

The University of Wisconsin Divestment from Israel Campaign

Al-Awda Wisconsin, (<http://alawda.rso.wisc.edu>)

---For Immediate Release---

Contact: Mohammed Abed, mkabed@wisc.edu

Jerry Marogil, jerrymarogil@yahoo.com

Teaching Assistant Association Passes Resolution Calling for
Divestment from Weapons Manufacturers

(Madison, WI- 04/13/05) - The Nation's largest and oldest teaching assistants union, Teaching Assistant Association (TAA), adopted a resolution calling on the University of Wisconsin to divest its holdings in weapons manufactures.

The resolution was presented by TAA members working with the University of Wisconsin Divestment from Israel Campaign and adopted with a large majority at the general membership meeting of the TAA on April 12th.

The resolution urges the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents to eliminate investments in Boeing, Caterpillar, General Dynamics, General Electric, Lockheed Martin, Northrop-Grumman, and Raytheon from the University's Trust Fund based on evidence that weapons, equipment, and supporting systems provided by these companies are being used to perpetrate human rights violations around the world. The arguments establishing the complicity of these companies and the general discussion surrounding the resolution was focused on human rights abuses and war crimes committed by the Israeli army against Palestinian civilians in occupied Palestine and the assistance these companies provide to the Israeli occupation.

In the past, the TAA has adopted resolutions calling on the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents to divest from Burma, East Timor, and Apartheid era South Africa in light of serious discrimination and grave human rights violations committed against civilians in those countries.

Earlier this year, the Faculty Senate of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville passed a similar resolution that made specific reference to Israel's violations against Palestinian civilians as the basis for divestment. The University of Wisconsin Regents Trust and Fund Policies provide that divestment ought to be carried out in cases where 'any company, corporation, subsidiary or affiliate...practices or condones through its actions discrimination on the basis of race, religion,color, creed or sex...' or cases where "corporate policies or practices ... cause substantial social injury."

All the companies listed in the TAA resolution provide the Israeli army with weapons or products that are used to commit well documented violations of human rights of the Palestinian people.

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