestinian citizens, including Resolution 605:
	" strongly deplores' Israel's policies and practices denying the human rights of Palestinians",[8]

Concerned that our university may invest in, and thereby profit from, companies which have an active role in the human rights abuse and the institutionalized structural violence against the Palestinian people,

Fully endorsing the use of the WSA endowment by students, including decisions of how this money is allocated,

Noting the removal of companies in violation of international law with respect to occupied Palestine from numerous socially responsible funds, including, but not limited to, TIAA-CREF divesting over $72 million shares, as well as divestment from the MSCI (Morgan Stanley Capital International) World Socially Responsible Index[9],

Noting that the Wesleyan Student Assembly has substantial holdings of its own endowment invested in Wesleyan University, which, in turn, invests in companies that profit from or materially support Israeli occupation,

Noting that over 600 members of the Wesleyan student body have advocated for the Wesleyan Student Assembly to acknowledge and endorse the groundbreaking divestment resolutions passed by the student governments of UC Irvine, UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, Oberlin College[10], University of Massachusetts – Boston, Arizona State University, Hampshire College, University of Michigan – Dearborn, Wayne State University, and many others,

Further noting that the above 600 members of the Wesleyan student body are calling on Wesleyan University to divest,[11]

Further noting that our own Student Assembly (unlike those of the aforementioned schools) has its own substantial endowment and therefore has autonomy in investing responsibly,

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[7] ICJ 2

[8] United Nations Security Council

[9] MSCI and TIAA-CREF Divestment

[10] Oberlin Divestment Resolution

[11] Student Petition

Recognizing that there are students who support the right of Israel to exist and,

Recognizing that there are students who support the self-determination of the Palestinian people in the pre-1967 borders

Further noting that the WSA recognizes the autonomy and human rights of all peoples regardless of religious, national, ethnic, or other identities

Therefore, be it resolved that the Wesleyan Student Assembly (WSA)

1.   Urges Wesleyan University to transparently demonstrate divestment from companies that a) provide weaponry, security systems, prisons, or other military support for the illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories; or b) facilitate the building or maintenance of the illegal Separation Wall or the demolition of Palestinian homes; or c) facilitate the building, maintenance, or economic development of illegal Israeli settlements, outposts, and segregated roads and transportation systems on the occupied Palestinian territory (Gaza Strip, West Bank, and annexed East Jerusalem); for the purpose of removing the financial incentive to participate in the illegal occupation and exploitation of indigenous Palestinians and their land.[12][13][14][15]

2.   Resolves to divest any and all of its own assets from the aforementioned companies, with the understanding that this may require divesting from the University Endowment itself if the University fails to comply with clause one.

[Introduced 13 April 2014 / Adopted 27 April 2014]

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[12] [Companies Operating Against International Law in Palestine](#)
[13] [Motorola Operations](#)
[14] [Elbit](#)
[15] [Caterpillar](#)