

This resolution was withdrawn from consideration.

Resolution on ALA Divestment from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions

Whereas in its “Core Values of Librarianship” the American Library Association (ALA) “recognizes its broad social responsibilities,” defined “in terms of the contribution that librarianship can make in ameliorating or solving the critical problems of society; support for efforts to help inform and educate the people of the United States on these problems and to encourage them to examine the many views on and the facts regarding each problem; and the willingness of ALA to take a position on current critical issues with the relationship to libraries and library service set forth in the position statement” (ALA Policy Manual A1.1);

Whereas the International Court of Justice; the European Union; the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the UN Security Council, the UN Economic and Social Council, the UN Commission on Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Council; Amnesty International; Human Rights Watch; and the International Committee of the Red Cross have condemned the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, the destruction of Palestinian homes and property, and the construction of a separation barrier in Palestinian territory as violations of international law and as obstacles to economic and social development and the attainment of peace and justice in the Middle East;

Whereas Caterpillar Inc. sells heavy equipment used by the Israeli government to demolish Palestinian homes and agricultural lands, as well as to build illegal Israeli settlements on that land and roads solely used by illegal Israeli settlers; and Caterpillar Inc. helps to construct the Separation Barrier extending across the 1967 "Green Line" into the East Jerusalem and the West Bank;

Whereas Hewlett-Packard (HP) provides hardware and serves as a contractor to the Israeli Navy to manage all Information Technology (IT) including its operational communications, logistics, and planning such as the naval blockade of the Gaza Strip; HP, through its ownership of Electronic Data Systems, sells Israel the electronic biometric identification scanning equipment to monitor the movement of all 2.4 million Palestinians, including equipment for the mandatory biometric scanning required for getting through checkpoints to jobs, hospitals, food and other daily needs; and HP also provides communications technology to the Israeli army;

Whereas Motorola Solutions Inc. has been involved with selling wide-area surveillance systems for installation in the illegal Israeli settlements and a communications system known as "Mountain Rose" to the Israeli government, which uses it for military communications, as well as rugged cell phones used by the Occupation forces in the Palestinian Territories;

Whereas for these reasons the United Nations *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories* has called for a boycott of Caterpillar Inc., Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions Inc.;

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Whereas in June 2014 the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), motivated by these concerns, voted to divest its holdings in Caterpillar Inc., Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions Inc.;

Whereas in the 1980s the American Library Association joined in the international divestment campaign against South African apartheid as a tool for non-violent political change;

Whereas in 1994 the ALA Council voted to endorse the 10-point South African Council of Churches Code of Conduct for Businesses Operating in South Africa, as guidance on investment decisions for the ALA Endowment Trustees concerning corporate policies on equal opportunity, training and education, workers' rights, working and living conditions, job creation and security, community relations, consumer protection, environmental protection, and empowerment of black businesses; and

Whereas the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) call for the incorporation of environmental, social, and corporate governance issues into investment ownership policies and practices; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Council of the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of the members of ALA:

(1) directs ALA to divest itself of any holdings in Caterpillar Inc., Hewlett Packard, and Motorola Solutions Inc.; and

(2) declares that it will not invest in these companies until ALA Council is fully satisfied that product sales and services by these companies are no longer complicit in:

- a. constructing and providing security for illegal Israeli settlements;
- b. constructing and maintaining walls and fences that illegally encroach upon Palestinian lands;
- c. managing checkpoints that dehumanize Palestinians and cut off innocent civilians from their property and natural resources; and
- d. contributing to and profiting from the military occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Mover: Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor, 217-819-9975

Secunder: Jane Glasby, Councilor-at-Large, 510-206-8614

Sources for the Resolution on ALA Divestment from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions

ALA Policies

A.1.1

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/policymanual/updatedpolicymanual/section1/1mission>

“Resolution on Code of Conduct for Businesses Operating in South Africa”

<http://www.libr.org/srrt/resolutions/1994-2-code.php>

Resolutions and Statements on the Occupation by Other Organizations

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/illegal-israeli-settlement-plans-threaten-palestinian-human-rights-2010-10-15>

European Union http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_12170_en.htm; http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_5286_en.htm

Human Rights Watch http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/iopt1210webwcover_0.pdf ; <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/israel-and-palestine>

International Committee of the Red Cross

<https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/misc/57jrgw.htm>

International Court of Justice <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/131/1671.pdf>

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, “Presbyterian Church General Assembly Approves Divestment from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions for Business Supporting Israel's Occupation of Palestine”, <http://presbypeacefellowship.org/divestmentrelease#.VJmCvwMOA>

United Nations bodies https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v2_rul_rule130

United Nations, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories* General Assembly document A/67/379,

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/379