

University of California: Divest from Israel!

Now more than ever Students at the University of California have the opportunity to re-claim a proud legacy –that of student activists demanding that their administrators financially account for the investment of the university money in companies doing business with oppressive regimes. In the 1960s and 70s it was the University's investments in the U.S. war machine in Vietnam. In the 1980s, the white apartheid government in South Africa. In the 1990s, Third World sweatshops. Now UCSB students can –and should—take up the cause of divestment from the apartheid state of Israel.

With its declaration of “all-out war” against the people of Palestine, Israel's recent military invasions into all the major cities in the already occupied West Bank –including Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus and Hebron – has meant mass dislocation, unwarranted search, seizure, thousands of arrests and detentions, and the deaths of hundreds, many of whom died as ambulances were prevented from reaching them, or literally were left to rot on the streets.

With such actions, Israel takes its place alongside apartheid-era South Africa and the others and should be subject to the same financial sanctions. In an escalating cycle of military repression and civilian counter-attack, the death-toll rises every day. For the sake and future of humanity, economic sanctions should be employed against Israel to help break that cycle.

The University of California invests hundreds of millions of dollars in companies like General Dynamics Corp., General Electric Corp., Honeywell Corp., Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and United Tech Corp. (1), each of which invests heavily in Israel and provide it with helicopters, jet engines, F-16 fighters, M1-A2 Tanks, avionics control systems, rocket launchers, aircraft missiles, launch systems, other missiles and more. (2).

The University of California should investigate the companies it invests in and does business with for ties to the Israeli apartheid state and it should divest from those companies with large investments in Israel –especially those involved with the Israeli military. This divestment should continue at least as long as Israel refuses to withdraw from the territory it occupied in 1967.

Join us for a short film screening about the history of the Israeli occupation as well as a presentation by Studies for the Liberation of Aztlan and Latin America (SLALA) about the UC's investment in Israel and strategies for divestment.

Film and Discussion

Monday May 13, 3-5 p.m @ UCSB's Multicultural Center Theater

To find out More or to Co-sponsor this event please contact slala12@mim.org or go to www.etext.org/Politics/MIM.

Sponsored by:

Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM), Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL), Studies for the Liberation of Aztlan and Latin America (SLALA)

Notes:

(1) <http://www.ucop.edu/treasurer/> (Link to "portfolios" to view relevant files)

(2) <http://www.motherjones.com/arms/>

